

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
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Jesse Greenhagen, Pastor

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“And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, ‘Behold, a sower went forth to sow . . . But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.’” Matthew 13:3, 8-9

April Showers bring May Flowers

Having received an abundance of rain this year (a crazy amount of rain!!!), we now observe new growth. But there is an order of operation in the world. Every farmer knows that he must scatter seed if he expects to receive a crop. No farmer will skip this step! And the seed he sows will not grow if it does not receive rain. While farmers do this artificially, the world does it naturally. The LORD made the earth in a particular way: the scattering of seed, the rain, and, finally, new growth.

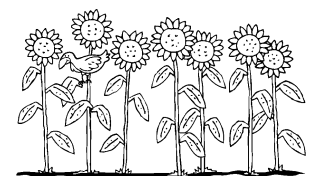
The same takes place with the Church. At the end of May, the Church will enter a new season. It is the season of the Holy Trinity. The liturgical color is green. As you might expect, green represents growth. Having received the Word of God (seed), and continuing in the LORD’s teaching and Sacraments (water), now the Church is called into a season of growth. Saint Paul reminds us of this in 1 Corinthians 3, “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the LORD gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.” While someone does need to plant, and another needs to water, it is God who gives the increase.

But we are lazy farmers. As we enter the season of the Holy Trinity, we think, “Summer is here! School is out of session. Finally, I can relax!” Without question, Michigan is a great

place to enjoy the Summer. But, the work of planting and watering should not be forsaken. No farmer will leave his crop alone throughout the Summer months and still expect a good harvest. Every crop needs continued nourishment and care. There are numerous things that can distract or hurt our faith. Letting our guard down this Summer will do exactly that.

There are plenty of ways to abide in the nourishment of the Church this Summer. Even though Sunday School and LifeLight Bible study have come to an end, the Church is still very active. Water for the LORD’s crop shall be found within the doors of Zion this summer. Our weekly Sunday Bible studies continue. Our monthly Men’s breakfast goes on. Vacation Bible School and Summer Camp are still being offered for our youth. And numerous other activities found on our calendar provide you the nourishment of God’s Word. There is plenty of water found at Zion to quench your thirst during these hot and otherwise dry months. Stay green, or at least continue in the LORD’s Word and Sacraments. He will provide the increase.

In Christ,
Pastor Greenhagen



Early Childhood Center News

Every year, our staff reaches the end of the school year in awe of how quickly the time has passed - and this year is no exception! We have witnessed such wonderful growth in our children, including their social development, academic progress and physical growth. But most importantly, we have been blessed to see the spiritual growth of all 59 children.

Ask our children why we go to chapel and they will tell you "To hear about Jesus." Ask them what they have learned and they will joyfully share, "Jesus died on the cross, then three days later He rose from the dead and He did it to take away my sins." Without question, this is the greatest growth of all.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to all the families who supported our Texas Roadhouse fundraiser. We hope everyone enjoyed good food and great company while dining and donating!

We would like to remind families of our "Mommy and Me Day"! Please plan to join us May 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the gym.

Last Day of School: The last day of classes for the four-year-old class will be Wednesday, May 27. The children will present a short program in the church beginning at 10:00 a.m. If this is not your child's regular preschool day, please plan to bring them at their normal drop-off time. A fellowship time will follow the graduation service. We will be posting a sign-up sheet for those willing to provide cookies, treats or assist in the kitchen. The three-year-old class will celebrate the end of the school year with an ice cream party on Thursday, May 28 during their regular preschool time.

Summer Camp: Summer camp enrollment is continuing this month! Camp will run from June 8 through August 14 and is available for children ages 3-12. Children do not need to be enrolled in our Preschool and Early Childhood Center to attend. Both full-day and half-day options are available and families may choose to attend daily or on an as-needed basis throughout the summer.

Summer Camp Enrollment Link:

<https://schools.procareconnect.com/form/ebc2233c-3739-404c-9b0e-6ba4350b67b7>

Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Center still has openings in our three and four-year-old classrooms for the Fall 2026-2027 school year. Please feel free to share this opportunity with family and friends who may be looking for a Christ-centered preschool program.

Fall Preschool Enrollment Link:

<https://schools.procareconnect.com/form/a6a61d2f-3b98-47b2-a8e1-b8f0941460dc>



Every child, every person in the world is unique. Parents especially are aware of this as they love their offspring as the individuals they are. Teachers recognize the strengths and weaknesses to encourage them in their learning. God tells us in 2 Timothy 1:9 that we are saved, not by our efforts, but for His purpose, by His Grace, even before the earth was created! Even learned adults struggle to understand this. But a child (or a child of God no matter the age) understands in his heart, and that is called faith. Praise we the Lord! Hallelujah!

Every child needs to know that, not only does God love and care for us, but each individual has a part in God's "Big Picture". We might think of His creative plan as a great jigsaw puzzle with billions of pieces scattered through time (each and every human being past, present and future). When we look at ourselves as we grow from childhood on, we begin to ask ourselves where we fit in. We must seek His help as we find our place in His world. After all, using the allegory of the big jigsaw puzzle, our Lord "holds the box" with the complete picture only He can see! As parents and teachers, we guide our young ones to allow God to place us where they belong according to His plan, whether we are edge pieces or maybe that little green-and-white-bit down at the bottom . . .

Brad Coulson

Sunday School Superintendent

Complaints? Not Me! Really?

As members of Christ's Church, we rejoice in the good news we have just celebrated - Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! This Easter proclamation fills us with lasting joy and hope. And yet, even within the life of the church, we sometimes catch ourselves focusing not on Christ's gifts, but on our own preferences - asking questions like, "Could this have been done differently?" or "Might there have been a better way?"

Such attitudes are not new to God's people. In the Old Testament, we see how the Israelites, though delivered by the Lord's mighty hand, often grumbled as they wandered in the wilderness. Time and again, the Lord provided for them, even as they struggled to trust in His care.

We, too, are recipients of God's abundant grace. Everything we have at Zion/CTK - our worship, our fellowship, our opportunities to serve - flows from His gracious hand. Rather than falling into patterns of complaint, we are called to respond with thanksgiving, trusting that the Lord continues to guide and provide for His people.

In all things, let us fix our eyes on Christ, rejoice in His gifts and give thanks for the many blessings He has so richly poured out upon us.

Dale Gust

Executive Director

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 associated 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.

Sunday, May 10

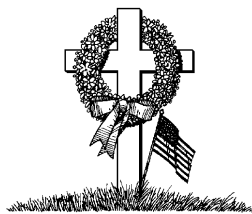


Tuesday, May 26

11:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. at Zion

To schedule an appointment, log onto RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code Zion) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

**Memorial Day
Monday, May 25**



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)



Ascension Day

Thursday, May 14

5:30 p.m. Worship - Zion



Anyone interested in planting flowers in the six cement containers at Zion can contact the church office. Funds are available for purchasing flowers.



SAVE THE DATES

July 13-17

Cori Bingham and Courtney Ross will be helping coordinate the Vacation Bible School with Pastor Greenhagen this summer and are starting to look for volunteers for various areas. There are always many spots to chip in and help make this a wonderful week! Contact Cori or the church office if you can help out. Put the dates on your calendar now!



Men's Breakfast Bible Study
Saturday, May 16, 8:00 a.m. at Zion

Friday, May 8
Euchre Night!

Euchre Night is Friday, May 8, at 6:00 p.m. If able, please bring a snack to pass and your friends who might be interested in playing euchre!



A special thank you from Rev. Krauss for all the wonderful birthday blessings! He enjoyed a very blessed birthday and was excited to receive all the wonderful birthday cards.

Thank You!



Are you receiving emails from Zion and/or CTK? To complete our records, please forward any address, telephone number and email address changes to the office at 989-772-1516 or zion@zionmpmi.org.

Thank You!





**Daughters of The King
Naomi - If and If Only**

In the Word

*“Do not call me Naomi: . . . for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me” (Ruth 1:20b).
“Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse” (Ruth 4:16).*

Of the Word

“If I could . . .” If only I had . . .” If God would . . .”
Do those words echo in your mind? Let’s be honest! They do - for everyone - from time to time!
In the book of Ruth, imagine her mother-in-law Naomi’s thoughts, “If I could stay here in Bethlehem . . .” If I only had my husband and sons beside me again . . .” If God would just comfort my aching heart . . .” God had not forgotten her, though He may have seemed very far away. Moab was not Bethlehem, but Naomi survived there. The men of the family were dead, but two loving daughters-in-law remained. And finally, the “happily ever after” that erased the “if only” once and for all: the marriage of beloved Ruth to Boaz and the birth of little Obed.
In our lives, God is never far away. Even when His plans seem clouded by fears and troubles, we can trust Him. With the psalmist we can say, . . . I trust in you, O Lord, I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hand; . . . (Psalm 31:14-15a).

Walking with My Lord

Lord God, forgive my “if” and “if only” thoughts when they are doubtful and fearful. Strengthen and help me trust Your plans for my ultimate good. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Calendar of Events

May 16 - 9:30 a.m. at CTK - General Meeting and Elections. Breakfast will be served. Claudia Schimmelmenn and Kathy Tice are co-chairs.

May 22 - 11:30 a.m. at Los Palominos - Luncheon. All ladies are welcome. Enjoy the fellowship and getting to know your fellow Zion members.

June 12 - 11:30 a.m. at Herrick House, Clare - Luncheon. Meet at Zion at 11:00 a.m. if you do not have a ride.

June 26-28 - LWML Michigan District Convention. Kathly Tice and Joanne Kinzinger are the delegates to the LWML Michigan Convention. JoAnn Gust will be representing the LWML Michigan District as Leadership Coordinator as a delegate and voting member. Pray for them as they attend this convention. We still have not met our mite goal.

Nominating Committee - We now have a slate of officers. Secretary - Phillis Daws, Treasurer - Janice Harless. Thank you for volunteering to be on the slate of officers for 2026-2030.

Orphan Grain Train: Continue to place good clean clothes in the containers at Zion and CTK. Please put in small bags or small garbage bags.

Facebook Page and Website - We have developed a Facebook Page: LWML Zion Lutheran-mpmi. A website page is being developed and soon will be finished. Kathy Tice will be in charge of the LWML website.

We will be putting our mite box out the second Sunday of the month so that our mites can reach goal.



THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING YOUR MITES!

“Serve the Lord with Gladness” Psalm 100:6

Nurturing Faith from the Very Beginning Why Our Preschool Belongs at the Heart of Our Church

In every generation, the Church is called to pass on the faith “once delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3). For us as a congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), this calling is not simply a program or initiative; it is central to who we are as God’s people. One of the clearest and most joyful ways we live out this calling is through our preschool ministry. It is worth reflecting on an important truth - our preschool is not merely an outreach arm or a community service - it is an integral part of our church’s life and mission.

A Sacred Responsibility

From the earliest moments of life, children are capable of receiving the love of Christ. Jesus Himself said, “Let the little children come to me . . . for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14). In our preschool, we are not simply preparing children academically or socially - we are bringing them into daily contact with the Word of God.

When our preschool operates as part of the church proper, it ensures that everything the children experience is grounded in Christ. Bible stories are not moral lessons alone; they are the proclamation of salvation in Jesus. Prayer is not routine; it is conversation with a living Lord. Songs are not just music; they are confessions of faith.

Forming Disciples, Not Just Students

As Lutherans, we believe that faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17). This means that even our youngest learners are being formed spiritually as they hear Scripture, sing hymns, and learn of Jesus’ love.

When our preschool is fully integrated into the life of the congregation:

- Children become familiar with the sanctuary, not just classrooms
- Families encounter the wider church community, not just a school program

- Teachers serve not only as educators, but as sharers of the Gospel

This is not accidental - it is discipleship at its earliest stage.

A Bridge to Families

One of the greatest blessings of a church-based preschool is its connection to families who may not yet have a church home. Every drop-off, every program, every conversation becomes an opportunity for Gospel witness. When the preschool is clearly part of the church:

- Families see that faith is not an “add-on”, but foundational
- Invitations to worship and congregational life flow naturally
- Relationships form that open doors for deeper spiritual care

In this way, the preschool becomes a mission field right at our doorstep - one entrusted to us by God.

A Mutual Blessing

The relationship between church and preschool is not one-directional. Just as the congregation supports the preschool, the preschool enriches the congregation. Children’s voices in chapel, their presence in worship and their joy in learning about Jesus serve as powerful reminders of God’s promises. They bring life, energy and a visible picture of the Church’s future. At the same time, the congregation provides:

- Spiritual oversight and doctrinal faithfulness
- Prayer and encouragement for staff and families
- A living example of the body of Christ across generations

Together, this creates a unified ministry that reflects the fullness of the Church’s calling.

Faithfulness to Our Confession

As an LCMS congregation, we hold firmly to the authority of Scripture and the centrality of Christ’s saving work. Integrating our preschool into the church proper helps safeguard this identity.

It ensures that:

- Teaching remains faithful to God's Word
- Christ crucified is always at the center
- The mission of making disciples shapes every aspect of the program

This is not just good practice - it is faithful stewardship of what God has entrusted to us.

Looking Ahead with Confidence

As we continue to grow and serve, let us give thanks for the gift of our preschool - not as something separate, but as something deeply woven into our life together as a church.

By God's grace, this ministry allows us to plant seeds of faith early, support families meaningfully and proclaim Christ clearly. In doing so, we trust His promise: that His Word will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish the purpose for which He sends it (Isaiah 55:11).

May we continue to cherish, support and pray for this vital part of our congregation's mission - raising up the next generation in the knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dale Gust, Executive Director

How Zion Lutheran Church Is Organized

Every congregation that joins the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) develops both a Constitution and a set of Bylaws.

Our Constitution expresses what we believe, teach, and confess as part of the Synod—literally, “walking together.” Our Bylaws then guide how we live that out day to day, outlining leadership roles, responsibilities, and how our ministry work is carried out.

At Zion Lutheran, that work is shared across several boards, each focused on a specific area of congregational life:

Parish Planning Committee

Made up of the directors from each board, this group helps coordinate efforts across ministries and looks ahead to the future. They consider both short- and long-term needs—such as facility expansion, growth

of our Early Childhood Center (ECC), and planning for both Zion and Christ the King.

Board of Elders

The elders support worship life and care for the well-being of our pastors, staff, and music resources.

Board of Campus Ministry

This board connects with college students, organizing activities, events, and opportunities for involvement.

Board of Stewardship

Stewardship oversees the collection, counting, and reporting of offerings. They also provide guidance on the use of special gifts, such as those from estates, property sales, or memorials.

Board of Family Life/Youth

Focused on fellowship and connection, this board plans events for members of all ages and supports youth activities, including participation in programs like Higher Things and other gatherings.

Board of Trustees

Trustees care for the maintenance of Zion and Christ the King facilities. Volunteers play a crucial role in this work, helping reduce the need for outside services and associated costs.

Board of Education

This team coordinates educational opportunities across the congregation, including Sunday School, the library, Vacation Bible School, and support for the ECC in partnership with the preschool director.

Board of Evangelism

Evangelism focuses on outreach—welcoming visitors, training greeters, connecting with the community, and equipping members to share the Gospel.

In Summary, you might picture our congregation like a wheel, with each board as a spoke and Christ at the center. Our pastors, working closely with the elders, help hold it all together through worship leadership, teaching, visitation, and preaching God's Word.