

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



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

July/August 2010

Samuel B. Reith & Jonathon J. Bakker, Pastors

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‘...everyone did what was right in his own eyes.’  
Judges 21:25

Brothers and sisters in Christ, surely you have heard it before. ‘I am *spiritual*, but not *religious*.’ It has become the theological mantra of my generation – according to a LifeWay Christian Resources survey in 2009, 72% of people aged 19-30 say that they are ‘more spiritual than religious.’ Chances are, some of them are in our families, maybe some are in our pews on Sundays and Mondays, and without a doubt people walk by our chapel on the campus of Central Michigan University every day who call themselves spiritual, but not religious.

What does it mean to be spiritual, but not religious? It seems harmless enough, doesn’t it? And isn’t it better, after all, to be spiritual than unspiritual? Aren’t we taught that God is a spirit? Being spiritual but not religious has to do with a person being spiritually connected to a power greater than themselves, but without having to choose an organized religion to do so. Now, that statement is by no means an attempt to define what it means to be spiritual but not religious for each person who applies the label to themselves, but it does get to the heart of the issue; connection with an almighty power without the rules, and traditions of a classical theological framework defining that connection.

The quest for spiritual connection is universal and well documented. In the book of Acts, Paul stood in the Areopagus and told the men of Athens, ‘I perceive that in all things you are very religious.’ Surrounded by temples to every imaginable deity – even an altar to ‘the unknown god’ – Paul preached of the man ordained by

God who was raised from the dead; Jesus Christ.

The quest for spiritual connection apart from religion, however, is not so common. Apart from the major world religions like Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam, people have still organized themselves into sects and cults, gathering together with others who believe as they do to practice their beliefs. Even atheists gather together to discuss that in which they do not believe. While the self-chosen label of being spiritual but not religious would seem to preclude any religious tendencies among the people who call themselves spiritual but not religious, it is my contention that it actually is a religious movement.

To people my age and younger, it sounds very wise and non-judgmental to define yourself as ‘spiritual but not religious’ – after all, for the last decade or so, it has been a convenient label without much baggage or definition. It is a label that can be self-applied in most any social situation, and because it does not directly denounce or prefer one particular religion, friends and family would rarely raise a fuss. Like so many things of humanity’s own creation, however, it has developed into a full-blown movement, complete with its own dogma and traditions. If you don’t believe me, Google (that is, use [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) to search the internet for) ‘SBNR.’ Yes, there is already an acronym for this ‘non-religion’, along with a Facebook fan page, and, coming in July, a website: [www.sbnr.org](http://www.sbnr.org).

The point of this article is not to analyze and debunk the beliefs of those who call themselves SBNR – that can come at another time. Rather, the goal is to make you aware that, in spite of the actual words used by those who call themselves spiritual but not religious, it has become its own religion. It is not a spiritually neutral statement, and considering the following it has among the young people we are trying to reach with the Gospel on CMU’s campus and in the community, it will serve us well to keep that in mind.

Perhaps it will be a spiritual fad like so many others, but I urge you to be vigilant with your faith in your homes. Speak with your children about your faith in Christ, the one who became flesh for us, and who died and rose in that flesh to everlasting life for the forgiveness of our sins. Faith in the man who is also God, Jesus Christ, is the only true religion.

To Christ alone be all the glory, forever and ever, amen. Pastor Bakker

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The following students received an attendance certificate for completing 13 Sundays in May and June 2010:

### NURSERY-KINDERGARTEN

Quentin Couturier - K

Thomas Narr - K

Macey Novak - K

Jameson Warne - N

Lillian Bailey - N

3<sup>rd</sup>

Tyler Claybaugh - 3

5<sup>th</sup>

Grace Buerkel

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

***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



## Planet Zoom Vacation Bible School

PLANET ZOOM CLASSIFIED ADS

**Worker Bees urgently needed!!!** Bees

of all ages and experience levels needed July 12-16. On the job training to expand natural abilities. Nanny bees are needed in the Preschool room and in the toddler room. Crafty bees are needed each day to help the children create a project to take home. Where oh where are those storytelling bees that buzz around to tell other bees how to find the sweet nectar of God's Word? Venture out of your comfortable hive and come fill the Zion Hive with Bizzy Bee-lievers for a zip, zap, zooming good time exploring the Good News of Jesus. Pay scales are "out of this world" - absolutely divine! **Bee Bold, Bee-lieve, Bee His!!!**



**Wanted: Registration Forms** Worker

bees need registration forms for members, neighbors, friends. We want our Zion Hive to be swarmin' with bees eager to hear about the boy Jesus in the temple, the unbelievable meal served to 5000, a daughter raised from the dead and how God rescued Peter from jail. Come one and all to Bee His!

### **Second Annual Zion Lutheran**

**Bass Fishing Tournament** was held on **Saturday, June 12**. A huge "thank you" to Carolyn Smith for frying the fish at the Second Annual Bass Fishing Tournament dinner and for donating extra fish. Thank you also to all those who helped her in the kitchen.



### **WINNERS**

Name	Weight of fish	Category
Adam Chaffee	1.34 lbs.	10 years old
Garrett Kraut	2.3 lbs.	12 years old
Carl Avery	2.49 lbs.	Adult
Don Bucholz	1.65 lbs.	Adult
Jeremy Claybaugh	1.78 lbs.	Adult
Joe Claybaugh	2.16 lbs.	Adult
Lanny Tohm	3.54 lbs.	Total Catch

# BOARD OF FAMILY LIFE

**Men's Softball** Spectators are welcome at the men's softball games. The remaining games at 6:15 p.m. are: June 29, July 7, and July 14 all at Jameson Park, and July 27 at Horizon Field. The tournament is August 6 and 7 at Island Park.

## JULY

Camping, July 16-18: ATTENTION CAMPERS!! There's still time to SIGN UP for this year's camping weekend - Friday, July 16 - Sunday, July 18. We are going to the Traverse City KOA. 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 so we can make appropriate reservations! If you have questions, feel free to call Linda Hanley @ 989-289-0261 or email @ [lindalhanley@juno.com](mailto:lindalhanley@juno.com)



## AUGUST

**Canoeing**, August 29<sup>th</sup> : There will be a canoeing event again this year with a meal to follow at Deerfield Park. There is a change in cost this year: \$10.00 per adult & \$5.00 for the first 2 children accompanied by an adult, additional children are free. Rental fee is approximately \$30.00 per canoe, so we need to help defray that cost. We will meet at Buckley's Canoe Livery at 2:00 and the potluck will follow at approximately 5:00. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Linda Hanley @ 989-289-0261 or email @ [lindalhanley@juno.com](mailto:lindalhanley@juno.com)



**Garage Sale Fund Raiser**, August 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the New Sanctuary Fund, so start boxing up those items you want to contribute. Items can be dropped off at Zion beginning August 1st. There will be vehicles available to pick up large items that you are unable to deliver to the church. There will be hot

dogs and snacks for sale as well. While we need items donated for the sale, we also need people to come and purchase those items!! Tell your neighbors & friends to come check out the treasures! Fliers are available at Zion. Pick one up and post it!

## SEPTEMBER

**Block Party**, Friday evening, September 10<sup>th</sup>: Invite your friends and neighbors to a BLOCK PARTY. Come and enjoy food, music, games and fun for all ages!! Watch for more information in the August & September bulletins.

If you have any questions about Family Life activities, or suggestions for future events, please talk to any board member: Linda Hanley, Brandi Bucholz, Krista Claybaugh, Diane Prenekert or Ann Reith.

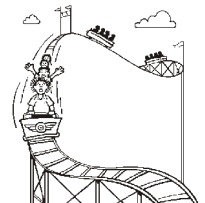


## YOUTH

**Youth of third grade through high school take note!** Please remember you are to help with the bake sale at the church yard sale in August. Bake many cookies, bars and cupcakes. Drop them off at Zion on Friday night before the sale on August 21.

## Cedar Point

If you are ready to ride the roller coasters and play at the water park this summer, this trip is for you! On August 10-11, youth in grades 7-12 will spend one day at the amusement park and one day at the water park at Cedar Point. The Youth Board of Zion Lutheran Church will provide funding for the transportation, night at the hotel, and breakfast Wednesday morning. Each participant will provide money for their own admission to the park for two days, food, and souvenirs. Friends are welcome to attend, but will be charged an additional \$30.00 for lodging and transportation. Please call the church office at Zion (772-1516) by July 16 to register. Permission slips are available in the office. Contact Pastor Bakker with any questions.



**Thank you** for donating to the diaper collection sponsored by **Lutherans for Life of Michigan**. There were 8 packages taken to Central Michigan Pregnancy Service for a total of 336 diapers.

**Looking for an apartment?** Jermain Hawver, attending CTK, needs someone to sublease an apartment in Timbercreek Apartments on East Deerfield. Contact Jermain at 989-620-6261.

## Zion's Food Pantry News

Several bags of food items were taken to the Red Cross Food Pantry this week. Our gift was eagerly and joyfully accepted. The food donations go out as fast as they come in. The Red Cross food pantry serves, on average, 220 families per month. They reported recently having seen people who have donated in the past now receiving food donations. Drop off a non-perishable food item to our ongoing pantry anytime at Zion or CTK! Thank you for your support.

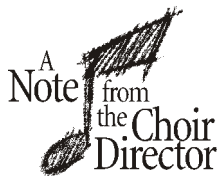


**Pastor Reith thanks everyone** who helped with the roof at his house. He invites everyone who left behind a roofing shovel( 6) or tarp (2) to come pick them up.

## CHOIR

### Attention Zion choir

**members:** Please return your choir folders and any music that you may have at home. It's time to fill them with music for our fall season.



We welcome **new members**, so if you are interested in joining choir this fall, please let Mitzi Chaffer know. Our first rehearsal will be September 1, at 6:45 p.m. Thanks.

## New Sanctuary Fund

The **CMU Ushering Fundraiser** (\$3900 total) added money to two funds at Zion: \$250 for Lutheran Student Fellowship and \$2950 for New Sanctuary Fund. The remaining \$700 was earned by members of the Mount Pleasant High School Band. There is a total of \$22,391 in the New Sanctuary Fund as of June 18, 2010.

## LWML NEWS

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We are collecting "Gifts from the Heart" to take with us to the LWML Michigan District Convention in July. This year's gifts are items to fill Basic Survival Kits for LCMS Lutheran World Relief and Human Care. Please donate any of the items below and place them in the collection bins at Zion and CTK. Many of these items can be found at local sporting goods stores or local discount stores. Thank You!

### Items for Basic Survival Kit

Emergency space blanket  
Emergency Rain/Wind Poncho  
4" wax candle  
Box of waterproof Matches  
instant 12 hour snap lights  
12 oz. purified drinking water pouches  
6 oz. sealed packets of high energy foods  
individual tissue packs  
wet wipe towelettes  
sanitation refuse bag (small red color)  
Trash Bag (13 gallon size - white)  
small pocket-sized Bible  
LWML Christian Care Materials

### Miscellaneous items

Survival Whistle  
Small individual First Aid Kit

### Optional Items

small AM/FM radio  
flashlight w/batteries

Mark your calendars and fill out your registration! The **LWML Michigan District Convention** is July 9 - 11, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn, MI. This will be an amazing weekend filled with worship, fellowship, music, service, laughter, and fun! Please contact Brandi Bucholz if you have any questions about this convention. We hope that you can come! DeDe Buerkel and Ann Reith are delegates from Zion to the convention. Alison Couturier is the Young Women's Representative to the convention.

***Don't forget those unwanted ties! LWML is still collecting ties.***

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### Monthly Income & Expense Report through May 31, 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$150,046.40	\$149,195.00
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$154,884.57</u>	<u>\$137,025.45</u>
YTD Balance	(\$ 4,838.17)	\$ 12,169.55
YTD General Fund Income	\$152,296.61	\$128,558.44
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$154,884.57</u>	<u>\$137,025.45</u>
YTD Income Less Expense (\$	2,587.96)	(\$ 8,467.01)

“Be imitators of God as beloved children.” Ephesians 5:1

This is the theme of our Vacation Bible School this summer. As God’s children and recipients of His love, we are to be imitators of our Heavenly Father. God’s character is giving. “He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32) God never stops giving to us. The very center of the Gospel is giving by God. We know from John 3:16 that salvation, eternal life, and everything that we will ever have are gifts from God. Filled with God’s love and receivers of His redemptive grace, we become givers ourselves; true Christians are giving people. Giving is a picture (or imitation) of the character of God in the lives of fruitful stewards. Our sacrificial giving represents the depth of our love for the Lord. Let us cheerfully give of ourselves, our time, our resources, as we reach out to others.

**May Mission of the Month, Zion’s Youth, received \$302.00.**

**JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH**  
Central Michigan Pregnancy Center

**AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH**  
International Student Ministry

## MEMORIALS

Debbie Anderson

Dale & JoAnn Gust



### *A Premier Announcement*

***The Sanctuary Capital Campaign is Officially Declared to be Started!***

#### **Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

We indeed have many reasons to praise our Lord and Savior. In July of 2002, a campaign began with a goal of raising \$1,600,000 to build a sanctuary, fellowship facility, and state-approved classrooms for a nursery school and potentially a grade school. The Lord has blessed our endeavors. The project was divided into a Phase I and Phase II. What you now see at Zion is the completion of Phase I.

NOW it is time to complete our goal. At the January 24, 2010, meeting, the voters agreed that we need to finish the project by reviving a capital campaign for the sanctuary—Phase II. The voters strongly believe that we should proceed with the fundraising internally—no outside payments to consultants.

#### What to Expect Next?

1. Organization of a Capital Campaign Committee—Dale & JoAnn Gust and Pastor Reith
2. Determination of a monetary goal to complete the sanctuary—currently being done—approximately \$650,000.
3. Informational Cottage Meetings where details of the sanctuary project will be shared—September 9 at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm, Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
4. Solicitation of your commitment to completion of the sanctuary.
5. Proposed time frame—Voters determine when we begin. Year 2014 is Zion’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary since signing its constitution.
6. Groundbreaking goal—To be determined.

More information will come in a July letter and also in August to encourage you to sign up for the Informational Cottage Meetings. You know already what the plan will be—to seek a three-year pledge from you that will allow the sanctuary project to become a reality.

In the meantime, seek the advice of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as to what you can pledge over and above what you are already contributing to Him. Simply shifting your current contributions to the sanctuary project will only leave Zion in the red.

Are you ready to jump start the project? A good way to do it is to simply make a lump sum up front contribution. The voters will determine the sanctuary ground breaking point based on contributed dollars received.

So, pray that our efforts will be blessed and that when you receive an invitation to attend a cottage meeting, you will come. If you have any questions, contact Dale, JoAnn, or Pastor Reith.

In Christ,

Dale & JoAnn Gust and Pastor Reith



Notes from the Pastor's Desk

**Sunday Bible Class** The Sunday morning Bible Class will be meeting on June 27, July 11 & 25 and August 1. We are studying the lives of biblical characters.

**Vacation Bible School** Vacation Bible School will be held July 12 through July 16. Pray for God's blessings on our efforts as we welcome the children of our community to join us in the study of God's word.

**Congregational Campout** Our 12<sup>th</sup> annual congregational campout will take place July 16 through July 18 at the KOA in Traverse City. If you can not join us for the weekend, you might consider joining us for the day. Saturday evening we will be gathering for a potluck supper. Sunday worship takes place at 9:00 a.m.

**Men's Breakfast Bible Studies** Our monthly Men's Breakfast Bible Studies continue throughout the summer. On July 24 our gathering will take place at the home of Ken and Doris Johnson. On August 21 we will be meeting at the church. We we will be continuing a study provided by the Lutheran Hour Ministries entitled "Enlarging the Harvest". Please make your plans now to attend.

**Guest Preacher - July 25** We have invited 4<sup>th</sup> year seminarian Joshua Errer to serve as guest preacher on Sunday morning July 25. Josh will be preaching at both services that morning.

**Garage Sale** August 21 we will be holding a day long garage/rummage sale. Donations will be received beginning August 1.

**Welcome Back Sunday** Mark your calendars for Sunday August 22. On that day we will be welcoming students back to campus for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Rally Day** The new Sunday School year begins on Sunday September 12. There will be a special meal followed by activities for our children. In the week that follows, Life Light Bible Studies and Confirmation classes will begin for the 2010-2011 school year.

**2010-2011 Life Light Studies** Our Life Light classes will be studying the books of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians. In keeping with our custom of more than 11 years, classes will be held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Classes will meet in the Mueckler library.

**Service Times** On Sunday August 22 we will begin a new schedule of service times for the coming year. The midweek service returns to its regular time slot - 7:30 p.m. at Christ The King Chapel. Sunday mornings we will be introducing a third service to the morning schedule.

**NEW SERVICE TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**  
First Service - 8:00 a.m. at Zion, 3401 E. River Road. Bible Class and Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. at Zion. Second Service 10:15 a.m. AT ZION. Third Service 11:45 a.m. at Christ The King. We hope that these times will better serve the needs of both congregational members and students.