

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
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April 2010

Samuel B. Reith & Jonathon J. Bakker, Pastors

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“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe - and shudder!”
James 2:19

Faith and Life

The above passage comes from one of the most challenging chapters in all of Scripture. James has just declared, “So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead...Show me your faith apart from your works and I will show you my faith by my works.”

This seems a contradiction to the central doctrine of the Bible, that we are saved, “by grace through faith” without any merit or works on our part. James here is not suggesting that we are saved “by works.” The point he is making is that there is more to “believing” than merely saying so. Good works will flow from those in whose hearts there is living and active faith.

James points out the danger of identifying saving faith with personal acceptance of a series of intellectual propositions. Saving faith is much more than having the right doctrinal formulas at hand. In this chapter he gives us two examples of confessions not followed by genuine faith.

In verse 15 we read, “If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things they need for the body, what good is that?” “Go in peace,” refers to the greeting “Shalom,” which was considered an essential phrase of the Christian synagogue worship. It was the phrase used by Jesus as he appeared in the upper room on Easter evening and it was used at the opening and closing of the liturgy of that day.

James suggests that repeating the phrase, “Shalom” is not a confession of true faith without a desire of the heart that there be “Shalom”—that is true peace in the lives of those being addressed.

In verse 19 he again gives an example to show us that saving faith involves more than the recitation of a creed, no matter how correctly that creed might be worded. “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder!”

Here James refers to the “Shema” of ancient Israel. In Deuteronomy 6:4 Moses set forth the confession which was to distinguish the children of Israel from the surrounding nations and mark them as the people of the true God. “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one.” This is the confession that was at the heart and center of the synagogue worship. It was in use in the Christian synagogue of James’ day and it remains in use in contemporary worship today. This is the passage that compels us to confess God as triune – three in ONE.

What does James say here? God is one. This is an important truth, an important confession. The devil and his angels also make such a confession and it does not save them. It makes them shudder. They are condemned by it. The recitation of the confession does not pass for saving faith.

What is the nature of saving faith? The catechism (1943) gives the following, “What do

you mean when you confess, "I believe in God"? I mean that I know and accept as true, what the Bible says of God and trust in Him and rely on Him with firm confidence." There are three parts to faith: knowledge, assent and confidence.

First, we must know what the Bible teaches about salvation. We must know that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jn 3:16) We must know that "By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God, not the result of works so that no one can boast." (Eph.2:8-9) We must know that "No man can say that Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor.12:3)

Second, we must accept these words of scripture as the truth. We must "assent" that we agree to the Gospel message of redemption through Jesus Christ alone.

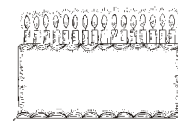
Finally, we must rely upon not just the recitation of words themselves, but upon the eternal truth that is imparted through human language. We must place our complete trust in the Christ who is presented to us in the scripture – the Christ of Bethlehem, of Calvary and of the empty tomb.

Such a faith is not passive or inactive. It is a dynamic active thing, constantly praising God and serving those whose lives touch ours. Having been saved by grace through faith we are now "his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good work which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Faith and life are combined in service to him.

Our faith and lives need to come together through several projects that are on the agenda for our congregation in the next few months. These are opportunities for us to exercise the faith that God has given us through the Holy Spirit. First I would draw your attention to an ongoing project of our Sunday School. Our children have been collecting food for the American Red Cross food pantry. Your donations would help them in their effort. Second, we will be taking up a door offering at the close of each of our services this month to be used to alleviate some financial needs that have come to light among our international students. And finally we will be hosting the community food

distribution in the month of June. The funds for this effort have already been provided. We need volunteers to staff this effort on June 26. Please set aside the date. Let your faith translate into action in this opportunity for service.

Lord give us such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.
Pastor Reith



Invitation

Please join the family of **Adella Bergey** as we celebrate her 80th birthday. A dessert reception will be held in her honor on **Saturday, April 10**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Christ The King Chapel. Please let your friendship and well wishes be your only gift to her.

Sing to the Lord!

If you have thought about joining Zion's choir and would like to attend rehearsals, please feel welcome. After Easter, we will begin rehearsals at 6:45 p.m. Our singing schedule will run through the end of May. Our choir is especially in need of altos at this time, but all voices are welcome! Please speak to Mitzi Chaffer or one of our choir members if you'd like more information.

Walk for Life 2010 On Saturday, April 17, 2010, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Central Michigan Pregnancy Services will hold the annual Walk for Life event at the Indoor Athletic Complex on the campus of Central Michigan University. You can collect pledges or sponsor yourself. This year, you also have the opportunity to support CMPS through the Rave 4 Reason. To obtain more information and/or register go to [www.lovemp.org/R4R](http://www lovemp.org/R4R) and select CMPS in the online registration form. Your entire registration fee will go directly to CMPS. Check the bulletin board at Zion and CTK for forms. Call us at (989)773-0379 or visit www.supportlifecmps.com for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The following students received an attendance certificate for completing 13 Sundays in February and March 2010:

NURSERY-KINDERGARTEN

Lauren Bucholz - Nursery

Corbyn Polley - Nursery

3rd – 4th

Alexis Epple - Third

Reyna Brown - Fourth

5th, 6th, 7th, 8th

Sydney Epple - Eighth

Austin DeMarrow - Seventh

Dara Brown - Eighth

Please contact Julie Courtney at 779-5401 with any questions.



Will you join us at our Planet Zoom Vacation Bible School July 12-16, 2010?

Our Planet Zoom VBS needs great volunteers, and we are hoping you will help. Kids will grow in faith as they ZIP into VBS and ZAP into God's Word. They help one another learn with memorable activities; confess that they BEE-LIEVE in Jesus, our Savior; and then ZOOM out to share Jesus' love in the world. *Planet Zoom* gives kids many opportunities to participate, lead, and tell others about Jesus.

A beehive is a busy place. Our church is a busy place too. Believers in our Savior, Jesus, come together to hear God's Word and grow in faith. At church, we receive forgiveness, rest, motivation, and energy to go back into the world to do the work God gave us to do—believe in Jesus, live as God's people, and tell other people about Him.

We pray that *Planet Zoom* gives us opportunities to introduce community children and their families to Christ and our church. We hope to help our own congregation's children grow in their faith in Jesus. These outcomes make VBS an important part of our ministry to children and families and a key outreach to our community. The first planning meeting will be April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Zion.

Please help us meet our *Planet Zoom* goals by providing support in one or more of these ways:

- Pray for our volunteers and the children and families who participate.
- Enroll your children or grandchildren in *Planet Zoom* and invite neighborhood children.
- Volunteer to help. There are many jobs, even if you can only come one day or can't be here during VBS. **Staff sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards at Zion and CTK.**
- Donate supplies to help with expenses. Watch church publications to see how you can participate.
- Sponsor a child at *Planet Zoom* by donating money. Write "VBS Sponsorship" on the memo line on your check.

Thanks for your continued support of Christian education and outreach at our church. With Jesus, together, we can make a difference for Jesus and His Church.

Karyn Kiefer, (989) 588-2452
karyn@windoverlake.com

DeDe Buerkel, (989) 621-5033
dedebuerkel@yahoo.com



Be imitators of God,
as beloved children.
And walk in love, as Christ loved us
and gave Himself up for us.
Ephesians 5:1–2

YOUTH



Roller skating! We have a tentative date set to go roller skating on a Christian skate night at Spinning Wheels! Mark Monday, April 5th on your calendars, and look in bulletins and your home mailbox for more information to come.

The youth will meet at Zion at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 3rd and set up for the **Easter breakfast**. Hope to see ALL YOUTH grades 4 - 12 on Saturday & Sunday, April 3rd & April 4th.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report

through 2 - 28 - 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 60,018.56	\$ 59,678.00
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 66,718.61</u>	<u>\$ 55,769.57</u>
YTD Balance	(\$ 6,700.05)	\$ 3,908.43
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 63,725.73	\$ 45,384.46
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 66,718.61</u>	<u>\$ 55,769.57</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	(\$ 2,992.88)	(\$ 10,385.11)

Memorial Gifts:

Bill Maeder

Kim & Matt Vogel

Victor Wiesenauer

Wayne & Karyn Kiefer



Good Intentions – Bad Consequences

It has come to the attention of the Parish Planning Council and the Board of Stewardship that some Zion members are making purchases, without any prior board approval, that they deem useful for Zion and then are expecting to be reimbursed for such expenditures. Unfortunately there is no budgetary oversight in this situation, and hence this leads to unbudgeted spending. We see this as a stewardship issue, and ask that if you believe that there is an item that should be purchased for the church, that you first contact the chair of the appropriate board for purchase approval. Unauthorized purchases will not be reimbursed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Stewardship Board

February Mission of the Month

Lutheran Student Fellowship received \$237.00.

April Mission of the Month

Women's Aid Service

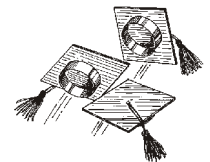
Women's Aid Service of Isabella County is a private, nonprofit agency dedicated to the intervention and prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Domestic violence and sexual assault cut across all racial, social, economic and educational groups. Each year, in this local service area alone, the agency responds to over 1000 crisis calls and provides services to hundreds of victims. The agency strives to interrupt the abusive cycle and provide assistance to all victims – women, children, and men – in the family.

A representative of Women's Aid Service is available to speak to organizations about the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault, and would be happy to schedule a presentation to interested groups.

Women's Aid Service is strongly supported by a volunteer staff for crisis intervention services after business hours. Volunteers are also needed for special projects. Although the agency receives state and federal grants, it cannot maintain its level of service without community dollars.

Please contribute financially to this month's special mission, and if you would be interested in volunteering your time as well, call the Women's Aid Service business office at 773-0078.



Once again it is time for the

Central Michigan

University Graduation. It is scheduled for May 8th with one ceremony in Kelly Shorts Stadium. For the last few years we have ushered graduations as a fund raiser for our building fund, youth gatherings, and LSF mission trips. The money received from this activity is divided between these groups based on their participation. **One hundred** people are needed to properly support this graduation. There is no job that is very difficult or time consuming, just a lot of moving parts throughout the day. CMU has always taken very good care of us during this day and it has always proved to be a great day of fellowship. There will be sign up sheets on the bulletin boards at both Zion and CTK.



Notes from the Pastor's Desk

Sunday Morning Bible Study

This month we begin a new study, "Stress: Burden or Blessing." This is not a course on the psychology of life. Rather we will examine portions of scripture to study what God's word says about handling the burdens and blessings of life. This change in subject matter is scheduled to start on Sunday, April 11. At this writing we have yet to complete our study of Revelation. Also, as is our custom, there will be no Bible Class on Easter Sunday. On Sunday, April 25, our 2010 confirmands will have their questioning during the Bible class hour.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Our monthly Men's Breakfast Bible Study will take place on Saturday, April 17, at 8:00 a.m. Class meets at Zion. This month we continue a study provided by the Lutheran Hour Ministries entitled "Enlarging the Harvest." Please make your plans now to attend.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 28 - Divine Service

8:00 a.m. at Zion - 10:45 a.m. at CTK

Maundy Thursday, April 1 - Holy Communion

4:30 p.m. at Zion - 7:30 p.m. at CTK

Good Friday, April 2

1:00 p.m. at Zion - 3:00 p.m. at CTK

Easter Sunday, April 4

7:00 a.m. at Zion - 10:45 a.m. at CTK

The youth will be serving breakfast following the 7:00 a.m. Easter Service at Zion.

EVANGELISM NEWS

On Saturday, April 10, **Chris Cakes from Clare** will again prepare a flying pancake breakfast. This is the third year for the event, and we encourage everyone to attend, including our surrounding neighbors. The road signs at Zion, CTK, and at Coyne Oil will display the invitation to the community.

Come and enjoy the fun, good pancakes and fellowship between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.



Web News

The web site as well as the bulletin board contains mission outreach articles. "News From the Edge of the Earth" and the "Minaret Newsletter" (requested by Pastor Reith as very interesting reading) are both available for downloads, if you prefer not to read them on line. Go to the Zion web site:

www.zionchristtheking.org, and select <The News Page> from the menu. While you are at it, Pastor Bakker keeps the church events calendar up to date. Click on <Today's EVENTS CALENDAR> on the opening page, or <Calendar> from the menu to see what's scheduled at Zion and CTK.

The evangelism board thanks four boards that regularly submit information for the web. Keeping the web site up to date is an outreach project of the evangelism board. Reviewing our web statistics for zionchristtheking.org we reach out especially to the CMU community (largest number of "hits"), and also to our members who travel out of state for the winter. A surprising number of "hits" from other countries and states, i.e. Israel, Russia, England, Arizona, Texas, Iowa, may have some connection with Zion, and it therefore becomes even more important we keep our web site up to date. So far in March our site was viewed 1025 times. If you are submitting articles for the newsletter or bulletin and want it on the web, please copy your email to <ML3153@power-net.net> and it will get posted.



CHRIST THE KING CHAPEL

Pastor Bakker [jbakker@winntel.net]

Kantorei at Christ The King

Mark Wednesday April 7th at 7:30 p.m. on your calendars for a beautiful Easter Choral Vespers service led by the Kantorei at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel. One of only a few choirs of its kind in North America, the Kantorei consists of 16 men preparing for pastoral ministry in the LCMS and performs exclusively within church services instead of concerts. This is an excellent opportunity to invite music-loving friends, relatives, and neighbors to our church to hear this unique choir and also hear the Gospel proclaimed in worship and song. I hope to see you there!



Still Seeking Lunch Volunteers

The semester is quickly approaching its close at CMU, and before we know it the students will be gone for the summer and we'll be preparing for next year. There are still several Thursday lunch dates that remain available for volunteers to help provide the food. If you are interested or able to help with all, or even just a part of a meal, please contact Anne or Adella at CTK.

Campus Ministry Conference June 15-17

Christ On Campus, the Lutheran campus ministry chapter network to which we belong and also the campus ministry arm of Higher Things (the organization whose conferences our youth have been attending the past few years), will be holding its 8th annual Campus Ministry Staff Conference June 15-17 (Tues-Thurs) at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel. Look for more updates in the May and June newsletters and speak with Pastor Bakker if you are interested in attending this conference.

BOARD OF FAMILY LIFE

Attention Campers!! This year the camping weekend is Friday, July 16 - Sunday, July 18th. We have reservations at the Traverse City KOA. The sites (cabins included) are all in the same location. There are lots of activities on site and within a short distance. We will have a community breakfast on Saturday morning and a pot luck on Saturday night with a church service on Sunday morning. Please sign up on the bulletin board at either Zion or Christ The King if you are interested. If you have questions, feel free to call Linda Hanley @ 989-289-0261 or email me @ lindalhanley@juno.com



All kids ages one year through 4th grade are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt at Zion. The hunt will begin at approximately 9:15 a.m. following the Easter breakfast. We ask that older kids come as well to pair up with a younger child. Following the hunt there will be a short movie.

VOTERS' MEETING

The quarterly voters' meeting will be held on April 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. All members should plan to attend.

Physical Therapy Fundraiser

On Saturday, April 10 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church a spaghetti dinner will be presented by the Physical Therapy Students at Central Michigan University. For \$8.00 /adult and \$5.00/age 12-under there will be all you can eat salad, bread sticks, spaghetti, and dessert. All proceeds will support the Michigan Chapter of The National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Contact Kathryn Reith for more information.

