

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
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October 2024

Larry Wright and Jesse Greenhagen, Pastors

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Greetings to you all in Christ! By the time you receive this newsletter many of the teaching and study opportunities for members will have begun again. Please join us in one of the many Bible Studies that are available for you to be involved with in the ongoing study of God's Word. With Christian Education in mind, I felt the article (*from the August issue of The Lutheran Witness*) that follows this introduction to be very instructive for application by us as a historical reminders and contemporary possibilities, or in simple terms, food for thought. It is a blessing to see all the proclamation, teaching, and study of God's Word that occurs at Zion and Christ the King. To all the members here I humbly repeat the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ, "*Well done good and faithful servant(s).*" (Mt 25:23)

Pastor Larry Wright

Christians Are To Be Taught
August 19, 2024 / Lutheran Education, Schools
by Kate Deddens

Lutheran education is the beneficiary of an immensely rich heritage. Martin Luther pioneered a vision of learning rooted in the liberal arts combined with catechesis in the faith.[1] Through his endeavors, the reformers revolutionized learning in 16th century Germany and influenced education on a global scale for centuries.

The great heritage of Lutheran education - Luther passionately advocated for and fostered the growth of faith-filled, well-educated and vocationally-minded Lutherans who expressed love of God as they worshipped together in thriving communities, bringing blessings to society through love of neighbor. During the Reformation, vast numbers of students began attending schools — something that had traditionally been reserved solely for elites. Further, with Luther's urging, primary schooling was created, and at his instigation girls were given the

opportunity to become educated in ways that had previously been inaccessible to them.[2] Educational reforms such as these had massive reverberations across time as well as geographic distance. In the United States in particular, from the earliest years of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod the educational vision of the reformers has been embodied. Almost all early LCMS congregations founded schools for their children, many simply small one-room schoolhouses which bore fruit much greater than their size would have suggested.

Thanks to the work of Lutherans who embraced that endeavor, today we have cause for celebration: These dedicated efforts led to what is now the second-largest Christian parochial school system in the United States. This is indeed great cause to give thanks to God.

The decline of contemporary schools - Today, contemporary education across all spectrums, from elementary schools through collegiate institutions, is undergoing upheaval in our swiftly changing world. It is sobering to recognize that we face challenges strikingly similar to that which Luther himself encountered. He wrote that, in his day, education was deteriorating to the extent that schools were "left to go to wrack and ruin."

Although Luther wrote those words in 1524, they hit uncomfortably close to home. The effects of educational policies during the COVID-19 pandemic have been a contributing factor to educational decay (although a downward trajectory was noticeable even prior to the pandemic). Compounding that, we face debilitating teacher shortages and societal stressors such as a "demographic cliff" combined with a weakening trust in the value of contemporary educational institutions and modes of instruction. These factors are negatively affecting all levels of education from kindergarten through the university.

Lutheran education has felt the burden of these challenges, eroding the results of Martin Luther's zeal and the laudable labors of those who followed in his footsteps. As a result, we have witnessed Lutheran schools and universities straining beneath intense societal pressures, hundreds closing their doors. Unfortunately, the effect has been fewer Lutheran students in a smaller number of Lutheran schools and fewer Lutheran church workers and teachers equipped to serve in our communities. Facing the challenges, and changing the world, like Luther - Yet we should — and must! — take heart, just as Luther himself did 500 years ago. His wisdom consistently speaks powerfully into the Lutheran educational landscape. We can remember and be edified by the kind of learning community which Luther and his associates crafted, by which they revolutionized education in their own time. In doing so, we will fortify our inheritance, energizing Lutheran education and invigorating The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a whole, as well as positively affecting our society at large.

This inheritance combines the liberal arts with Lutheran catechesis, melding together Christian faith with the life of the mind such that doctrine and academics seamlessly integrate to strengthen Lutherans simultaneously in their belief and in their vocations. As Gene Veith has written, “the liberal arts can equip a child for effective service in the world; catechesis can equip a child for everlasting life. [3]

There are manifold ways in which the Lutheran faith enlivens education. A uniquely Lutheran vision stands out starkly amid the modern pedagogical theories prevalent today (most of which ground education merely in utilitarian functions and worldly goals). Among others, these distinctives include the doctrines of the Two Kingdoms and of vocation and the right understanding of the use of reason in academics beneath the governance of faith. These doctrinal hallmarks existed harmoniously with Luther's transformation of education in his own era. He encouraged leaders of his time to nurture well-rounded education, embracing a liberal arts curriculum, in contrast to an over-emphasis on specialized studies. Over the course of recent years, within the broad scope of Lutheran learning communities, it has been uplifting to see how Lutheran universities, schools, microschoools, hybrid schools, homeschools, and co-ops have been seeking to follow the example of their forefathers — heeding the wisdom of Luther's voice as they

actively embrace the heritage of our Lutheran education.

As Lutherans, it is our legacy and our privilege to carry such education forward into the 21st century with dedication, enthusiasm and hope. We can take encouragement from our forebears, who ardently believed in Luther's exhortation that Christians are to be taught, and with prayerful hearts continue to nurture the blessings of Lutheran education and the Lutheran church for many generations to come.

[1] Steven A Hein, et al., *A Handbook for Classical Lutheran Education* (Fort Wayne: CCLE Press, 2013), p. 115.

[2] Thomas Korcok, *Lutheran Education: From Wittenberg to the Future* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing, 2011), pp. 63-64.

[3] Thomas Korcok, *Lutheran Education: From Wittenberg to the Future* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing, 2011), p. xii.

Early Childhood Center News

The first month of school is behind us and it is exciting to see growth already. We are noticing an explosion of conversations as the children are using their words to negotiate Free Choice/Center Time. Perhaps the most exciting observations are those when one child comforts another who might be missing home.



Fall has arrived with crisp sunny days and cold damp nights. Please be sure that your child has many layers for these rapidly changing days. Feel free to leave a light jacket here at school on their coat hook to always be prepared.

This month our Chapel Time will continue to work through Old Testament lessons. The children will hear how God cared for the Old Testament people despite their unfaithfulness. They will hear that God had a promised Savior even from them.

The end of the Little Caesars fundraiser is fast approaching. Brochure orders and online orders will be due October 18. Online orders may be made at PizzaKit.com under Products. Our Group ID is 6564 and our fundraiser ID number is 433877. Pick up week is still planned for the week of November 4.



School Pictures are scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, and Thursday, October 10. Order forms and photo release letters should have arrived home this past week. Pictures are always optional, however please return the photo release letter so your child may appear in the yearbook.

The homemade apple pie sale will be held again on Saturday, November 2. Look for the order form sign-up outside your child's classroom door.



There is a tentative plan for an Usborne Book sale in November. Parents will be notified soon with a confirmed date.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” [1]

Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation. But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

*Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
that shows Your message ever new and near.*

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who

hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren't actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God's family — the church — in managing life's resources for His purposes.” God's love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus! The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near; in the Scriptures, in the Lord's House, at the Lord's Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

[1] Martin Luther, “Preface to Georg Rhau's Symphoniae iucundae,” in Luther's Works, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan, Helmut T. Lehmann, and Christopher Boyd Brown, vol. 53 (Philadelphia and St. Louis: Fortress and Concordia Publishing House, 1955–), 321–322.



Regular Quarterly Voters' Meeting

Sunday, October 27

12:15 p.m. at CTK

2025 Missions of the Month

Each year, the Board of Stewardship is responsible for coming up with a list of Missions of the Month for the following calendar year, to be presented to the Voter's at the regular October Voter's Meeting. If any member of the congregation has a mission they feel should be considered, please reach out to any member of the Board of Stewardship or contact the church office. We would ask that any suggestions be submitted by October 15.

October Mission of the Month Concordia University - Ann Arbor

Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA) is a private, liberal arts university in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It is a Lutheran higher education community committed to helping students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the World.

Freewill Offering - Sunday, October 6

Our monthly door offering will be Sunday, October 6, after both services, to help support our Zion members Nathan Bublitz and Josh Camp. Nathan and Josh are at our seminaries studying to become pastors. We also ask that you keep Nathan and Josh in your prayers.

Receiving a Lutheran Education at a Public Institution: A Response to “Christians Are To Be Taught,” by Kate Deddens

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”
(Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV)

The heritage of Lutheran education does not escape the public sector. It cannot. The Church is in the world and it cannot escape. Nor should it try to escape. Jesus’ prayer rings true, “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world” (John 17:15-16). The Church is stuck in the world until the return of our LORD. It is true, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod came into the education situation of the United States with guns blazing. Most early LCMS congregations founded schools for their children. These congregations sought a well-balanced liberal arts education for their kids. Many of these Lutheran schools abide today... but many have also closed. LuthEd, a service of the LCMS School Ministry Office, reveals that over a span of 10 years, between 2012 and 2022, the number of LCMS schools (including early childhood, elementary, and high school) decreased by 20%.

[1] Over this same time span we saw a 30% decrease in our Lutheran Universities. [2] How is the Church to respond? Kate Deddens, in her article, “Christians Are To Be Taught,” suggests, “Yet we should - and must! - take heart, just as Luther himself did 500 years ago... We can remember and be edified by the kind of learning community which Luther and his associates crafted, by which they revolutionized education in their own time. In doing so, we will fortify our inheritance, energizing Lutheran education and invigorating The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod as a whole...” [3] But vigor and ambition can only take Lutheran education so far. Perhaps it is time to “revolutionize” our presuppositions of what constitutes a Lutheran education. Before our LORD ascended into heaven He gave the command to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and *teaching* them. Teaching is a part of the mission of the Church. This teaching does not necessitate Lutheran parochial schools. In fact, nowhere in Scripture are education systems mandated to be Christian. This does not mean Lutheran elementary schools are bad. They are very good. But they are not the only means by which the Church maintains its role of teaching. Nor should they be. Lutheran education, therefore, must pervade the public sector. Public institutions are integral battleground territory in need of discipling, baptizing, and *teaching*.

[1] “Early Childhood and School Statistical Report.” n.d. LuthEd. <https://www.luthed.org/early-childhood-and-school-statistical-report/>.

[2] Concordia College Alabama, Concordia University Portland, and Concordia College New York closed in 2018, 2020, and 2021 respectively, according to Concordia University System (<https://www.lcms.org/cus-future#section10>).

[3] Kate Deddens. “Christians Are To Be Taught.” *The Lutheran Witness*. <https://witness.lcms.org/2024/christians-are-to-be-taught/>.

Christ the King Chapel is located on the public campus of Central Michigan University (CMU). Discipling, baptizing, and *teaching* all take place here. Meanwhile, the students attending Christ the King Chapel are simultaneously receiving a first-rate liberal arts education at a public institution. Some degree programs simply aren’t offered at our Concordia Universities that can be found at public institutions like CMU.



Students here are in need of proper teaching as much as, if not even more than, those attending our Lutheran Universities. Perhaps it is time to consider the ministry of campus churches near public institutions a form of Lutheran education. Such a perspective would be in accord with our LORD's command found in Matthew 28. As the form of Lutheran education changes, we shall take heart as Deddens and Luther suggest. For lo, Jesus Christ is with us "always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Greenhagen

Youth & Family Life News

Zion's First Annual Brat Fest

Saturday, October 12

4:00 p.m. at Zion

(under the pavilion)

Get your lederhosen and polka dancing shoes out for Zion's First Annual Brat Fest! The price for admission is only \$10. People who participated in the "5K for the King" will receive free admission, and make sure to wear your 5K shirt! We will have our delicious homemade brats and other sides for eating along with some good ole' root beer. Also, enjoy some polka music and other fun entertainment. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheets located at either Zion or CTK so we can plan appropriately. Any questions can be directed to Luke Epple Jr. at (989) 944-5426.



Apple Pie Fundraiser Saturday, November 2

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin boards at both Zion and CTK for donations, volunteer opportunities, and purchasing pies. If you have not participated in the making of pies, (usually 250-300) consider joining us on Saturday, November 2. It is a fun and rewarding morning. There are multiple stations to choose what works for you. Be sure to tell your friends, and plan on ordering some delicious apple pies. Pies are just \$12 each or 3 for \$30.

NURSE'S NOTE: If your child struggles with anxiety, you are not alone. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), anxiety is the most common psychiatric disorder in the world, with a prevalence of 5.7% to 17.7% in children and adolescents. It's important to treat anxiety disorders in children early to head off fears and worries before they worsen or lead to other problems.

Isaiah 41:10: God is with us, and will strengthen, help, and uphold us.

This is part one of a three part session. Next month will be information on depression and lastly on treatments. As always this is just information to help recognize an issue. This information is not to be used to diagnose or treat. Please seek medical attention if you believe there is an issue.

The CDC suggests these are the most common types of childhood anxiety:

Separation anxiety: Very common in younger children, characterized by distress when separated from a parent or caregiver.

Phobias: Having extreme fear about a specific thing or situation, such as dogs, insects, or going to the doctor

Social anxiety: Can become prominent around the third grade, where children feel intense anxiety about social situations and how they are perceived by others.

Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD): When a child experiences excessive worry about many different things, often focusing on the worst possible outcomes.

Many children have fears and worries, and may feel sad and hopeless from time to time. Strong fears may appear at different times during development. For example, toddlers are often very distressed about being away from their parents, even if they are safe and cared for. Although fears and worries are typical in children, persistent or extreme forms of fear and sadness could be due to anxiety or depression. Because the symptoms primarily involve thoughts and feelings, they are sometimes called *internalizing disorders*.

When a child does not outgrow the fears and worries that are typical in young children, or when there are so many fears and worries that they interfere with school, home, or play activities, the child may be diagnosed with an anxiety disorder.

God Bless,

Phillis Daws RN, BSN

zionparishnurse@gmail.com or 989.621-8583

Zion Lutheran Women's Guild



Living in Prayer

... Wash me ...Cleanse me ... I am clean!

In the Word

No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you clean as freshly fallen snow (Isaiah 1:18b LB).

Of the Word

When the prophet Nathan confronted King David about his adulterous affair with Bathsheba, David broke down and confessed his grievous sin before God. He said, *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin (Psalm 51:1-2).*

Have you ever just had a “great cry” — one in which your soul poured out all your deepest sorrows and your tears cleansed your heart? Perhaps that was David’s experience when he was confronted with his sinfulness. After confession, David’s spirit was cleansed. That is what happens to us, too, when we come before our Lord in confession, seeking His forgiveness. God’s forgiveness brings us a cleansing, a washing that rejuvenates and restores our relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Walking with my Lord

Cleanse my heart, O Lord, and draw me close to You so I may teach others Your ways and Your praise will be ever on my lips and in my heart. In Jesus’ forgiving name. Amen.



Calendar of Events

HOT ITEM: MITES, MITES. MITES:

Do you have pockets of change? Remember our mite box is looking for loose change. We can always use more donations to mites. Dig in those pockets and pull out that loose change. Our new goal for the next biennium is \$400,000. Wow! We can do it!

LWML Sunday is October 6. During the fellowship hour in the gym, after the 8:30 a.m. service, we will have a presentation from our delegates to the Michigan District Convention. Kathleen Tice and Joan Hoernlein were delegates from our zone; JoAnn Gust was a delegate for the District. The quilting group will display quilts at both Zion and CTK that they have made this past year. Quilts will be on sale for \$50 each to help defray the material costs. Please make checks payable to Zion Ladies Guild.

New Adventure – We had a very successful luncheon on September 13, at Bob Evans, with 13 people attending. It was enjoyed by all. We have scheduled another luncheon on November 15, at Olive Garden on the south end of town, (Mt Pleasant) at 11:30 a.m. All ladies are welcome to join us; it is a chance to get together with other Christian women from Zion Lutheran. Though it is not necessary, we would prefer that you RSVP to Kathy Tice (989-294-1373).

Cookie Walk/Bake Sale and Bazaar Saturday, December 7 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the gym at Zion

We are trying something different this year. We will be adding a bake sale to our cookie walk. If you are an individual that does not like to bake fancy Christmas cookies, you can instead bake breads or any other items that you think will sell. Charolette Mogielski is Chair of the Cookie Walk; Janah Aldrich is Chair of the Bake Sale; Trina Palmer will be Chair of the Bazaar; JoAnn Gust, will be overall Chair. Decorating and setting up will take place on Friday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!



Our **ZONE LWML RALLY** is Saturday, October 26, at St. John’s Lutheran, Midland. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting to begin at 9:30 a.m. Please bring \$5 for registration and your “Gifts from the Heart.” We are once again doing servant events, Aaron's Gifts From Home (military pictures to color), Open Door Women and Children's Shelter (filled birthday bags), and Phil's Friends (greeting cards to include in their care packages to clients). We will need you to bring Birthday bags, cake mix, frosting, candles, favors, etc. **We will carpool from Zion at 8:00 a.m.**

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.

Quilting Group Every Tuesday at Zion
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon; 12:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (lunch) and 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. come as you wish !

“Serve the Lord with Gladness-” Psalm 100:2



The MUSIC DIRECTOR CAMPAIGN FOR ZION/CTK IS STILL ALIVE!

“Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.” Psalm 96:1-2

REMEMBER the musical drama, The Sound of Music, featuring Maria (Julie Andrews, the free-spirited Austrian woman studying to be a nun) who was sent to the George Von Trapp family (Christopher Plummer) to be governess to his seven children. It is the story of the Trapp Family Singers--the amazing story of how Maria teaches the children to sing and have fun doing it.

Zion’s Campaign for a Music Director/Kantor is aimed at teaching our children and adults of all ages to sing and enjoy music. The Campaign is still alive to raise an initial \$50,000 that will kick off the search. Please consider a one-time gift, a pledge, a will, an estate gift, a fund raiser, or monthly giving to move us closer and closer to our goal. Use any regular envelop marked MD. **I’ve heard it said that next to the Gospel in importance is MUSIC!**

Music is so very important to our worship service of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and has always been since we organized. Our hymns are rich in scripture and filled with messages telling of His salvation from day to day!
(Dale Gust, Executive Director/Elder)



Reformation Sunday

October 27

SAS—Set Apart to Serve

“Set Apart to Serve (SAS), a major initiative of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), seeks to create an intentional culture of church worker formation and recruitment in every LCMS congregation, school, and entity. SAS supports adults as they encourage youth to live a life in the Word of God and to consider serving in a full-time church work vocation. Visit lcms.org/sas to learn more.

Contact us at SetApart2Serve@lcms.org with any questions or comments.”

The LCMS is very short of pastors and teachers. Visit these sites to learn specifically what we all can do to seek and encourage those to serve. The following paragraph is one of many helping us to identify what we can do for our children from infancy through 18+ and even transitioning to a vocation along with many other resources:

Emphasize serving Christ and living out their Baptism.

Your child’s primary identity is found in their Baptism. From toddler through teen, the underlying message in all conversations with your child about different vocations, should center on God’s love and forgiveness in Christ. When we discuss vocation, we want to remember that our first vocation is to believe in Jesus. All of our vocations flow from God’s action to save us in Christ Jesus.

(Dale Gust, Executive Director/Elder)



Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, October 19

8:00 a.m. at Zion

Note: If you or someone you know would be interested in Department 56 Dickens or New England Village pieces call or text Karyn Kiefer at 989-330-9743.