

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

Larry Wright and Jesse Greenhagen, Pastors

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“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”
Revelation 12:7-9

Practical Spiritual Warfare for College and Beyond

Spiritual warfare is overlooked within the Lutheran Church. Rarely do we consider the demonic and the angelic powers that surround us each hour of every day. Our eyes are trained to see that which is material, making it difficult for us to distinguish between the demonic and the natural. We rarely think about the demonic influences at work when we are tempted in our physical sight. We hear reports of demon-possession in the Scriptures, but we might question whether demon-possession still takes place today. We may even use natural explanations - such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or multiple personality disorder – to explain demon-possession in the Bible. But this should not be done. Angels and demons are real, and they exist today.

When we consider spiritual warfare, we must remember that the fight has already been won. We look to the cross. There, on a piece of physical wood, was stretched out the material body of Jesus. But the physical event of Jesus’ death is quite peculiar. Although it looked like defeat in our material-seeing eyes, the event served as a spiritual victory over sin, death, and the Devil. The cross is our victory. It is the cross, therefore, which was placed upon us in baptism, that gives us comfort in a world filled with spiritual attack.

Although our dim eyes cannot see the angelic and demonic figures that surround us, we need not fear. In baptism, Christ has claimed you as His own. We can declare as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor

things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). As we await that day when our eyes will finally see clearly that which is spiritual, we shall remain steadfast in prayer and in God’s Word. It is in His Word that we are reminded of this good news that the victory has indeed been won.

Zion Lutheran’s board of Campus Ministry is excited to host Rev. Sean Willman, from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hillsdale, Michigan, to present on the topic “Practical Spiritual Warfare for College and Beyond.” The retreat will take place November 22-24, but it is not exclusive to our college students. All ages are invited to attend the seminar lectures at Christ the King Lutheran Chapel. Whether you are a college student or a charter member of Zion, I invite you to join us as we seek to learn more about spiritual warfare this month.

Pastor Greenhagen



November 17

In the upcoming days pledges brought forward last year will be mailed along with the new pledge form for 2025. On Sunday, November 17, you will be invited to bring your 2025 pledge forward to be placed in the sanctuary for the coming year. There it will serve as a reminder for you of the commitment you have made to your Lord. All pledge forms remain sealed, and are returned sealed to those that brought them forward.

Early Childhood Center News

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



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. We will receive \$1,416.00 of profit to be used towards playground equipment, toys, and our tuition assistant program. Pizza delivery will take place on Monday, November 4. Kits should be picked up in the afternoon before 5:00 p.m. Parents, we are always in need of pizza sorters. If you can help please come at about 10:00 a.m. The Early Childhood Center will be celebrating our top sellers in the classroom next month.



Zion ECC families please remember that the entire center is closed November 27-29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

The three-year-old children will be preparing a short Christmas song service to be held on Thursday, 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.



The Word of our Lord has many references to eating. Our creator knows how vital food is to our existence, and uses that to teach us and



clarify our need for His Word. In the beginning all creatures on earth ate only vegetation. Our current state and need for redemption stem from a single act of eating against God's will. Jesus bade us to eat His body and drink His blood to remember His sacrifice for us. He enjoined Peter three times to "feed my sheep/my lambs". The Word is the necessary and vital food for the health and joy of a spiritual life. We therefore need to be aware of what our children are feeding their spirits. What are they being fed at school? A quick perusal of the children's shelves in the library might make your hair stand on end. On the other hand, there are many excellent children's Bibles, from 'first readers' editions all the way up to teen Bibles with study helps.

1 Peter 2:2 tells us "the sincere milk of the word is for newborn babes", for any age just beginning on their spiritual journey. Hebrews tells us "thy words are honey to my mouth", and the "solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to know good from evil".

Here at Zion, we feed our youngest "that pure spiritual milk". The older students receive ... "solid food, for those not unskilled in the word righteousness". Our adult class menu is of "strong meat" with a side order of pleasing fellowship in Christ!

What are you feeding your lambs? There is a terrible menu of "junk food" out there.

Brad Coulson

Sunday School Superintendent



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 27

5:30 p.m. at Zion

The Signs of the Times

*Before the dawning day,
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.*

*All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity
LSB331:5-6*

The leaves have changed color and have fallen, the days are getting shorter, the temperature is dropping, and one thing we all know for sure: Autumn is here.

God has given us an ability to recognize the signs of the time. But, lift up your hearts and consider what more you should think about when you see the changes in nature around you. Jesus warns us about recognizing the times (Luke 12:54-56): *"He said to the crowd: 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"*

God promised, through the Old Testament Law and Prophets, that He would send the Messiah and He did, and in the specific way in which it was described. Christ told his disciples how He would suffer, die, and on the third day rise again, and so it happened. He promised to send the Holy Spirit, and so He did, on the day of Pentecost. He foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and it happened. He foretold the persecution that the Church would suffer, and it happened. He foretold the preaching abroad of the Gospel throughout the world, and it happened. Now one thing alone remains which Christ has promised us – that He will return again, to judge the living and the dead, and that, too, will happen! Can anyone doubt that God will fulfill this one last promise, when He has kept every other promise that He ever made?

When you look around you, and you're able to recognize that autumn is coming from the signs of the seasons, consider also the signs of the time in which you live, so that you can be ready for what is coming. Recognize that all that remains is for our Lord to return, and be ready at any moment for that day.

We know that Autumn is coming, so we prepare ourselves, from our cars to our wardrobes. Farmers have months ago prepared their combines and tractors as these machines are placed into steady service in the Autumn harvest months. This same focus of preparation for members of the church is reflected in November as we speak about stewardship of God's Gifts. You've heard of the adage of sharing our time, talents, and treasures and how what we receive from God is also appropriately utilized to spread God's message of salvation. We can't buy ourselves into heaven, but because of what Christ has done, we desire to share His Good News with all we meet. So, in November we'll listen to the Biblical advice to be good stewards with the gifts God has given to us. We know that Autumn is near, so we prepare ourselves, from our cars to our wardrobes. More certainly, however, we know that Christ is coming, so let us be ready for his arrival! Preparations for Autumn include costly items like oil and antifreeze for the car, and Autumn jackets for the body. The Good News is that preparations for Christ's return costs us nothing. He has paid it all in full. We are prepared simply by receiving His gifts as we do in the Divine Service of His Word and Sacrament.

As important as motor oil is for your car, the oil for the lamp of your faith is eternally more important. As important as Autumn jackets are for you and your family, the Wedding Garment that is gifted to you for the eternal Marriage Feast of the Lamb is eternally more important. Rejoice in the many opportunities to join with your brothers and sisters in Christ here at Zion or Christ the King Chapel to receive and share God's blessed and holy gifts.

Pastor Wright



**Saturday
November 2**



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

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. 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



In memory of Jim Morford

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Adella Bergey | David & Sherri Block |
| Larry & Sandra Block | Rudy & Rosalyn Block |
| Darwin & Monica Brown | Dorne & Jill Davis |
| Rod & Nancy Dent | Tom & Linda Emery |
| Yvonne Fitzgerald | Ruth Giffin |
| Dale & JoAnn Gust | Ken & Doris Johnson |
| Lynn & Audrey Laskowsky | Wayne & Jan Reister |
| Lanny Tohm | The Evangelism Board |

Memorials to the Zion Foundation

- Laura Zook in memory of Bruce Kerfoot
Amy Bidlack in memory of Jim Morford

REPORTING: YOUR ELECTED LEADERS REPORT AT THE OCTOBER 27 VOTERS MEETING

The following Strategic Planning Goals, approved by the Voters in July, received a progress report at the recent quarterly voter's assembly meeting. These goals emerged from the strategic planning session held earlier this year. Note that your elected boards were assigned responsibility for one or more of the goals. **Please feel free to volunteer to help them or to provide them with suggestions. The directors of those boards are listed.**

1. By the end of **2024**, Zion will have engaged in a media effort to alert our local community to what Zion Lutheran Church believes, teaches, and confesses. **(Family Life/Youth and Evangelism Boards—Luke Epple Jr & Linda Coyne)**
 2. By the midterm of **2025**, Zion will have implemented an outreach strategy to the community for the purpose of bringing them to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. **(All Boards—Leader still being sought and ideas generated—no progress yet)**
 3. By the end of **2024**, Zion will have implemented a program specifically aimed at assimilation of new members into our church. **(Board of Evangelism—Linda Coyne)**
 4. By the midterm of **2025**, Zion will have implemented a program focused toward returning our inactive members to regular worship services. **(Executive Director Dale—letter sent followed by 40 people contacted via media. More to come)**
 5. By the end of **2025**, Zion will have engaged in an effort to sponsor monthly or semi-monthly speakers at Zion focused on topics of interest to the community such as home-schooling and designed to introduce them to our church's mission and ministry. **(Campus Ministry Board—Ann Hayes)**
- A sixth goal dealing with stewardship was not offered to the voters for approval in July. This was because the Stewardship Board has been working to assure that financial support will be provided to each of the boards so that the mission of our church can be carried out. Your contributions enable the boards to carry out their responsibilities. The voters approved the 2025 budget submitted by The Board of Stewardship.

NURSE'S NOTE:

This is part two of a three part session. This month you will find information on depression, and lastly, next month will be information on treatment. 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 is the resource for this information.

Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in the spirit".

Occasionally being sad or feeling hopeless is a part of every child's life. However, some children feel sad or are uninterested in things that they used to enjoy, or feel helpless or hopeless in situations they are able to change. When children feel persistent sadness and hopelessness, they may be diagnosed with depression. Like anxiety, depression is not one disorder but a category of conditions. Major depressive disorder is the most common.

Examples of behaviors often seen in children with depression include:

- Feeling sad, hopeless, or irritable a lot of the time.
- Not wanting to do or enjoy doing fun things.
- Changes in eating patterns—eating a lot more or a lot less than usual.
- Changes in sleep patterns—sleeping a lot more or a lot less than normal.
- Changes in energy –being tired and sluggish or tense and restless a lot of the time.
- Having a hard time paying attention.
- Feeling worthless, useless, or guilty.
- Showing self-injury and self-destructive behavior.

Extreme depression can lead a child to think about suicide or plan for suicide. For youth ages 10-14 years, suicide is the second leading cause of death.

Some children may not talk about their helpless and hopeless thoughts and may not appear sad. Depression might also cause a child to make trouble or act unmotivated, causing others not to notice that the child is depressed or to incorrectly label the child as a troublemaker or lazy.

Depression can also cause children to act irritable or angry. Depression and anxiety often co-occur among children, adolescents, and adults.

- Although fears and worries are typical in children, persistent or extreme forms of fear and sadness could be due to anxiety or depression.

- If you're concerned about anxiety or depression in your child, the first step is to talk with a health care provider such as your child's primary care provider, or a mental health specialist, about getting an evaluation.

God Bless,

Phillis Daws RN,BSN

989 621 8583 or zionparishnurse@gmail.com

FAMILY LIFE – EUCHRE NIGHT

Friday, November 8

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. LCMS U students are welcome! Don't miss this fun night!!!



**APPLE PIE DAY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

If you have not ordered your apple pies please do so ASAP as PIE DAY IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2!

You may call the church office at 772-1516.

Pies are \$12.00 each or 3 for \$30.00.

Pie making will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 2. Youth and any volunteers are reminded to help set up for Pie Day on Friday, November 1, at 6:00 p.m. **All pies ordered need to be picked up on November 2, 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!

Zion Lutheran Women's Guild



Walking with My Lord:

God didn't use a cookie cutter
When He created us

In the Word

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? (1 Corinthians 12:29-30).

Of the Word

Jill stared in the mirror, examining her limp hair and not-so-perfect teeth. "Why can't I have curly hair like Amy's?" she complained. "She's beautiful, sings solos in the church choir and has loads of friends." Jill was forgetting her own lovely eyes, her winning ways with kids, and her shrewd business sense.

God didn't use a cookie cutter when He created us, stamping out everyone to fit the exact same mold. *God has made us what we are* (Ephesians 2:10a GW). Our Creator knew exactly the best way to put us all together — physical characteristics, talents, and personality. Then, He drew up a plan for us to use His gifts. *He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that he has prepared [in advance] for us to do* (Ephesians 2:10b GW).

Every person is God's unique creation. Every life has a purpose. What joy we find in discovering our God-given gifts and following His lead in using them to serve others!

Walking with my Lord

Father, thank You for creating me just as You wished. Forgive me when I compare myself to others and complain about the gifts I lack. Show me how to honor You with the abilities You have given me. In Jesus' 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!



General Meeting – Saturday, November 9

We will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Zion with a potluck breakfast/brunch. Please attend as there are important items to discuss. Rev. Larry Wright will be speaking at this event.

New Adventure – We had another successful luncheon on October 11, at Cheers with 17 ladies attending. Our next luncheon will be on Friday, November 15, at Olive Garden. All ladies are welcome! It is a wonderful opportunity to get together with other Christian women from Zion. In order for us to inform the restaurant we would appreciate RSVP's. All are welcome!

Cookie Walk/Bake Sale and Bazaar

Saturday, December 7
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
in the gym at Zion



Decorating and setting up will be on Friday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. 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 Bake Sale; Trina Palmer will be Chair of Bazaar; JoAnn Gust, will be overall Chair.

THANK YOU - Thank you to all that helped with the Jim Morford funeral luncheon. This is a volunteer group and the funeral committee appreciates all the assistance they can get. Thank you especially Brian Block for the wonderful Au Gratin potatoes!

Altar Flowers – We are missing one of Zion's green containers for altar flowers. Maybe you returned it to CTK because it does say CTK and Zion on the container. When you donate flowers, please do not take the green container from Zion or CTK. Transfer the flowers to an aluminum container in the sacristy at Zion, or kitchen at CTK. Also, if you forget to pick up your flowers, do not pick them up from the altar after Thursdays. The previous week's flowers will be in the narthex. Flowers on the altar after Wednesday are for the upcoming Sunday. Remember the flowers are now \$35 for each arrangement. Please pay Charolette Mogielski or leave a check (Zion Ladies Guild) in the church office at Zion.

"Serve the Lord with Gladness-" Psalm 100:2