

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858

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



Christ The King Lutheran Chapel  
1401 South Washington  
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January 2010

Samuel B. Reith & Jonathon J. Bakker, Pastors

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O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare your wondrous works.  
Psalm 71:17

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I have had the privilege of guest-preaching and teaching in some of our sister congregations and Lutheran schools over the past month as part of being campus pastor at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel. Speaking about the work the Lord is doing here for the International and American students is fantastic. The services, Bible studies, fellowship activities, and service projects we undertake are impressive, and the students who attend our chapel treasure their experiences here.

While I did speak of the wonderful things that are taking place here at the chapel, I was also asked what parents, grandparents, and pastors could do to help ensure that their own children and grandchildren would take their own faith seriously, continue attending church services at a Lutheran church when they move away from home, and grow and mature as Christians. It was such a good question that I thought I should share this with all of you – many of whom have children and grandchildren of your own. The only caveats I offer are these – first; the suggestions I make here will not guarantee that your children or grandchildren will cherish the faith as you do, nor will it guarantee that they will live out that faith by regularly attending church and availing themselves of God's gifts in Word and Sacrament, and second; this may be strong medicine for parents who do not consider this to be a serious issue for their families. Please

rest assured that I write what I write because of the things that I hear from parents as a pastor to college students.

Near the beginning of most school years at CMU I can count on getting a few phone calls from parents with some or all of the following requests:

- Has my child been going to church?
- Can you make sure my child is going to church?
- How do I get my child to attend church while he or she is away at school?
- My child won't answer the phone – can you make them talk to me?

Sadly, almost every time I have to ask, 'and what was your child's name again...?' It's not that I do not care about these students – far from it – the sad fact is that almost every time I don't even *know* them!

Again, I cannot guarantee that you will not find yourself in their position one day as well, but there are things all Lutheran parents can be doing for their children throughout their lives to help keep this from happening. First, realize that most of our work in the church is 'Preventative Spiritual Care.' Just as you go to see the doctor regularly to stay on top of your health and ensure that your body

stays strong to fight off diseases and sicknesses, pastors work to prepare you to face the spiritual trials that will surely come down the road. It all begins with Baptism, continues through Sunday School and confirmation preparation, youth and adult Bible study, and is rooted in the Divine Service.

The best thing you can do as a parent is show by example and by your words the following three things:

- the reason you are Lutheran and not something else.
- that weekly church attendance is important for Christians.
- that you expect your children to continue to grow and mature as Christians when they go to college.

Obviously these things cannot happen overnight. You cannot sit down with your son or daughter the night before you drop them off at college, tell them these things, and expect that they will have no spiritual problems while away at college. These things should be part of the pattern of your lives from the time of childhood for your children. Don't send them away to college as 'blank slates' – you will be alarmed at what will fill it. You can't expect your children to be strong and dedicated Christians in college if you haven't raised them to be strong and dedicated Christians from the beginning of their lives.

I cannot overemphasize how crucial it is for children going away to college to have a strong, distinctive, Lutheran identity. This identity is confused when they are allowed to sleep in on Sundays instead of going to church. It is likewise confused when they attend multiple churches with other family members and friends. It is further confused when their parents have not expressed – in both action and words – that being a Lutheran is the most important thing in their life.

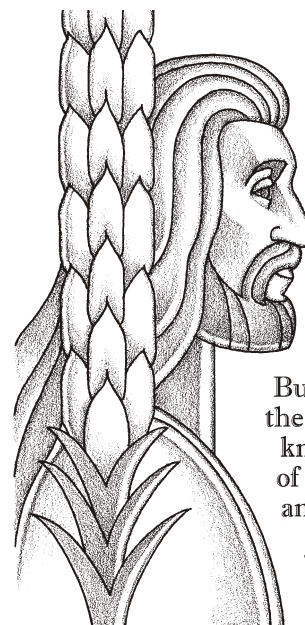
If your children or grandchildren attend a public university, they will have next to no support or encouragement from their classmates or

professors to grow and mature in the Christian faith or even to go to church. One of the most difficult things for anyone to do is to go to church alone, and most college students are faced with that very thing as freshmen, when feelings of loneliness are at their highest in a college student's career. Make it a priority to visit your children while they are at college and go to church with them there. Introduce them to the campus pastor and let them get to know one another. It speaks volumes to your children about your commitment to the faith when you make it a priority to attend church even when you are away from home.

There is surely much more that could be said about this topic, but for now this is plenty of food for thought. Do not be afraid to take the initiative with your children and do not worry whether you might be too late – there is no time like the present to resolve, as parents and grandparents, to tell the next generation what you believe, why you believe it, and why you care that they too believe it!

To Christ alone be all the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

Pastor Bakker



But grow in  
the grace and  
knowledge  
of our Lord  
and Savior  
Jesus  
Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

## LWML - Women To Women

The 2010 flower chart is now posted on the bulletin board both at Zion and at CTK. The cost for the flowers is \$20.00 and checks are made payable to Zion Women's Guild.



The LWML Women to Women group would like to thank all that helped make our cookie walk a success. We raised \$895.00. Ten percent of these funds will be donated to this year's charity which will be confirmed at our January meeting. The remaining funds will be placed in our account and used for expenses such as sending delegates to the district convention this summer. It is through your generous donation of cookies that we are able to continue this fundraiser. Thank you!



We would also like to thank all who attended the Advent by Candlelight Ladies Tea. Approximately 55-60 attended this event! We opened the event with a beautiful Advent devotion prepared by Linda Hanley, continued the evening with fellowship and decadent desserts, and concluded the evening with the amazing voices of Ebb - N - Flow, a male quartet from CMU. It was a very nice evening!

We would like to invite all ladies to attend our next business meeting on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. One item on the agenda for this meeting will be to discuss the events that we will be hosting from January through May. If you would like to be part of this discussion, please attend!

## GREETERS NEEDED

Please consider being a greeter. We are in need of people to greet at both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:45 a.m. services. All you need is a smile and a handshake to do the job. (Now who can't do that?) Please let Claudia Schimmelmenn at 866-2512 if you can help.



**Thank you** to all the families who provided meals for our CCI kids. The meals were delicious and very appreciated! There is a sign-up sheet for the next few months located on the refrigerator at Zion. Cooks are always welcome to prepare their favorite dishes.

## Stained Glass Windows

The building committee will have a meeting January 5, 7:00 p.m. Plans for the new sanctuary will be discussed as well as the stained glass windows. One of the stained glass windows will be on display soon!



## FAMILY LIFE

COME ONE COME ALL to our January Friday Fun & Fellowship Night. January's event will be GAME NIGHT on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m. with pizza. November's GAME NIGHT was a HUGE SUCCESS with lots of cards and other games played, with fun had by all! There will be activities for ALL AGES from toddlers to seniors. Bring a snack to share, and if you have a favorite game bring it along! Come and join the fun.



We are considering a Winter Weekend Get-away for February. This would consist of an overnight event to a hotel with an indoor pool, things for kids to do, shopping for the ladies, and other activities. We would like to know if this is something you would be interested in. Please talk to one of the board members if you have any thoughts about this. Board members include: Linda Hanley, Ann Reith, Diane Prenkert, Brandi Bucholz & Krista Claybaugh. If board members do not hear from you we will not plan the event - so please let us know!

# STEWARDSHIP CORNER

## Monthly Income & Expense Report

through 11 - 30 - 2009

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$328,229.00	\$349,577.91
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$298,000.67</u>	<u>\$277,521.65</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 30228.33	\$ 72056.26
YTD General Fund Income	\$286,577.20	\$276,148.98
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$298,000.67</u>	<u>\$277,521.65</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	(\$ 11,423.47)	(\$ 1,372.67)

### BEGINNING AGAIN

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). Sometimes it’s good to get back to the basics. When the whirlwind of holiday events and celebrations is over, it’s time to gather our wits and prepare for the coming year. Time to get our bearings. Time to think afresh. Time to take stock of the past year – for some, remembering its blessings, for others sorrowing over its setbacks.

Whether rejoicing or sorrowing, however, God is there with us. He laughs with us in our times of joy and wipes away our tears of sadness. He is always here. He was here “in the beginning.” He created it all. When “the earth was formless and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the deep ... the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be ... and there was ...” Genesis 1: 2, 3).

All it takes is a word from God’s mouth and there it is. He created it, He owns it, and He loans it to us for our use. And all the time, He is there with us; never will He leave us (Hebrews 13:5). This is no time for regrets over the past, for God has forgiven and forgotten our sin. There is no cause for worry over what the new year will bring, for God has already been there.

Each of us can make a new beginning; in fact, each day, each moment can be a new beginning. God promises to provide for all our needs. Paul wrote,

“My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19). Believing this promise, we do not need to fear for our futures – financial or otherwise. We do not need to store up wealth for some calamity. We can afford to be generous givers because, as believers, we are covered by God’s promise to care for us.

By God’s grace, then, let us make that new beginning, living according to God’s plan for us and managing the vast resources He has loaned to us to the best of our abilities, honoring Him in all we say, in the way we live and through our generous offerings as we work to make His name known.

The Stewardship Committee

### Memorial Gifts:

Joyce Vinton  
Wayne & Eva Hayes

Louis Henry Smith  
Wayne & Eva Hayes

Joe Epple  
Wayne & Eva Hayes  
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer

Vivian Windgaston  
Wayne & Eva Hayes



### CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

*At what age do you want to retire?* This is a critical question because the answer will help you determine how many years you can expect to be in retirement. The number of years in retirement is a key variable in estimating how much retirement savings you will need to accumulate to financially support a comfortable retirement and how long you have to accumulate that amount. CEF offers both traditional, Roth and Educational IRA’s. CEF also accepts transfers or roll-overs from other plans. More information and current interest rates are available by calling 800-242-3944 and at [www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org)

## 2010 MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

January - Lutherans For Life  
February - Lutheran Student Fellowship  
March - LCMS Armed Forces Ministry  
April - Women's Aid Service  
May - Zion Youth  
June - Lutheran Hour Ministries  
July - Central Michigan Pregnancy Center  
August - International Student Ministry  
September - LCMS World Relief  
October - Concordia - Ann Arbor  
November - Christmas Outreach  
December - Lutheran Child and Family Services

### January Mission of the Month

Lutherans For Life

**Lutherans For Life** is a pro-life, pro-family life ministry whose mission is to "Witness to the Sanctity of Human Life through education based on the Word of God." Lutherans For Life is neither a church body nor a denomination but a voluntary organization of "For Life" individuals. Through numerous State Federations, Chapters, and Life Ministry Coordinators, Lutherans For Life educates on life issues from a Biblical Law/Gospel perspective through LFL-produced videos, publications, audiotapes, and materials for worship and Bible study. LFL believes that every human life—from conception to natural death regardless of physical or mental challenges or condition of dependence—is precious in God's sight.

**Lutherans For Life** is a non-profit 501(c) 3, non-political organization. LFL strives to network pastors and lay people to make a positive difference in people's lives. By the power of the Holy Spirit, LFL seeks to change hearts and minds through the Word of God, trusting that changed people will seek to change laws. **Lutherans For Life** encourages your membership, asks your support, and invites your prayers. Our prayer is that together—in our churches and communities—we can stand for the value and dignity of all human life from the youngest to the oldest, the pre-born to the elderly, the weakest to the strongest. Jesus said, *"Whatever you have done to the least of these, you have done unto Me."* May we see the face of Jesus Christ in all people.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

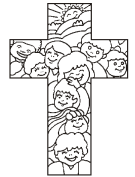
**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The following students received an attendance certificate in November and December for completing 13 Sundays:

### NURSERY-KINDERGARTEN

Noah Camp - Kindergarten  
Jameson Warne - Nursery  
Erica Narr - Nursery  
Ashton Bucholz - Kindergarten  
Lillian Bailey - Nursery

### 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

Avery Claybaugh - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Dana Hayes - 2<sup>nd</sup>



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

**PRESCHOOL NEWS: JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>** BEGINS ENROLLMENT for Zion members and currently enrolled students for the 2010-2011 Preschool program. On February 1<sup>st</sup> 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. We are sending out forms to Zion members and the forms are also available at [www.zionchristtheking.org](http://www.zionchristtheking.org)

This year **our classes are full with a waiting list.** People are asking already to enroll for fall, so we are giving Zion families a chance in January to secure a place for their preschoolers before accepting applications from the community in February. If enrollment warrants it, we will offer afternoon classes.

Our 3-year-old class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday 8:45-11:45 a.m. with a possible afternoon class 12:15-3:15. Our 4-year-old class will meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:45-11:45 a.m. with a possible afternoon class 12:15-3:15. We are very excited that so many people have found us at our new River Road facility.



From the Sr. Pastor's Desk

### One Tick at a Time

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." Eccl.3:1

There once was a clock who decided to take a personal inventory of his situation. The clock said, "I have to tick two ticks per second, 120 ticks per minute, 7200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, and 63,072,000 ticks per year. I just can't stand it any longer. I think I'll just quit." So he quit being a clock. Then someone noticed that he was not running and took him to the clock doctor. The doctor examined him and couldn't find anything amiss. So he asked the clock why he had stopped running. "I have to tick two ticks per second, 120 ticks per minute, 7200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, and 63,072,000 ticks per year. I just can't stand it any longer. It's too much for me." The old doctor thought about the clock's problem for a moment and then replied, "How many ticks do you have to tick at one time?" "One," replied the clock. "Well how were you doing, ticking one tick at a time?" The clock answered that he was doing all right as long as he only had to tick one tick at a time. "Can you continue to tick just one tick at a time?" "I think so," said the clock. "Then that solves your problem. Just go home and tick one tick at a time and everything will work out for you."

As the new year begins, it seems that there is so much to do; so many debts to pay; so many loose ends to tie up. We wonder how we are going to manage everything during the new year. You can't do everything at once.

You may not be able to do everything at once, but you can confront each of the challenges one at a time. Wise Solomon wrote, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." God gives us our seconds, minutes, hours and days. All time is a gift from him. With his guidance we manage the time we have been given.

And that is as it should be. This new year is his gift to us to be used for his glory and for the welfare of our neighbors.



As we approach this year we can do as the clock did. We can think of all of the things that we may have to accomplish in the new year and become overwhelmed by them. We can quit. Or we can approach each day, one day at a time, and know that God will give us the strength to accomplish our work.

## Notes from the Pastor's Desk

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

We will resume our review of the book of Revelation on January 10. We have reached the halfway point in the book. Join us as we confront the end times as they are revealed to St. John.

### Mission Trip Report

Sunday morning, Jan. 17, students from the Lutheran Student Fellowship will report on their Christmas trip to New Orleans. Five years after the event hurricane relief continues through our LCMS Camp Restore. Join us for this update.

### Presidential Visit

This past June, the Rev. David P.E. Maier was elected president of the Michigan district. He succeeds Rev. C.W. Hoseman who has retired. On January 31 President Maier will be preaching at both services and sharing a message from the district during our Bible class hour. A congregational potluck dinner will follow second service at 12:00 at Zion.



## Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Our monthly Men's Breakfast Bible will take place on Saturday, January 16, at 8:00 a.m. The 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.

## Life Light

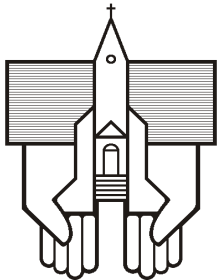
Our Life Light Bible study resumes on January 7 with a study of the second half of the Gospel of Matthew. Classes meet at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Mueckler library at Zion.

## Voters' Meeting

Our quarterly voters' meeting will take place on January 24 at 7:00 p.m. We will be approving guidelines for the use of our facility and will be discussing issues pertaining to the building of our sanctuary.

## Windows

Our stained glass windows have been taken to Village Glass in Auburn. They are being reworked by the original artist. There has been a change in plans since we first shared information with you concerning the cost of this part of our project. We have decided to add square footage to each window to make them more proportionate to the scale of the new building. The two largest windows which had been hidden by the balcony in our old church will be made considerably larger so that they can be placed on either side of the crucifix in the new sanctuary. The cost will be approximately \$10,500 more than the original estimate.



*Lord, you have been  
our dwelling place  
in all generations.*

*Psalm 90:1*

We hope to have one of the reworked windows ready for display in the narthex in the near future.

## YOUTH

### Sledding

On Sunday, January 17, all the youth and international students (see Anne Bakker) are invited



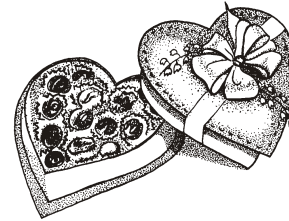
to go sledding at Deerfield Park. We will meet from 1 - 3 p.m. at the sledding hill. Bring your sleds and any extra ones to share with those who may not have any. Hot chocolate and snacks will be provided. Children 6 years and under need a parent to attend. If a makeup day is needed, it will be on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Reminders for the youth:

The January Pizza Topic will be January 17.

The youth and the LSF students will be in charge of the cleanup after the dinner at Zion on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

The pizza topic and SAC event is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m.



### Attention parents of small children!

The youth of Zion Lutheran Church will offer babysitting on Valentine's night, February 14, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The cost is a free will donation to the youth group. The service will be provided at Zion. Please call Janice in the church office to reserve your place.

A sincere thank you for all your generous gifts to us in this Christmas Season.

Pastor Reith  
Pastor Bakker

