

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858

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Samuel B. Reith & Jonathon J. Bakker, Pastors

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‘Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:29-30

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What great and simple comfort we take from these words of our Savior, Jesus Christ. There isn't one of us who hasn't felt distressed or overwhelmed, and the arrival of better weather in the spring time does not make things any easier for us. Our jobs continue to make demands on us, sometimes even more now than during the rest of the year, especially if we work in agriculture or tourism. Even those who teach, who are looking forward to the end of this school year, can already see September coming, and we are all making plans for how we can work hard in the summer to be ready for the fall. How pleasant it is for us that Christ offers these words of comfort, that we can call upon him to give us rest from our daily tasks and refresh our souls.

Sadly, there are other things we bear that are not merely challenges at work; we have an insurmountable "sin-load" that we inherited from Adam and Eve, which we daily add to by what we say, do, and by what we neglect. If we think we have trouble meeting deadlines at work, how can we ever hope to make amends with our heavenly Father who expects sinless perfection from us? Left to ourselves, we cannot do it. Paul tells us that 'The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.' (Romans 8:7-8) Every attempt that we make to please God is tainted by our selfish sinfulness, and leaves us in the same, sin-stained situation we started with.

Only the act of God could bring us back together with our heavenly Father. In sending Jesus Christ, His Son, to suffer and die for us, God took care of the punishment for the sins of all of humanity. This is how he forgives us, and he delivers this forgiveness to us by giving us faith in our Baptism and by strengthening that faith in the preaching of the Word and in Holy Communion.

How much more comforting now are Christ's Words? His invitation is for much more than our worldly cares – he also wants our spiritual problems. He wants to take our sins from our shoulders, and instead, to place his sinless yoke upon ours. He is beckoning us to give up our feeble and hopeless attempts at settling our "sin-load" and instead to realize that he alone is the one who makes us holy, forgiving our sins and leaving us with his sinless yoke, which is like no yoke at all!

Friends, Jesus' words here give us the lasting peace and comfort which only they can give. No matter how far behind we are at work, and how much stress we face day to day, we know that God has taken away our "sin-load" and replaced it with the lightest load of all, the sinless yoke of Christ. Come summer, fall, winter, and spring, that never changes!

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 March and April 2010:

## NURSERY-KINDERGARTEN

Noah Camp - Nursery

Erica Narr - Nursery

Natalie Vogel - Nursery

### 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Lillian Buerkel - 1<sup>st</sup>

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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>

Hunter Breuer - 4th

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



<p><b>Dates to Remember</b> May 30: No Sunday school, Memorial Day Weekend June 6: Final children's Sunday school class until Rally Day July 12-16: Vacation Bible School</p>
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## Planet Zoom Vacation Bible School

The bees buzzing from blossom to blossom this May remind us that **Planet Zoom Vacation Bible School** is coming to Zion **July 12-16**. Don't miss out on the fun activities and sharing God's Word with the children of Zion and the community. We will be learning about the boy Jesus in the temple, Jesus feeding a big crowd, Jesus raising Jairus' daughter, that Jesus rose from the dead for me, and that God rescued Peter from jail.

Please **sign up** on one of the forms on the bulletin boards at Zion and CTK to be a helper one or more days the week of VBS. We also

have a sign-up sheet for items we need for object lessons, props or decorations to tell the wonderful stories listed above. Soon there will also be a sign-up sheet for snack items.

On **June 6th**, the Adult Bible class and Sunday School classes will combine for a **ZIP, ZAP, and ZOOMING** time of fellowship, snack, craft, and lesson. The activities will introduce everyone to this summer's VBS. We hope you will "bee" there to join in the fun! Enrollment forms are currently available on [www.zionchristtheking.org](http://www.zionchristtheking.org) and will be available June 6. During Sunday School we will be making invitations to give to friends, asking them to come to VBS. Those making invitations and those who turn in a completed registration form on that day will receive a **gift**. When students bring back a registration form from a friend they will also receive a gift. Help us make this the best VBS ever. God has given each of us many gifts and talents. Please use them to assist and support VBS this year. **Pray, Volunteer, Enroll, Donate, Support.**

*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

## FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Did you know that there are many good books in Zion's Mueckler Library? It is easy to check out books or videos. A wide variety of fiction and nonfiction is available. JoAnn Gust, Librarian



## *Invitation to Brunch*

There will be a brunch at Zion Lutheran Church on May 2, 2010, following the 8:00 a.m. confirmation worship service. The families of the three confirmands invite everyone to celebrate with them. The new confirmands of Zion Lutheran Church are Dara Brown, Austin DeMarrow, and Sydney Epple.

# STEWARDSHIP CORNER

## Monthly Income & Expense Report

through March 31, 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 90,027.84	\$ 89,517.00
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 96,511.61</u>	<u>\$ 83,247.59</u>
YTD Balance	(\$ 6,483.77)	\$ 6,269.41
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 93,967.08	\$ 72,041.13
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 96,511.61</u>	<u>\$ 83,247.59</u>
YTD Income Less Expense (\$	2,544.53 )	(\$ 11,206.46)

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have."

2 Corinthians 8:12

It is important to remember that all our gifts come from God, including the gift of money. We give back to God as we have received. We are asked to give our first fruits, not our leftovers. Therefore, we make time to be in church and offer our talents there. We set aside time from our busy schedules to serve our families and neighbors and others in need. Additionally, we set aside a portion of our incomes for the Lord's work -- first -- before we spend for other things. If giving is painful, something is wrong. If you do not experience joy in your giving, there is a lack of gratitude and love, and some spiritual heart-searching is necessary. May God grant us hearts of gratitude and make us cheerful givers of all the gifts He has given us.



Kenneth Rollin

Block Family

## March Mission of the Month

LCMS Armed Forces Ministry received \$447.00.

# May Mission of the Month

## Zion's Youth



Zion's Youth attend conventions, gatherings, and conferences here in Michigan and other states.

They participate in fellowship activities as well as work related functions.

There is a confirmation week at Camp Arcadia for the newly confirmed. We pay the cost in full for those wishing to attend this camp.

We feel strongly that involvement in the youth groups of Zion will encourage our youth to be involved in their churches as they become adults. Some examples include past youth members who are now or have been active in their college campus groups. Would they have been involved in those groups had they not had an active youth group to participate in and prepare them for that activity? We are convinced that an active youth program will encourage church involvement at a later time in their lives. That is our goal.

Please help support the future leaders of congregations like Zion!

## 2010 Lenten Soup Suppers

	Sponsor	Recipient	Amount
2/17	Ladies' Guild	Ladies' Guild	\$148.00
2/24	Campus Bd. Evangelism	LSF & ISM LSF	\$49.41 LSF \$16.48 ISM
3/3	Bd. of Education	VBS	\$150.10
3/10	Family Life Stewardship	new sanctuary	\$166.00
3/17	Youth Board	youth account	\$62.24
3/24	Elders Trustees	LSF & ISM LSF & ISM	\$85.50 LSF \$85.50 ISM
			Amounts after bills submitted



### **Sanctuary Capital Campaign**

With our mortgage on the first portion of our building retired, we have turned our attention to the completion of a permanent sanctuary. Very soon our windows will be refurbished and prepared for storage in the temporary sacristy room. At this writing we believe that we have received sufficient funds to retire this bill also.

Preliminary sketches are on display in the narthex to give you an idea as to the layout of the new sanctuary. What remains is the gathering of funds to begin the building. We anticipate building an additional 6000 square feet adjoining the narthex. Since we have in hand the furnishings and windows from our previous sanctuary we are anticipating the cost of the new sanctuary to be in the neighborhood of \$600,000. We will not know the exact cost until we have bids in hand.

We will need at least half of this amount to ensure that the congregation will be able to build without jeopardizing the other ministries to which we have committed ourselves. This last year has shown us that we must be the very best of stewards as we manage God's resources.

When we have enough specific information in hand, we will be sharing it with you at a series of cottage meetings.

### **Sunday Morning Bible Study**

This month we will continue our study, "Stress: Burden or Blessing." This is not a course on the psychology of life. Rather we will examine portions of scripture to study what God's word says about handling the burdens and blessings of life. This study will conclude on May 23. May 30 there will be no Sunday School or Bible Class due to the Memorial Day holiday. June 6 will be the last Sunday in the school year for our Sunday School. On that Sunday morning we will be holding a joint lesson for both children and adults. On June 13 we will begin a new adult study for the summer months.

### **Men's Breakfast Bible Study**

Our monthly Men's Breakfast Bible Study will take place on Saturday, May 15, at 8:00 a.m. Class meets at Zion. This month we continue a study provided by the Lutheran Hour Ministries entitled "Enlarging the Harvest." Please make your plans now to attend.

### **Ushering May 8**

On May 8<sup>th</sup> we will again be ushering at the CMU Spring commencement. Due to construction at Rose Arena, a single ceremony will be held at the football stadium. We need approximately 70 volunteers for this event. Please consider helping us at this event. Proceeds will go toward the new sanctuary.

### **Community Food Distribution June 26**

We will be hosting the community food distribution on Saturday morning, June 26. Approximately 50 pairs of hands will be needed to ensure that the distribution will go smoothly. Please mark the date and make plans to be a part of this worthy charitable endeavor.

## **EVANGELISM NEWS**

The "**Flying Pancakes**" on Saturday, April 10, was a fun event with lots of fellowship. Most of the guests stayed the entire time from 9 to 11 a.m. Chris Cakes served about 75 persons. The Evangelism Committee has decided to make this a yearly event, and hopefully, as it catches on, more people from our neighborhood will attend. The committee is looking into having a church ad on placemats at several Mount Pleasant area restaurants. It may be next year before they appear, but it will help get the word out about Zion and CTK. As an outreach, Pastor Reith is doing a mini-service on the 2nd Monday of each month at both Winchester Towers and Maplewood Assisted Living.

Again, we ask the boards when submitting articles for the monthly newsletter, or to announce an activity of your board, to forward a copy to the evangelism committee for inclusion on the web site.

Send to [ML3153@power-net.net](mailto:ML3153@power-net.net). As more and more people "hit" our site and the site at CTK, it is important to keep the pages up to date.

## BOARD OF FAMILY LIFE

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



## CMU Graduation

Once again, the time has come for the CMU Graduation on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This time, however, there will be only one graduation ceremony and it will be held in the Kelly-Shorts stadium. Due to the size of the audience, we will need to increase our staff to about 70 volunteers. Because this will be new for us, we will meet in the Indoor Athletic Complex around 10:30 a.m. to get our assignments and prepare for the arrival of the graduates and their families. As usual, you can expect that CMU will take very good care of us in the same manner as they have done in the past. Please plan to participate in this enjoyable day of fellowship and service to the graduating students of CMU and their families as they celebrate their achievements. Contact me if you haven't already done so.

Todd Greenlee

## Men's Softball

This year we will be having a men's softball team and we will once again play in the church league. Please contact me if you have an interest in playing softball and would like to play on the team.

Todd Greenlee



## Graduation Open House

As most of you know, **Ashley** will be graduating from Mt. Pleasant High School on June 6. **Cindi and I would like to invite all of you** to join us in our celebration that same afternoon. After the graduation ceremony, an open house will be held at Zion. We look forward to your participation in another significant achievement in the Greenlee family as Ashley begins her college career!

Todd & Cindi Greenlee



## LWML NEWS

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. Registration is due **June 10th**. We hope that you can come!

Theme Verse:

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion "Your God reigns!"  
Isaiah 52:7 (NIV)



**Attention Men** (& Women who are sick of seeing your husband's same tie week after week) **GOT TIES!? WE NEED THEM!** The LWML is looking for ties to make into eyeglass cases for MOST Ministries. Please donate ties by placing them in the collection box located in the back of the church. Thank you!!!

The **All Daughters Banquet** is on May 16th at 12:30 p.m. at Zion. (This is on a Sunday.) All females young and old are invited to attend this event. We are **all daughters of our Father in Heaven**. For our program we will be having a wedding dress fashion show! If you have a wedding dress that you would like to model (or that you would like someone else to model) please contact Brandi Bucholz. If you would like to attend, there are sign-up sheets at both Zion and CTK.

**Thank You!** Central Michigan University Physical Therapy Student Organization would like to thank the members of Zion Lutheran Church for the gracious use of their facility and financial support in attending the spaghetti dinner. Saturday evening we were able to raise over \$400 for this important cause! Without you, we could not have had such success in raising funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society MI Chapter!

**Lutherans for Life of Michigan** will be sponsoring its annual Statewide Diaper Shower from Mother's Day through Father's Day. Just purchase packages of disposable diapers and bring them to Zion Lutheran Church. They will be taken to a pregnancy resource center here in Mount Pleasant. This is a way to thank God (and your parents) for the gift of life.

**Central Michigan Pregnancy Services** is seeking Christian men and women who would volunteer 4-5 hours weekly. Service is needed as receptionist, peer counselor, parenting instructor, or Joyful Beginnings staff. Training dates are listed on the bulletin board at Zion. For more information contact Marcie Marckel at 773-0379 or [marcie@supportlifecmps.com](mailto:marcie@supportlifecmps.com).

## YOUTH



### Working Together in

### God's Creation

Attention all youth - we will be taking a mission trip this summer, leaving after the early service on Sunday, July 18, and returning late on Friday, July 23. The cost to you for this trip is \$100.00 (\$150.00 if two members of one family attend,

and \$175.00 if three family members attend). Youth must be at least 13 years old by July 18 in order to participate.

Where will we be going, and what will we be doing? We will be spending the week at Camp Matz in Watertown, WI. Camp Matz was designed as a special camping opportunity for the developmentally disabled, and they seek youth volunteers to assist with the campers during meals and activities. The camp is fully staffed for the disabled campers, and the staff will take care of all medical and other care needs the campers have; our part will be providing friendship, support, and encouragement to the campers as they work to meet the challenges at the camp. Camp Matz features North America's only 100% wheelchair accessible tree house! Please prayerfully consider joining us for this excellent opportunity to share the love we have received from Christ Jesus with others. Register in the Zion Office by Sunday, May 2, 2010. Please see Pastor Bakker with any questions.

### Youth Lock-In (Grades 6-12)

On May 14, the youth will be having a lock-in at Christ the King Chapel. Each person is asked to bring a snack to share and bedding (if you plan to sleep). The evening will start out with bowling, followed by Bible study, video games, board games and card playing. Breakfast will be provided and parents are asked to pick up their children by 8:00 a. m. Please watch for a postcard in the mail and an announcement in the weekly bulletins about time and drop-off location.

### Kid's Camp - (Grades 3-8)

The youth board is happy to announce that Zion is sending their first group of kids to camp Lu Lay Lea during the week of August 1-7. This will be a great opportunity for the kids to bond and share memories that will last a lifetime. All of our youth have been actively involved in fund-raising activities; this revenue has enabled the board to cover much of the cost of the camping week. Please visit the following website to view pictures of the camp and read more information: <http://camplulaylea.org/>. A letter with detailed information will be sent to the families of our youth.