

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
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Samuel B. Reith & Jonathon J. Bakker, Pastors

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“Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give them - to the Israelites.” Joshua 1:2

Are you ready for the end? If you pay any attention at all to the History, Discovery or Learning channels you have probably heard about December 21, 2012. This is the date when the Mayan calendar ends. Some of the experts also say that it is a date that is mentioned in the writings of Nostradamus. They also point to ancient Hopi writings, inscriptions in the country of India, an anticipated harmonic convergence within the Milky Way Galaxy, and the findings of a group of French mystics as further proof that we have a limited number of days left upon this earth.

Most people recognize this as yet another television tempest in a teapot. And we can take comfort in knowing that no serious scientist or theologian takes any of this seriously. But we do want to take seriously the future that lies ahead of us.

We do know some of the things that lie ahead for us in the coming year. There will be a national election. Those who take seriously their citizenship in this nation must be prepared to vote when that day comes. Those who take seriously their citizenship in the kingdom of God must be prepared to take their Christian faith with them into the ballot box. There will be a convention of the Michigan District this summer. We will be setting a course for the future of the LCMS in the state of Michigan. We will be dedicating a new sanctuary and ushering in a new era in the life of our congregation.

Many things will take place that can not be anticipated. As I write this, we are preparing for our annual service of remembrance. We will read a list of more than twenty names. When the year 2011 opened we could in no way have anticipated the losses that would be endured by so many of our congregational families. We do not know how many will be called home in the coming year.

Nor do we have any way of knowing those who will move in and out of our community in the coming year. The future of the economy is uncertain. Our families must go where the work is. They must go where God leads them, just as the children of Israel needed to be prepared to go where God was leading them.

In the opening verses of the book of Joshua, the children of Israel were preparing to enter the promised land. They were about to leave behind forty years of wandering in the wilderness. They had already bid farewell to Moses, the great man of God who had led them for so many years. He had died on Mount Nebo and been buried by the hand of God. They were being pushed out of their comfort zone toward a future that was at best uncertain and at worst fearful, filled with dreadful possibilities. They could not expect the Canaanite peoples to easily give up their claims upon the land. Nor could they expect the twelve tribes to always work together toward one harmonious future. For them the future was a challenge.

For them the future was secure. God told His people to get ready to cross the Jordan. He also told them how they were going to be able to go in and possess the land that lay before them. In Verse 5 he tells them, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."

In these days surrounding Christmas we need to be aware of the same truth. "The word became flesh and dwelt among us." This is John's way of saying to all the world that Jesus will never leave us nor will he forsake us. This is the singular truth that makes it possible for us to cross boldly into the future. It may sound simplistic and even childish to some, but it is the presence of Jesus in our lives that makes all of the changes and challenges of life manageable.

Whatever journeys we may be forced to undertake in life are made bearable by the presence of Jesus. He must go with us as we enter the new year. We do not know the changes that will confront us, we cannot anticipate the losses that might come our way. That is why we dedicate the coming year once more to the Savior.

We will dedicate a new sanctuary and Jesus will be with us as we usher in a new era of service to him. We will dedicate ourselves to his word and prayer through our faithful use of the means of grace and Jesus will be with us, for he is the word made flesh, he gives us his body and blood to eat and to drink, he makes it possible for our prayers to rise before the throne of God in heaven. We commend our lives, our bodies and our souls to his safe keeping in the coming year. For He is the lord of life and death and the God of our salvation.

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

Pastor Reith

EVANGELISM

Evangelism is always open to ideas for spreading the Word to the community. Early next year we are again planning a "get acquainted" lunch for all who became new members in 2011. Kris Cakes (flying pancakes) is also on the agenda for a Saturday in February. The ministry on the web continues to draw a large number of listeners for the weekly services. Remember to look at the web for calendar dates, schedules for greeters, elders, organists, hymns, etc. Go to www.zionchristtheking.org.

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www.zionchristtheking.org

FAMILY LIFE EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Are you a recreational euchre player or the more competitive type? Whatever your "style", get ready to show off your card playing skills on **January 13, 2012**. Sign up sheets will be available at Zion and CTK. Fun, food, fellowship and PRIZES!



NOTICE

The January Voters' Meeting will be Sunday, **January 15, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. instead of January 22.



Contact Diane Whale at 779-8111 for information about being a greeter at Zion.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through November 30, 2011

	2011	2010
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$365,958.47	\$331,202.08
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$336,566.94</u>	<u>\$344,359.99</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 29,391.53	(\$ 13,157.91)
YTD General Fund Income	\$328,601.67	\$337,547.19
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$336,566.94</u>	<u>\$344,359.99</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	(\$ 7,965.27)	(\$ 6,812.80)

The Reason Behind the Giving

The motive or reason for our giving is more important than the gift itself. God is not glorified if we give out of habit, loyalty, or for tax purposes. Giving that is sincere is an expression of our love and gratitude for all that Christ has done for us. In Mathew 25, Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me." Our gifts to others, then, are gifts to Christ Himself. We give because we have first received. God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, gave us life in His Son along with His Holy Spirit Who preserves us in faith. Do we need more reason to give? Jesus never stopped giving and sharing—even giving His ultimate gift, His life on the cross. May Christ's example be our motivator.

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver."
(2 Cor. 9:7)

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.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Elva Whitehead
Ruth Giffin

In memory of Raymond Burtle
Bonnie Mauk
Todd and Cindi Greenlee
Dave and Linda Coyne
Bruce and Yvonne Fitzgerald
Bob and Mitzi Chaffer
Jim and Delores Morford
David and Diane Whale
Thomas Wegener
Rev. Terry Kenitz
Ken and Doris Johnson
Patricia Babcock
Ruth Giffin
Joyce Willis
Ron and Lorraine Deeg



CCI meals are served at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday before the 6:00 p.m. **Confirmation and Catechism Instruction** classes. A sign-up sheet is on the refrigerator at Zion for cooks for CCI meals and/or desserts.



Volunteer to have some fun and fellowship.



Notes from the Pastor's Desk
by Pastor Reith

Service Schedules

Our regular service schedule resumes on January 8.

Capital Campaign News

At the close of the year the total for our fund-raising effort for Phase II is approaching \$360,000. Thanks to all those who have unselfishly supported this effort.

Dedication

Right now we do not have a definite completion date for the sanctuary project. Work is progressing well and we hope to be using the new sanctuary before the beginning of Lent.

Bible Classes

Sunday Morning Bible Class

This month we will return to our study of the lessons of the day. There will be no Sunday Bible Class on January 1. Our class will resume on January 8. January 15 the Lutheran Student Fellowship will report on their mission trip to Joplin, MO.

Men's Breakfast Bible Studies

Our monthly Men's Breakfast Bible Study takes place on January 21 at 8:00 a.m. at Zion. We are continuing our comparative study of world religions. This month we will be taking a brief look at Rastafarianism.

Life Light

Life Light Bible Class will begin part 2 of our study of Exodus on January 5. Classes meet Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Thank you

Thank you to all who prepared, conducted, and supported all of the holiday activities in our congregation, The decorating, meals, programs, teas and outings have made this a special season for us at Zion.

Thanks also to all those who remembered our family with cards and gifts this Christmas season. We appreciate your generosity.

Holy Scripture: Guided Reading

January 2012

31 Days in Proverbs – Wisdom is always in fashion, but rarely more than at the end of one year and the beginning of the next. Resolutions, predictions, regrets, and accomplishments are the talk of the day. To the world, wisdom reacts and changes according to its surroundings, but to the Word of God, wisdom is timeless. What was true in the beginning is true today, and will remain true forever. Start the New Year by reading through the book of Proverbs. Pastor Bakker

Proverbs 1 – The beginning of knowledge and the call of wisdom

Proverbs 2 – The value of wisdom

Proverbs 3 – Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

Proverbs 4 – A Father's wise instruction

Proverbs 5 – Warning against adultery

Proverbs 6 – Practical warnings

Proverbs 7 – Warning against the adulteress

Proverbs 8 – The Blessings of Wisdom

Proverbs 9 – The Way of Wisdom and the Way of Folly

Proverbs 10 – The Proverbs of Solomon

Proverbs 11 – Solomon's Proverbs continue

Proverbs 12 – Righteousness and wickedness

Proverbs 13 – Look to the future

Proverbs 14 – Wisdom of God

Proverbs 15 – The Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 16 – The Wisdom of justice

Proverbs 17 – A wise man's mouth

Proverbs 18 – A fool's mouth is his ruin

Proverbs 19 – Listen to wisdom and learn it

Proverbs 20 – Speaking wisdom and folly

Proverbs 21 – The Lord is wise above all

Proverbs 22 – Warning against vanity and Words of the Wise

Proverbs 23 – Warnings against envy

Proverbs 24 – Warnings against laziness and sayings of the Wise

Proverbs 25 – More of Solomon's Proverbs

Proverbs 26 – Take heed of warnings

Proverbs 27 – Love your neighbor as yourself

Proverbs 28 – Richness and Poverty in Wisdom

Proverbs 29 – Discipline leads to maturity

Proverbs 30 – The Words of Agur

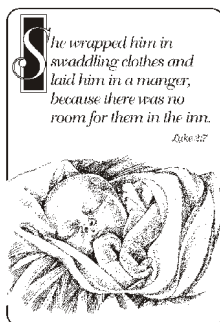
Proverbs 31 – The Words of King Lemuel and the Woman who Fears the Lord

USHERS ARE NEEDED AND APPRECIATED by Dale Gust

Thanks so much for the service that our ushering staff has been performing over the years. Some on the ushering teams have been serving since January of 1970 and before. The duties of the ushers can vary depending on what the elders designate for them. In the past, it meant making sure the sidewalks are cleared of ice, the church is warm (or now, also cool), controlling the sound system, adjusting the lighting, distributing bulletins, helping church goers find a place to sit, spotting visitors and taking them to a seat (some don't know when to enter or where to sit—especially when it is crowded), wearing a warm smile, watching for people who may be ill, taking the collection, guiding and/or helping churchgoers to the communion rail, securing the building, ringing the bell, etc.

The elders are also discussing matters such as making sure the first-aid kits are refreshed and that ushers know where the kits are located, discussing safety measures that they and the ushers should be aware of, what to do in cases of an emergency, where the fire extinguishers are located, knowing which members are trained in medical procedures.

The bottom line is that we can always use more volunteers for the ushering staff. Don't let the above scare you away. As we near moving into the new sanctuary, it will require some additional training. I have listed all of the possibilities so we can all grow in our ushering service to the Lord. Please contact Dale Gust at 989-506-6489 if you want to serve as an usher or help in some other way.



Letters from Seminary Students

“To everyone at Zion,
The end of the fall quarter went well. I managed to have one of my better quarters grade wise since I have been here at the seminary. We just started our second quarter of the year and after this I will only have one more to finish. Most of our interviews with placement have been taken care of as well and we are just looking forward to finding out where, God willing, we will be sent. The call service is not too far off now. It will be on May 2, and we will let you know about it before then. You can actually watch it online.

The weather here in Fort Wayne has been quite rainy, but at least we haven't had a lot of leaks like we did earlier this year. I am really liking the fact that there is already a little bit of snow on the ground and I think there will be more here than there was in Terre Haute.

The busy season of the year is upon us and we hope that all of you have a great Christmas. As always we thank you for all of the support that you give us. We certainly could not manage things the way we do without your help and for that we are truly thankful.

We hope that the next time we make it up for service the new sanctuary will be finished. Pastor Bakker told me that it should be pretty close to being done around Christmas time. I am sure you are all very excited about it. In Christ, Andrew, Rachel, Noah & Zoe”
Andrew and Rachel Gray
2107 Beechmont Dr.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46825

From the recipient of the Zion scholarship at Concordia in St. Louis: Ed LeClair

“ . . . I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation of your continued financial support. Please keep us in your prayers as I enter into the last few months of my seminary education. . . . Without your help it would be much more difficult to achieve the mission God is calling me to.” (See the letter on the bulletin board at Zion.)



Saving for the future can be more than a good idea. It can be a good deed, too.

Transfer or rollover any existing IRA or qualified retirement plan now, and you can do some real good – for you, and others. You get added security from wise investments, competitive interest rates, and tax advantages. Your Missouri Synod Lutheran churches and schools across Michigan get financial support for their future growth. Contact one of our friendly and knowledgeable CEF staff or visit CEF online at www.mi-cef.org or call 800-242-3944.

GoodShop and GoodSearch

If you happen to shop online at amazon.com, ebay.com, or any one of hundreds of other online stores, you can be even more helpful in raising funds for our ministries here with little extra effort. How is this possible?

GoodSearch.com is a website that shares dedicated advertising funds with the designated charities of those who use the search engine. Christ The King Lutheran Chapel, Mt. Pleasant, MI (Organization ID #813814) is registered with GoodSearch. Whenever you use a search engine (yahoo, google, bing, etc.), advertisers pay these search engines so that their products and websites appear at or near the top of the results page, and also in banners along side of the website. GoodSearch (which actually uses yahoo's search engine – so it's reliable like yahoo) shares these funds with designated charities, usually about a penny for every search. It takes a lot of searching, but it is estimated that 100 average people using GoodSearch.com for a year can generate over \$700.00 for their designated charity.

GoodShop.com is associated with GoodSearch – we have the same name and organization ID # with both websites. GoodShop has arrangements with literally hundreds of online stores, including Amazon.com and Ebay.com (two of the most popular sales groups on the internet!) where a certain portion of each sale (usually in the 1-1.5% range) is donated to the designated organization. Like GoodSearch, it takes a lot of shopping, but estimates are that 100 people

using GoodShop for a year can generate over \$1500.00 for their designated charity.

We have been registered with the GoodSearch/GoodShop organization for a number of years, and we have tried to promote their use before to little avail. Simply put, this is an opportunity we should not ignore!

There are several ways to make use of GoodSearch/GoodShop to raise funds for the ministries here, including going to each website and manually entering in the chapel information every time you search or shop, but there is a far easier way. The website 'www.lutheransatcmu.org' has two links on the bottom of the main page, one for the search engine and one for the shopping portal. If you click on either link, it will take you to the search/shopping pages and will automatically designate our ministries here as your designated organization. From there you can search or shop, or you can download the 'GoodSearch' toolbar for your web-browser (Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, etc.). In the future, you can simply use the toolbar for the same purpose. If you have questions about this, or would like to see it in action first, please stop by the chapel and I will be happy to show you how easy this is to use and how much it can help us! Pastor Bakker



CASH FOR OUR CHURCH

Both Zion Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church Preschool are enrolled in the **Meijer Community Rewards Program**. The code number for Zion is 176503 and the Preschool code number is 778577. The church office has applications available.

Zion Preschool is a **Kroger Community Rewards Organization**. Members may register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. Enter 90666 or Zion Lutheran Preschool.