

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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“Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’”

Luke 18:15-17

“Let the Little Children Come to Me”

As Zion Lutheran’s Preschool and Early Childhood Center kick off another school year, it is good for us to reflect upon Christ’s words from Luke 18.

Children... are the best. Not simply because they are cute. Not because they like to snuggle or because they make unexpected comments that make us laugh. Children are the best because Jesus says so... **“Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”** Unfortunately for you, the reader, childhood is likely a thing of the past. And you are not getting any younger. No longer are you brought to church by your folks, as some carried infants to Jesus that He might touch them. You must wake up early on a Sunday morning and drive yourself to church if you want to receive Jesus. Gone are the days when life was simple and you were spoon-fed Jesus.

... but are those days really behind us? Jesus obviously doesn’t imply that only infants can be saved. Rather, as a child does not work but must receive *everything*, so also the children of God must receive Jesus. They can do no work. No matter how old, a child of God performs no work in Holy Baptism. God works through the hands of the Pastor. A child of God performs no work to hear the Word of God preached freely as the Scriptures declare. Rather, the Holy Spirit uses the mouth of the Pastor to do this. *We must* be spoon-fed Jesus. For this reason, even the Sacrament of the altar is given to you by the hands of the Pastor. You may have noticed some members who receive the Sacrament of the altar in a “spoon-fed” manner.

The practice of Christians receiving the body of Christ directly on their tongue is a practice of antiquity, originating perhaps with the Apostles! While this is merely a practice, it reminds us that Jesus is doing all the work for our salvation. We need not even lift our hand to our mouth to receive Jesus.

The life of the Christian is a life of humility, one that reminds us we are children. We are daily reminded we are children in our baptisms. As Luther declares in the Small Catechism concerning baptism: “It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”

As we grow old, while we remain a child in our baptism, we are also called to spiritual maturity. Saint Peter reminds us, **“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”** (1 Peter 2:2) By being fed the Word of God, we continue to grow. Saint Paul similarly writes, **“For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”** (Hebrews 5:13-14) Out of saving faith comes the challenging practice of exercising discernment between good and evil. Living a sanctified life is expected of God’s children. It is an application of the Word in our every way of life. But we must start with the Word. And in our maturity, we serve as an example to the generations to come.

As Zion's Preschool and Early Childhood Center begin a new year, we thank God for the Jesus these Children are being fed. From the bi-weekly chapel services to the classroom teaching they receive, our children are given Jesus. A call toward maturity is ahead of them. But of such is the kingdom of God.

In Christ,
Pastor Greenhagen

Preschool Chapel

We will meet at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday of the preschool year in the Zion sanctuary for Chapel Service. Feel free to join us in hearing the Gospel of our LORD. All preschool parents and family members, as well as Zion members are invited.



Early Childhood Center News

Welcome to the new school year! The staff members have worked so hard to clean and reset our classrooms just in time for our Open House. It truly was a blessing to meet all our families this past week. We are so excited for the year ahead. There are many volunteers that help our program out during the school year. Thank you to all who contribute to our Early Childhood Center and thank you to the many families that provide supply donations throughout the year. We appreciate and are blessed by each one of you. Please continue to keep our families, children, and staff in your prayers.



Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser

Thank you for your past support during the Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraisers. This year it begins on August 26 and closes on October 17 (brochure orders) or October 19 (online orders). Sales have been a big help to our program as every year the profit goes toward playground toys, classroom games or tuition assistance, if needed. Brochures are available at both Zion and CTK. Our fundraising ID if you order online is 43888. Little Caesar's has something new this year. It's called "Meal Deal Codes". The brochure explains how it works, but basically you order online and get a code that is redeemable at a Little Caesar's restaurant. If you order for pickup at Zion it is delivered the week of November 3. We announce the day when they send it to us. Once again, thank you for your support!



Zion Rally Day, Sunday September 7

Welcome back to Sunday School for the children. The teachers look forward to seeing you and sharing more about Jesus' love. Confirmed youth are also encouraged to attend. Your class meets in the library. Adults will continue meeting with Pastor Greenhagen in the gym. All classes begin at 9:45 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. the children will take a break and then the teachers will lead them outside for games and a bounce house. At 11:45 a.m. all Zion members are invited to a potluck lunch. Any salad, vegetable, or desert is welcome. Family Life will be providing meat. If you attend 11:00 a.m. service, come afterward. It's a good opportunity to visit with others!



Tuesday, September 23

11:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Zion gymnasium

For information or to schedule an appointment visit RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code Zion) or call 1-800-733-2767.

Also be looking for a sign-up sheet or contact Phillis Daws if you are able to volunteer a little time to help or donate a few baked goods. She can be reached at zionparishnurse@gmail.com or 989-621-8583(989)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Work and Keep

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

Genesis chapters one and two are familiar to us. We know them best as the Creation Account. Chapter one is where we hear the familiar, “let there be...and there was” directives. Chapter two gives us the account of Adam (the man) being formed from the “Adamah” (the dust) and becoming a living being when he receives the breath of life in his nostrils. Because of this, it would be quite easy to simply lump these two chapters into the category of creation accounts.

But do not be too hasty in this! While these two chapters do faithfully relate to us the account of creation, they also give us the creation of the “office” of steward. The man, created in the image of God in Genesis 1 and formed from the dust in Genesis 2, is created for a distinct purpose. He is created to be a steward of the perfect and beautiful creation that the Lord has made! In fact, this is THE reason that man was made. He — and we — were created in the image of God to be stewards of God’s creation.

This purpose is spelled out in verse 15 of Genesis 2. The steward has one job, with two purposes. It is fitting that, in the month that our nation marks Labor Day, we consider the task of steward. The first purpose of the job of steward is to work. The steward is the caretaker of the Garden. Being a steward is work! Before the fall into sin, this was not an onerous task, but it was an active thing.

Imagine being a farmer in the Garden of Eden! Work would be only harvest. No plowing. No planting. No cultivating. No weeding. The perfect garden that the Lord had made would simply produce automatically to provide for man, woman, and all living beings!

But there is a second task in verse fifteen. The word “keep” is not just a synonym for work. This second task is related to defending. This garden, holy by virtue of its being called into existence by a holy God, needed to be defended. Here is where the vocation of steward becomes priestly. The steward was to defend the perfect and holy

garden from that which was unholy. Later in the Old Testament, this was the task of the priests in the tabernacle and temple. They were to defend with their lives the Holy of Holies. This too is the labor of stewardship. It is a labor that calls the steward to be willing to put the garden before life!

Stewardship was always work. It only got burdensome after the original steward, Adam, failed to defend the garden from the alien word of the serpent. But this was not a failure of harvest. It was a failure to defend the garden! As a result, all work that followed that failure became burdensome.

The steward failed but was never fired. That is why we have such an issue with stewardship to this day. We continue to live out a pre-fall vocation in a fallen world as failed stewards. That is why we in the church need to be reminded of our vocational call to be stewards. We so easily forget that this world is not ours to do with as we please. Nothing is ours. We are but stewards entrusted with managing the creation for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor.

It is a daunting task. But it is the one to which we have been called. We cannot do it on our own. Apart from the grace of God shared with us through Jesus, we would be burdened to the point of temporal and eternal death. But the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel! This Gospel connects us to the fertile garden of Christ’s Work on our behalf. Now we are stewards of that grace! The Holy Spirit works this in and through us today and every day.

This is the work of the church. It is also the work of the individual steward. The Lord has placed us in the “garden” with the same twofold purpose: work and keep! Enjoy your labor. For in the Lord, our labor is never in vain!



In memory of Maynard Haubenstricker

Dale & JoAnne Gust

Yvonne Fitzgerald

Youth & Family Life

Friday, September 19 – Euchre Night!

6:00 p.m. at Zion

Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and some Euchre! If you are able please bring a snack to share. Feel free to bring a friend also. See you there!



Zion's Second Annual Brat-Fest

Make sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, September 13, as we will host our Second Annual Brat-Fest celebration here at Zion Lutheran Church! We are very excited to announce that we will be hosting our Second Annual 5K for the King walk/run, as well as Zion's first ever Auto Show at the Brat-Fest! All three events (Brat-Fest, 5K for the King and Auto Show) will be taking place on September 13 at Zion near the pavilion. The Auto Show will start at 9:00 a.m. just to the southeast of the pavilion. The 5K for the King run/walk will start at 10:30 a.m. on Zion's new run/walk course. The Brat-Fest will start at 12:00 p.m. under Zion's pavilion. We will also have other fun activities, festivities and music going on for people of all ages. If you are interested in registering and/or having others register for the different activities, make sure to grab the flyers at Zion or CTK. You can also register and get more information from the Brat-Fest Website:

<https://sites.google.com/mp.edzone.net/brat-fest/home>

Hymn Festival

Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn

Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 p.m.

"I am Baptized Into Christ: The Devil's Might Unraveled."

If you are interested in joining the mass choir contact Nathan Beethe, (989) 878-2103 or email him at kantor.graceauburn@gmail.com.

The first rehearsal is Saturday, October 4 at 2:00 p.m. The final rehearsal will be on Sunday, October 12 at 1:30 p.m.

This is an area-wide festival. Mark your calendar.

Lifelight Returns

Join us for Lifelight Bible Study this Fall as we read through the Epistles of Galatians, Philippians and Colossians. Study guides will be available in the Zion church office. The same class will be offered each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. (Zion) and again at 6:00 p.m. (CTK), with the latter study also open to college students. The first Thursday class will be September 11.

CCI Classes on Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Both the 4th and 5th graders in Mrs. Davis's class, as well as the 6th and 7th graders in Pastor Greenhagen's class will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Zion each Monday. The first class will be Monday, September 8, with a brief meeting for all parents following class at 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

Zion Early Childhood Center & Preschool

Zion Lutheran Church has been operating and helping to support a preschool for over 50 years. A couple of years ago the preschool was expanded to include toddler care as well as after-school care for three and four year old children. Our staff now shares the Gospel and educates over 60 children from 18 months old to 5 years old during the school year. What a blessing! Please continue to pray for our Early Childhood Center as we continue to grow.



Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, September 20

8:00 a.m. at Zion



Everyday Celebrations

BELLY LAUGHS

In the Word

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them" (Psalm 126:2).

Of the Word

There are few things more contagious than the laughter of a child. That unselfconscious, from the toes, giggle that expands into a full blown belly laugh. The cause does not matter because the action takes on a life of its own. Soon, everyone in the room has gotten caught up in the laughter.

Perhaps adults should experience one good belly laugh a month, especially with another person. It could become the next fitness rage! Think of the worries and stress that might be eliminated without a prescription.

Christians have the best reason to express such total joy. Helplessly lost in our sin, we face only sorrow and death. Our merciful God sent Jesus to redeem us from the debt we owed by His death on the cross and glorious resurrection. We experience Easter Joy every day, a joy so contagious that those whose lives we touch will say, "The LORD has done great things . . ." (Psalm 126:2b)

Walking with my Lord

Jesus, thank You for the laughter You have put into my life. Let my joy in You as my Savior overflow so others may know You too! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Calendar of Events



MITES, MITES, MITES: WE ARE BEHIND IN OUR MITES - REMEMBER OUR MITE BOX IS LOOKING FOR LOOSE CHANGE. We will be putting out our mite box on the last Sunday of the month so that we can build our mites up.

LWML GENERAL MEETING – Saturday, September 27, at 10:00 a.m. with brunch. Paster Greenhagen will be our Devotion and

Bible Study Leader for all our meetings. All women from the congregation are invited.

Ladies Luncheon - Friday, September 19, at 11:30 a.m. at Culver's.

LWML Sunday - Sunday, October 5. JoAnn Gust, delegate for the LWML Mid-Michigan Zone will be presenting her report. The new mite box goal is \$2,660,000. They fully funded 33 grants for the 25-27 Biennium. Our display of quilts will be on hand and as usual will be \$50 each. They will be loaded up and sent to Orphan Grain Train in Sebawaing, Michigan.

Glass Craft Class - Saturday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Zion. Rhonda Deeg will be guiding us through this class and Jean Holland will be providing materials. Come join us, it will be fun.

Cookie Walk/Bake Sale and Bazaar - Saturday, December 6. Vendors: it is time to book your tables for the 2025 Annual Cookie Walk/Bazar at Zion. One 8-ft table with 2 chairs is \$30; two 8-ft tables with 2 chairs is \$50. Need More? \$20 for each additional table. Say Yes now and pay now or later. Contact Phillis Daws at pdesigns1113@gmail.com or Trina Palmer at crafterstpd15@gmail.com, with any questions.

Orphan Grain Train - Continue to place clothing that is clean and in good condition in the containers at Zion and CTK. Please put items in small bags or garbage bags, however, do not overfill large bags. Luke Epple, Sr., has volunteered to haul the bags from CTK to Zion for storage. Thank you Luke!

Flowers - Please make checks for flowers payable to "Zion Women's Guild" not "Zion Lutheran Church". Thank you!

We have created a Facebook webpage called "LWML Zion Lutheran - MPMI". Please feel free to join our page. There will be information about upcoming events. Please feel free to contact either JoAnn Gust or Kathy Tice and please, if you have an internet connection, check out our new website.

"Serve the Lord with Gladness-" Psalm 100:2

INFLATION, OUTREACH AND SERVANTHOOD

INFLATION: The 2026 budget approval comes in October which means identifying next year's anticipated expenses needed to carry out Zion's Mission and Ministry. Expenses usually increase, more repairs are needed, fair salaries are deserving for our pastors and workers, outreach events, and the list continues, all focused on carrying out our Mission and Ministry. Zion has been fortunate for years in that the last Called Pastor was 1999-26 years not having to go through the Call Process. All other servants were sent from the Theological Seminaries at our request to serve our Campus Mission and Ministry. The Michigan District supplements Zion for continuing this Mission that began many years ago as a town-grown ministry. It then became a separate ministry from 1964 to 1992, when Zion decided to return to the town-grown ministry. Otherwise, the Chapel would have sat empty. So, have patience and pray as we continue calling another pastor. God will answer us in His time. Our pastor's salaries have not kept pace with inflation at the same time the number of available pastors from which to call has decreased. This means asking each member to seriously consider increasing their pledge to meet our rising expenses. All that we have comes from God so each should return as He has blessed us. Consider your gift the first of the month - not what's left over at month's end.

OUTREACH: Please note the announcement in this newsletter relevant to the October 4 "Everyone His Witness" workshop. All of us can use a refresher in how to approach people and share with them the Good News of Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. See the sign-up sheets at Zion and CTK. The deadline is September 20 so materials can be ordered.

SERVANTHOOD: A well-known rule known as the 80/20 rule means that in any organization, including churches, you will find 20% of the members doing all the work. For Zion, it currently is 35% based on current attendance records. When considering all our members, it comes to around 14%. We currently have around 50 volunteers serving on our six boards. Take the Trustees for example. Those elected to the board simply can't do all the trustee work.

We need more of our members to step up and serve on say one or two tasks. You don't have to be on a board but need to let the director know you will help. A list of all our boards and members appears on the bulletin board. If not enough helpers, we hire outside people to do the work which drives up our costs. Please, there are so many other members who could help. Helpers also are needed by the Board of Stewardship. We need more counters to count offerings on Sunday. Please contact one of the stewardship members and say you are ready to learn and do this. You can join the others who now do the counting.

Board of Stewardship



Freewill Offerings

Our monthly freewill offerings will continue in September to support Zion members studying to become Lutheran pastors. Nathan Bublitz continues his studies at St. Louis Theological Seminary. Joshua Camp continues his studies at Fort Wayne Theological Seminary.

The September freewill offering will be on September 7. Please continue to keep Nathan and Josh in your prayers.



When paying for altar flowers at either Zion or CTK, (\$35), please make check payable to Zion Womens Guild and not to Zion Lutheran Church. Cash is also fine. Please note your name and the date for which you are paying for flowers. Thank You

