

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool  
3401 E. River Road  
(989)772-1516



Christ The King Lutheran Chapel  
1401 South Washington  
(989)773-5050

February 2012

Samuel B. Reith & Jonathon J. Bakker, Pastors

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Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
Ephesians 6:11

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, two months ago I wrote about the struggles many people have with addictions and temptation to sin, particularly internet pornography. While Christ alone is the only conqueror of sin, death, and devil, that does not mean we should act as if our incapability of defeating sin on our own is any excuse for doing nothing to try to curb or end sin. To that end, I have been researching several resources that Christians may find helpful in the face of such internet temptations. These are not exhaustive, and they are always secondary to availing yourself of the true and ultimate cure for sin – Jesus and his gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation – but if you or someone you love has this struggle, or if you want to be more proactive in teaching your family about such risks, these resources will be helpful.

**Accountability and/or Filtering Software:**  
For those who do have a difficult time controlling the flesh while at the computer, there is software that can help you. First, internet filtering software is available and works very simply; once installed on your computer, tablet, or smart phone, it prevents all access to a defined list of websites. Subscriptions to filtering services generally include daily updates (similar to antivirus software) to keep up with new website addresses that come online daily. This is a barrier method that simply blocks all access, but could easily be circumvented through the use of a computer system without any filter installed. Second, accountability software is available. One of the most difficult things to do is admit to someone

you know – someone who cares about you – that you have a personal struggle with a particular kind of sin. Asking for their help and support, however, may be of great assistance in battling temptation. Once again, to be as useful as possible, the software must be installed on every internet-connected device you use. From that point on, you would have to log in to the software for internet access. Instead of blocking sites, the accountability software simply tracks your activity online, and if you visit a site with questionable content (based on definitions included in the accountability software) it is noted and included in a regular report sent to your accountability partner. Your partner, upon reviewing your activity, may decide whether or not a phone call is necessary to see how you are doing. The value of accountability software is not that ‘someone is always watching’ your every internet action, but rather that you build a relationship with your accountability partner that will, Lord-willing, be of some help in fighting a serious problem. There is much more to say about such software, but suffice it to say that if you are interested in learning more, please give me a call or check out [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com)

**Free Information for Families:** The amount of unsupervised time children and teenagers spend on the internet via laptops, tablets, smart phones, and even the family computer at home is growing every year. There are helpful resources available for free through [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com); their ‘Pure Minds Online’ e-Magazine is published monthly

and there is much helpful information there. Your pastors are also aware of other resources and we both would encourage you to simply ask for such assistance.

LCMS Michigan District PC Taskforce: Finally, our own LCMS district office has a Proven-Character Taskforce which is available to assist congregations, church workers, and families with internet temptations. Go to: <http://www.michigandistrict.org/pcw/care/resources-services/pctaskforce> for a look. There is a lot of information there, and most of it is freely accessible from any computer.

As I said before, there is much out there that can help in the fight against internet temptation, but be careful not to turn anything into an idol. Satan, our enemy, is on the prowl seeking where he may to undermine the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Only in Christ do we have the hope of everlasting life and the true victory over all sin, death, and the power of the devil. Cling to Jesus and thank the Lord for all his gifts to you, including the promise to never leave you or forsake you, even in the darkest struggles you face. God bless you always!

Pastor Bakker

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The following Sunday School Students received an attendance certificate for completing 13 Sundays in November and December 2011 and January 2012:

Nursery - Kindergarten

Noah Camp - K

Madeline Buckley - N

First and Second Grades

Macey Novak - 2<sup>nd</sup>

Natalie Vogel - 2<sup>nd</sup>

Lillian Bailey - 2<sup>nd</sup>

Erica Narr - 1<sup>st</sup>



Third, Fourth and Fifth Grades

Caleb Camp - 5<sup>th</sup>

Alexis Epple - 5<sup>th</sup>

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades

Holly Chudej - 6<sup>th</sup>



## Join the VBS "Amazing Desert Journey" July 9 – 13, 2012

The journey begins as Adam and Eve leave the lush oasis and enter a life of sin in the desert. After all, if children don't know we have sin, then they won't know their need for a Savior. From there, children see how Moses led the Israelites on a journey through the desert and Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. The week ends with a joyful celebration of the resurrection and the heavenly home God has prepared for us. At the center of all teachings is our gracious Savior, Jesus Christ.

As a bonus, each day's memory verse is a petition from the Lord's Prayer. At the end of the week, children will have learned the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples!

Every day of VBS shows children that even though our earthly lives are consumed by the desert of sin, we can be refreshed by forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, the promises of God's Word, and the earthly oasis of His Church.

Mark your calendar, think of ways you can be part of our Desert Journey VBS team, and pray for those working to bring God's Word to our VBS students this summer.



**LENTEN DINNERS** are after worship at Zion on Wednesdays.

February 22 - Ash Wednesday

February 29

March 7

March 14

March 21

March 28



## PRESCHOOL

ENROLLMENT for Zion members and currently-enrolled students has begun for our 2012-2013 preschool program. In January, Zion families have the opportunity to secure a place for their preschoolers before applications from the community are accepted. On February 1 enrollment opens to the community. If you are interested in enrolling your 3- or 4-year-old in Zion's well-known preschool program, please send in an application form as soon as possible.



**The forms are available at [www.zionchristtheking.org](http://www.zionchristtheking.org) or in the office at Zion.** Our 3-year-old class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday 8:45 -11:45 a.m. with a possible afternoon class. Our 4-year-old class will meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:45 - 11:45 a.m. for the morning class and 12:15 - 3:15 p.m. for the afternoon class. We are very blessed to have so many people interested in enrolling their children in our Christian preschool.

## LWML Women To Women P. J.'s & Popcorn!

Our Zion LWML Women To Women group invites ALL ladies (young and young at heart) to a night of fun and fellowship. Bring your grandmothers, mothers, daughters, aunts, nieces, sisters, and friends on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Come to Zion in your pajamas (optional). Have a favorite bedtime book? Bring it to read. Adults, bring a pair of socks to trade. Girls, bring a chapstick or lip gloss to trade. "Mitey Myrtle" will be there for a bedtime snack of mites too.



**Attention ladies!** There will be an LWML Women To Women meeting Tuesday, **February 7** at 6:30 p.m. I'll bring the cookies and punch; you bring your mites and a smile. Brandi

## LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP – CMU

LSF is working on quite a few exciting projects for the coming weeks! On January 28 a few of the students will be traveling to Grand Rapids to hear Dr. Charles Gieschen speak on the book of Revelation for a daylong event.

The annual Super Bowl Party held at the Bakkers' home is fast approaching. It will be so exciting to enjoy some fellowship and also discuss this past year's fantasy football triumphs and upsets.



LSF has been actively involved in the Blind/Low Vision event held at Elizabeth Wright's home church in Midland, MI. Members of LSF will attend this event on March 31. At this event, we go to the church and have a meal with people who are blind or have low vision. We assist by serving food and we enjoy talking with everyone involved.

On February 17, LSF members are donating their time in the community by volunteering at the Isabella Food Pantry. It should be an exciting event that helps us get involved in the area and lets us give back in a different way.

A sensational (pause for chuckle about sensation and food) fundraiser we are planning is the "All You Can Eat Pancake Dinner" which will be held at CTK on Thursday, February 23 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. You can save a dollar on admission (it will only cost \$4) if you pay in advance. If you decide to buy your ticket at the door it will be \$5. I have to say I am personally excited about this event because our group makes some wonderful pancakes. Flavors of pancakes will include blueberry and chocolate chip.



This next month will be very exciting and should include some memorable events! Anyone interested in joining us for any event should contact Pastor Bakker. Stay warm, and drink some hot chocolate!

~Heather Parises

# STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report  
through December 31, 2011

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$399,897.00	\$361,311.66
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$377,758.59</u>	<u>\$383,512.55</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 22,138.41	(\$ 22,200.89)

YTD General Fund Income	\$377,467.77	\$377,792.76
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$377,758.59</u>	<u>\$383,512.55</u>
YTD Income Less Expense (\$	290.82)	(\$ 5,719.79)

## TOO BUSY TO PRAY

To invoke the Holy Name of God is to pray, praise and thank Him in all situations. As Christians, this is what we are called to do. This is a part of our stewardship of "time," which is as real and necessary as our "talents" and "treasures."



Unfortunately, there is a problem here. Some people are of the opinion they don't have time to consult with the Lord, while others find no value in praying to God.

When our Savior walked this earth, He didn't hold to either of those positions. Although He was incredibly busy fulfilling the Heavenly Father's directive to save us, Scripture records that Jesus spent considerable time in prayer.

Maybe the Savior knew if a person is too busy to pray – then he is too busy. It's also quite possible He wanted us to realize that if the all-knowing, all-powerful Son of God took time to pray, sinful human beings ought to do the same.

That doesn't mean we have to be tied to schedules and timetables, nor do we have to use lofty words when we come to the Lord. The truth is, we can pray anywhere and anytime. As for topics, just the living of the day will present many new and very specific needs which will provide the springboard to raise our voices to God and invoke Him in our prayers.

Please, do not forget to praise God for what He is, and always thank Him for the gifts we

receive through His grace. Let us pray today and always, saying:

Lord, for the love of Jesus, stay by our side with Your blessings. God, our Lord and Father, thank You for Your love and for Your gifts. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

## February Mission of the Month

### **Lutheran Student Fellowship**

(see [zionchristtheking.org](http://zionchristtheking.org))

Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF), a registered student organization of Central Michigan University, is a group of students who gather regularly for worship, fellowship, service and mission projects, and Bible studies. Sitting near the geographic center of Central Michigan University, Christ The King Lutheran Chapel is the site where most LSF activities take place. From worship to lock-ins, and Bible Studies to meals, this wonderful facility hosts us. Built by the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the 1960's, the District now works together with Zion Lutheran Church to carry out the ongoing campus ministry to students at CMU. Christ The King and the LSF are ministries of Zion Lutheran Church, Mt. Pleasant, MI. Together with the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Zion Lutheran Church arranges for campus ministry to take place at Central Michigan University. Pastor Bakker is the Assistant Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, but he is available for students daily at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel. Pastor Reith is the Senior Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, but also works with students. Visit Zion Lutheran Church at its new church building at 3401 E River Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI. This spacious facility is available to the Lutheran Student Fellowship for fundraisers and activities. The members of Zion Lutheran Church treasure the relationships they have with Central Michigan University students at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel.



## MEMORIALS

In Honor of Mel Coyne on her 84<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
John & Claudia Schimmelmann  
Bonnie Mauk

In memory of Matthew Schwartz  
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer  
Dale & JoAnn Gust

In memory of Raymond Burtle  
Adella Bergey  
Madeline Stevens  
Dale & JoAnn Gust  
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer  
Dale & Mary Langdon Jarman  
Bill & Nancy Jean Whitehead

In memory of Doris Brondstelter  
Jim & Delores Morford

In memory of Jerry Tubbs  
Dale & JoAnn Gust

In memory of Mary Schackelford  
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer

In memory of Helen King  
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer

In memory of Bill & Isabell Block  
Alan Block, Larry Block, Rudy Block

For all the saints who passed away in 2011  
Anonymous

Your retirement years are supposed to be care-free; that means no financial worries - and that means planning ahead. A **Church Extension Fund IRA** is an excellent way to help you reach your retirement goals or supplement other retirement plans. To learn more call 800-242-3944 or visit [www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org).



## Ladies' Breakfast Bible Study

Ladies, please join us for our next **Breakfast Bible Study and craft time**, February 11, at CTK. The Bible study begins at 9:00 a.m. and craft time at 10:30 a.m. This month for craft time, we will make decorative valentine chocolates. Come for one or stay for both!



## YOUTH



### Zion Kids' Club Sleepover

All kids grades K-6 are invited to a sleepover on Friday, February 10, 2012. Check in at Zion at 5:30 p.m. and do some crafts and projects while we wait for dinner served at 6:00 p.m. Breakfast is at 7:50 a.m. Parents may pick up their children by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Sign up by Sunday, February 5, so we know we'll have enough food and craft materials to go around. Doors will be locked overnight. For more information contact Monica Brown at 989-772-5825 or Jen Geiger at 989-506-6663.

### Grades 5-12

Grades 5-12 are invited to come bowling at Riverwood on Friday, February 24, 2012. Two games of bowling, shoe rental, pop, and popcorn costs \$5.00 for each person. Meet at Riverwood 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. for an evening of fun! If you need a ride please call the church office at 772-1516.



### You are Invited to a Valentine's Vow Renewal & Wedding Reception



**Who:** All married couples  
**When:** Saturday, February 11, 2012  
from 6:30 - ? p.m.

**Where:** Zion fellowship area

**Why:** This evening was planned to celebrate our marriages built upon the rock of Christ, and to bring couples together to bond in Christian fellowship with one another. Please come and share stories, memories, and fun facts that we may not know! Pastor Reith will be renewing our wedding vows during the celebration and wedding cake will be served. Please bring a wedding picture.

**R.S.V.P:** Please sign up on the posted sheet.  
**Other Info:** Babysitting will be provided.



## Lent

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

It was in the old days before we all carried cell phones. A man was trying to call his wife from a pay telephone in a busy airport terminal. He was trying to give his wife some important information about his arrival time and all he could hear her say in response was, "I can't hear you," followed by a phrase that he could not decipher. Soon he was shouting into the phone and his wife was shouting back. Finally he caught the last phrase of her message. "Close the door." He closed the door to the telephone booth where he had been sitting and suddenly he was able to hear every word his wife was saying to him over the phone.

The background noise of life often keeps us from hearing the message of love and comfort that God wants to communicate to his people. He issues the invitation to us to bring our burdens and our cares to him and he will give us rest. He promises to help us bear the burdens and the trials of the day. But the pace of life, with all of its hectic and frantic activity, all of its noise and commotion, drowns out the sound of that loving promise. We struggle to hear that word of solace amid the background noise of this world. It helps when we learn to shut the door behind us.

This one of the goals of the Lenten season. It is a solemn period of repentance and renewal whereby we shut the door of the world behind us to better meditate upon the glorious invitation of Jesus: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." He invites us to come to the cross with our sins and lay the burden of our guilt before him. He wants to forgive and restore us.

Close the door of the world behind you. Come to worship in this special season.

Midweek services will be held at 4:30 p.m. (Zion) & 7:30 p.m. (CTK) every Wednesday beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22. The 4:30 p.m. service at Zion will be followed by a light supper.



## Thank You

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11

At the close of the month of September we had reached a point of crisis in the congregation. Our operating deficit had exhausted the surpluses we had built up over the years. Our stewardship board responded by making you, the members of the congregation, aware of that need. Our giving in the month of December took place at a record rate. Now at the close of the year our deficit has been all but erased. We will be entering the new year on sound financial footing. We thank all the members of the congregation for your generous and prompt response to this situation. Your unselfishness has resulted in many prayers of thanksgiving to God for this gracious favor.

## Capital Campaign News

At the present time the total for our fund raising effort for Phase II stands at \$377,500.



## Dedication

The completion of the interior work on the new sanctuary is drawing to a close. We will be moving some items from the temporary sanctuary into the new space in a few short weeks. We will begin using the new sanctuary as soon as we receive permission from the various inspectors. Since there is much exterior work that must wait for spring, we have decided to delay our formal dedication service until all work is completed. This will give us time to properly prepare for the event. We hope to be holding services in the new area by Easter.

## **Bible Classes**

The Sunday morning Bible Class has resumed our study of the lessons of the day. Class meets from 9:15-10:00 a.m.



## **Men's Breakfast Bible Studies**

Our monthly Men's Breakfast Bible Study will take place on February 18 at 8:00 a.m. at Zion. This month our class coincides with the yearly pancake open house sponsored by the Evangelism Board. We will have our class in the library and then join the other members of our congregation for flying pancakes. This month we conclude our study of comparative religions with a discussion of atheism.

## **Life Light**

Life Light Bible Class continues with part 2 of our study of Exodus. Classes meet at 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. in the library.

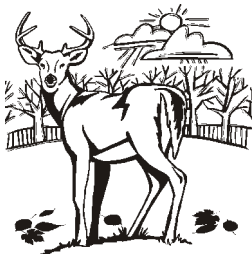
## **EVANGELISM**

Again this year, Zion will host the "Flying Pancakes" at Zion on February 18, beginning at 9:00 a.m. This will be our fourth year hosting the event for Zion members, neighbors and friends. Please invite your co-workers, associates, friends, in-laws, and out-laws. This is a really fun event. Chris Cakes of Clare will be serving (literally) the cakes along with sausages and beverages. Fliers will be available soon to mail to your friends inviting them to the breakfast. For more information call Linda Coyne at 772-2270, or 773-3589.



## **WILD GAME DINNER**

A men's dinner of wild game will be prepared for Saturday, February 4 at 5:00 p.m. at Zion. All men, including male children, are invited. Dinner will include elk and venison. A free-will offering toward the new sanctuary will be accepted.



## **Special one-time offering**

St. Kateria's Home is an outreach ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Monastery that is located on Chippewa Road between Rosebush and Coleman. The home has developed a program for veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who are having trouble adjusting to civilian life. The program is developed by the Veteran's Administration, a Social Worker, and a medical doctor. It is administered by a Resident Director. Veterans are screened before being admitted to the program. It is designed to provide the structure and support and to develop the skills that will enable the veterans to reintegrate successfully into civilian life. The maximum time a person can be in the program is two years. One month is the minimum time period that a person can be in the program.

The Iraq and Afghanistan wars have been unusually difficult for the military because of the multiple deployments that have been necessary. The veterans in our congregation can better appreciate the difficulties that can develop when one begins to reintegrate into family and civilian life. However, all of us can have some degree of appreciation for the hardships that are suffered when military personnel are deployed, especially three and four times.

Please pray for those enrolled in the program and for the Resident Director as they work together to address the issues that have arisen after military personnel have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan.

A tangible way that the members of Zion Lutheran Church can show support for St. Kateria's Home is by providing the funds to purchase a new hot water heater. The home needs a 50-gallon hot water heater, which we can purchase and have installed for \$550.

Please consider a contribution to this special one-time offering. For your convenience, a specially designated envelope is included in this newsletter. Envelopes are also available from the church office. Contributions will be processed through Zion Lutheran Church and will be included as part of your offering for 2012.

Please contact Wayne Kiefer if you have questions (989-588-2452).

## **Campus Ministry News**

The following was a letter from President Matthew Harrison, written to all clergy in the LCMS, regarding campus ministry in our Synod:

*October 13, 2011*

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Psalm 133:1)*

*Dear Brothers in Christ,*

*The church is losing her young people. This is a concern we all share. While some fall away during high school, by far the greatest losses occur during the college years. Our young adults are bombarded by a secular worldview that is antagonistic to their Christian faith. College campuses have become a place where the truth of God's Word is mocked, the divinity of Christ is questioned, and the church is scorned. While the Synod has a tremendous system of Concordia colleges and universities, the vast majority of our young people attend secular institutions of higher education. Showing great foresight, past generations gave of their resources to establish campus ministries at major universities throughout the nation. However, over the years, as both local and national support has decreased, a number of campus ministries have been dissolved or closed. The recent events surrounding the sale of University Lutheran Chapel in Minneapolis, Minn., a vibrant and thriving campus ministry, are but another tragic chapter.*

*After too many years of being distant from campus ministry, the Synod is prepared to take leadership once again. The Synod cannot do campus ministry, but we can give voice to the importance of campus ministry, encouraging, supporting, and coordinating it wherever it is taking place.*

*As I write, **the Office of National Mission is assembling a campus ministry task force**, and plans are underway to host a future national campus ministry conference. We look forward to collaborating with many wonderful people who are already laboring tirelessly in this essential ministry and fertile mission field. Now is the time to renew our efforts. While many have faithfully labored in campus ministry, they have not always received our support. The*

*Synod simply cannot afford to sit on the sideline while faithful campus congregations are being closed. College students need Word and Sacrament ministry. They need faithful pastors and workers who will care, teach and prepare them for life in, but not of, the world. In short, they need Jesus. The Office of National Mission will ensure that a larger voice is given to campus ministry so that it is valued and supported throughout the Synod once again. Investing in campus ministry invests in the future of the Church; it shepherds our young people when they need us most and builds up future leaders in the church. This is not the time for us to abandon campus ministry, but the time to more fully embrace and expand it. Please continue to support all the campus ministries throughout the Synod, and encourage the development of new campus outreach where none is taking place. Let us together be about keeping the souls of our precious children and bearing witness in an increasingly godless culture. What an exciting and dynamic place to be engaged in witness, mercy, and life together! Finally, please join me in praying for the youth of our church:*

*Gracious Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sakes but to Your glory and for the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (For Young Persons, LSB 315)*

*May God bless and guide our increased efforts to care for Christ's sheep throughout their college years so they may be preserved in the one true faith. If you would like to share ideas or thoughts as we move forward, please contact Rev. Bart Day, Executive Director of the Office of National Mission (bart.day@lcms.org).*

*Sub cruce, Pastor Matthew Harrison*

The President's Task Force (or Think Tank, as it is now called) on Campus Ministry met January 3–4, 2012, at the International Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The following individuals were invited, and participated in the meeting:

1. **Mrs. Anne Bakker**, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., ISM director at a full-time campus ministry
2. **Mr. Andy Bates**, St. Louis, Mo., Career and Technology Education specialist, St. Louis College at Meramec
3. **Mr. Phillip Fischhaber**, Tulsa, Okla., college student, LSF Regional representative
4. **The Rev. Dr. Erik Herrmann**, St. Louis, Mo., CSL representative
5. **Mr. Jon Jensen**, Metro St. Louis, Mo., executive director, LCMA
6. **The Rev. Mark Kiessling**, St. Louis, Mo., LCMS Youth and Young Adult Ministry
7. **The Rev. David Kind**, Minneapolis, Minn., full-time campus pastor, Higher Things vice president
8. **The Rev. Dr. Paul Maier**, Kalamazoo, Mich., COP, Praesidium (Third Vice-President)
9. **The Rev. Richard Manus**, Fenton, Mo., LCMS campus ministry counselor (1998–2002)
10. **Dr. Angus Menuge**, Mequon, Wisc., CUS professor, commissioned teacher
11. **Mrs. Martha Milas**, Champaign, Ill., Board for National Mission
12. **Miss Shaina Mitchell**, Muncie, In., full-time campus ministry deaconess
13. **Mrs. Marcia Mittwede**, Round Rock, Texas, ISM, Inc. co-president
14. **The Rev. Max Mons**, Iowa City, Iowa, full-time campus pastor
15. **The Rev. Ian Pacey**, Tucson, Ariz., full-time campus pastor
16. **The Rev. Prof. John Pless**, Fort Wayne, Ind., CTSFW representative
17. **Dr. James Tallmon**, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, Board for National Mission
18. **The Rev. Jay Winters**, Tallahassee, Fla.,

full-time campus pastor, LCMA Board Member, former LSF Advisor

19. **Mr. Greg Witto**, Charleston, Ill., full-time director of campus ministry, DCE, LCMA Vice President
20. **The Rev. Marcus Zill**, Laramie, Wyo., full-time campus pastor, Christ on Campus executive, Higher Things

It was a joy for me to serve in this capacity. We had two days of meetings in which we were able to share and discuss our joys and concerns for the future of campus ministry. I am pleased to report that the President and Board for National Mission were very open to hearing our thoughts, and have already begun to take action on some of the recommendations we made during those days. In Zion's March newsletter, I will elaborate more on how our Synod plans to promote and support LCMS campus ministries in the coming years. Pastor Bakker and I are grateful for the loving support our chapel receives from Zion. We could not continue this important work among our young people without your help!

Anne Bakker

### **Meijer Community Rewards Program**

Both Zion Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church Preschool are enrolled in the Meijer Community Rewards Program. Zion has received \$336.36 toward the new sanctuary in 2011 from this program, while the preschool has received \$100.95. If you shop at Meijer, consider joining this program. The code number for Zion is 176503 and the preschool code number is 778577. The church office has applications available.



## Holy Scripture: Guided Reading February 2012

Ezra and Nehemiah: As we prepare to enter the season of Lent; a time of repentance and focus upon the gravity of our sin, we are reminded of the Lord's promises and mercy to preserve the remnant and restore his people. Our restoration is complete in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting that is ours in Jesus Christ! Pastor Bakker

Ezra 1 – Cyrus' Proclamation  
Ezra 2 – The Exiles Return  
Ezra 3 – Rebuilding  
Ezra 4 – Struggles in Rebuilding  
Ezra 5 – Rebuilding again  
Ezra 6 – Temple Dedication  
Ezra 7 – Artaxerxes' Decree  
Ezra 8 – Ezra's Requests  
Ezra 9 – Intermarriages of Israel  
Ezra 10 – Confession

Nehemiah 1 – Nehemiah's Prayer  
Nehemiah 2 – Nehemiah sent to Judah  
Nehemiah 3 – Rebuilding the Wall  
Nehemiah 4 – Opposition  
Nehemiah 5 – Serving the Poor  
Nehemiah 6 – Conspiracy and Completion  
Nehemiah 7 – Those who Returned  
Nehemiah 8 – Ezra reads the Law  
Nehemiah 9 – Confession of the People  
Nehemiah 10 – Covenant  
Nehemiah 11 – Jerusalem's Leaders  
Nehemiah 12 – Dedication  
Nehemiah 13 – Nehemiah's Final Reforms



## Apologetics Conference in Jenison, MI

1 Peter 3:15 instructs us to '*Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...*'

That defense is an *Apologia*: Apologetics is a theological discipline focused on responding to attacks on a Biblical worldview and upon Christianity in particular. The LCMS Michigan District is hosting a day-long theological conference on Apologetics that is targeted to youth, congregation members, and church workers. The conference to be held at Holy Cross in Jenison, MI will help participants understand how to defend their faith through what history has given from an archeological perspective, the cultural aspect, and the challenge of Islam. To register by February 8, contact Zion Secretary Jan Harless or Pastor Bakker. The cost is \$20 for adults, and it is free for youth or college students. Bring some cash as we will likely stop for dinner on the way home. Here are the pertinent details:

Date: Saturday February 25

Depart: Carpool from CTK to Jenison  
at 7:30 a.m.

Return: To CTK by 8:00 p.m.

Lunch is included in registration, please bring \$10 or so for dinner on the way home.

Registration Deadline: February 8, 2012

## THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS



Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your kindness and generosity to your pastors' families at Christmas; it is a very busy time of year and we simply wanted you to know how very grateful we are for all of you! We wish you every blessing and joy as we serve together in God's kingdom, Pastor and Anne Bakker