

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL LITCHFIELD, IL SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Rev. Fred Kraemer, Pastor

Ms. Jami Pryor, Principal

I Need to See You in Church

I need to see you in church. There, I said it. How wonderful it would be if the sanctuary were filled, really needing the added chairs for 'overflow', and not just at Christmas or Easter services. Can you imagine what it would be like if every worship service would be filled to capacity? Awesome!

I need to see you in church. I know I already said it. Maybe you are thinking I'm supposed to say that, after all I am a pastor, and pastors tell the people to be in church. While that is true, <u>I need</u> to see you in church. This is something I personally need and desire.

I need to see you in church; it builds me up. There is just something about singing hymns and songs of praise when there are many gathered together. It is as if I'm a bit closer to heaven. Declaring the faith together in the words of the creed reminds me that we are in this faith together. I love hearing young and old speaking the words of the Lord's prayer – children's voices just learning and not quite together with the rest, but praying to <u>our</u> heavenly Father, mixing with stronger voices, blending with those who at the end of life their minds just barely grasping still the words spoken for decades.

I need to see you in church; it is your witness that God's Word is important. You are letting all who see you coming, and all who see you in church, know that you trust God's Word. No, you haven't perfectly kept His Word (the Law telling what to do and not do), but you trust His Word of forgiveness and God's great love for you (the Gospel centered in Christ). I see families trusting the Word of promise in Baptism, and the Word of forgiveness in Communion.

I need to see you in church; it tells me you are watching out for each other and are willing to care for those who are weaker in the faith. The church is a community, and we are to serve one another. To me, the best way to know how to help others is to meet with each other, be with one another, to see each other at church.

I need to see you in church; it tells me you forgive me. I am not perfect, and there are times I have done wrong without knowing it. No one likes to be where there are tensions. If I am the cause, please let me know so I can repent and be forgiven by you. This forgiveness we share is the only thing that can draw us together.

I need to see you in church; it is the place God's people gather. In school, our children will see and experience the many ways God brings us together, and uses us together to do His will. What a great message we teach as we bring them to worship, as it is a priority in our schedules, as they see the entire congregation guided by God.

I need to see you in church; while I would love to see you <u>every</u> weekend (my ultimate joy to look forward to) how about a goal of increasing your family's attendance each month? Look forward to us all to gather. "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the House of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

I need to see you in church.

Pastor Fred

News from Zion Lutheran School Miss Pryor, Principal

Our new school year is off to a fantastic start! We currently have 89 students in pre-k through eighth grade. Many of these students seem to have hit a growth spurt over the summer. It has been wonderful to hear their laughter and conversations in the hallways once again.

We were blessed to have Jennie Williamson return to Zion. She performed a concert for the students in the afternoon and then provided us with wonderful music that evening. It's always so uplifting to hear her message and experience her energy!

Athletics have started again. Miss Cook is coaching our cross country team. You might catch them running in town after school as they prepare for meets. Unfortunately we don't have enough girls for a volleyball team, so Miss Gulley is hosting open gyms for the third through eighth grade boys and girls on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. She spends the first portion of the time together teaching skills and then the second half of the time is for practicing the skills. She reports we'll have some great volleyball to watch in future years!

The seventh and eighth graders will attend a week of outdoor education at the end of September. This is a unique opportunity for students to spend a week with their classmates and teachers learning about God's creation and one another. Our students will also be participating in Book Blast, a program which works to put books in the hands of all of our students and helps us all realize the importance of reading. We'll also be celebrating one our favorite days of the entire school year, Grandparents Day, on Friday, September 15th. It's definitely a pleasure to meet the people who bring such joy to our students.

There are many wonderful things happening at Zion! Our theme for this school year is "Hooked on Jesus," based on Matthew 4:19, "And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."" We are blessed with a congregation that strongly supports our school and a faculty and staff that eagerly shares the love of Jesus with our students and families. May we eagerly share the Good News with others as we are all fishers of men!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



Lisa Sharp - Teacher

The school year is off to a great start in Kindergarten! We have a big class this year with 16 students. The boys and girls are getting adjusted to the new routines and are eager to learn. They are enjoying being with their old friends and making new ones. We are looking forward to lots of fun learning together and sharing

God's love and word with one another throughout this school year. We are so thankful for the support the congregation gives to us to make this journey of a school year possible!



MEN OF THE WORD

Men's Bible Study will be held on the second and fourth Saturdays of September at 7:30 AM. The change in dates is due to the Labor Day weekend. The group meets in the Parish Hall and welcomes all men to join in Pastor's discussion of the end times.

Contemplating Our Faith and Our Thankfulness

2 Corinthians 9:11-12 "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and through your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

The Board of Stewardship is conducting, in September a private commitment of each Parishioner (adults and children) to express faith and service.

Stewardship has many components. Most people automatically think of financial stewardship and our commitment to financially support our church and God's mission on earth. However, stewardship also encompasses the focus and use of our time and talents, given to us by God, for the benefit of our church, community and the furtherance of God's Word as well as our prayer life and upon what we choose to pray.

In September everyone will receive a commitment card to be completed after reverent contemplation and prayer. We are asking everyone to consider what they will give, do and for which you will pray during September through August.

The commitment card will include: (1) a financial pledge; (2) a service pledge; and (3) a prayer commitment. These cards will be signed and placed in an envelope on which you will put your name and address and seal it. The envelope will not be opened by anyone except the person whose name is on the envelope. The sealed envelopes will be collected the weekend of September 30 and October 1 and

dedicated to God. This is a personal commitment to God.

The envelopes will be kept until March at which time they will be returned, still sealed, as a reminder of the commitments made and for us to evaluate how we have been progressing in our stewardship commitment to God.



A second card will also be given to each parishioner concerning only the service they are willing to provide within the church. This second service card will be collected in the collection plate on the same weekend.

Please take this opportunity to expand your faith, thanksgiving and service to our Savior.

Zion Exploratories

We are excited to announce a new program for Zion students in grades 3-8. These are learning-based, free choice classes, which allow students to expand their knowledge in a fun and alternative classroom experience.

Every Thursday afternoon, students in grades 3-8 will meet for two classes, each an hour long. Zion's third through eighth grade teachers and volunteers will lead students and provide them with enhanced learning opportunities.

Students will choose their electives for the first quarter in August and the electives will start at the beginning of September. This is a unique way for students to participate in the curriculum and continue to learn more about God's marvelous kingdom. If you have a talent that you would be willing to teach about or know of someone who might be interested in sharing with us, please encourage them to contact the school office.

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word "enchiridion" is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for "handbook." The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

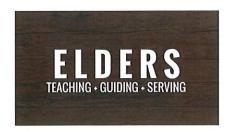
In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

Who is My Elder

Letter of your last name	Elder Assigned
A&B	Paul Frerichs
C & D	David Brackenbush
E, F, G	Allan Spelbring
H, I, J	Brad Bowles
K & L	Chris Poirot
M & N	Roger Davis
O, P, Q, R	Gary Meyers
S	Darin Ashby
T, U, V	Allan Spelbring
W, X, Y, Z	Bud Helgen



LWML NEWS

The LWML-SID Fall Retreat will be on September 30, 2023 at Mariner's Village Resort, Lake Carlyle. Registration begins at 9 am. In-gathering will be personal care items for the Blessing Box in Pinckneyville and Matthew 25 in Carlyle.

Registration fee is \$15.00. More registration info was attached to the recent newsletter, or go to SID web site.

Latest new resource for LWML is:
Facts-Who We Are
Our Preparation for Service-How We Equip
Christ-Centered-Why We Go
Unified Message-We Proclaim Christ Near and Far

Serving Others-How We Help



September to Remember

On September 12, 2023, you will have the opportunity to help LWML raise funds for the mission grants this biennium. The LWML has been blessed with a \$10,000 matching gift, which means you will have the opportunity to double the impact of your giving. Check out the LWML website for more information.

Ladies Aid Meeting, Thursday Sept 7, 6:30pm. Speaker will be Brittany Davis from the St. Francis Birth Center. There will be a collection of baby sleepers (new with tags, 0 to 3 mo). A mite box offering will be collected.

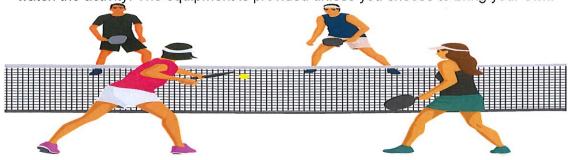
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MISSION SERVICE

Thank you for the generous donations of sleepers for the St. Francis maternity ward! We will be doing something for shut-ins and local nursing facility residents in September, so there will be no collection of items.

PICKLE BALL fun continues!

The next date to play is Sunday, September 10 at 2:00 in the gym. All are welcome...come to play or just to watch the activity! The equipment is provided unless you choose to bring your own.



Ladies Aid Fall Rummage Sale & PTL Bake Sale

Friday October 6 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Saturday October 7 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (\$3.00 Bag Sale)



The ladies are looking forward to their fall sale and hope that you can help with donations of gently used items. Since there will be no lunch, the ladies will open the sale Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00p.m.

The Saturday Bag Sale hours will be 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Donations may be brought to the gym starting Sunday, Oct. 1st. Jewelry should be placed in Kathy Towell's church mailbox.

The ladies are unable to accept TVs, computers, children's car seats or cribs.

Set up will be Wednesday, October 4 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, October 5 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

All help is appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

PTL Bake Sale

PTL will also be holding a bake sale during the Fall Rummage Sale.

Tables will be set up outside of the gym, in the hallway with delicious desserts!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

	JL		LI DINTIDI		
<i>1</i>	Karin Butcher Anna Clayton Amy Hicks	13	Jasper Amyx Heather Honchak Alexander Pastrovich Mindy Pastrovich	23	Leah Benning Carol Conrady Bonnie Furman Joshua Neuhaus
2	Scott Schmidt Donna Swetlishnoff	14	Cal Frerichs	24	Susan Allen
3	Ryan Pezold		Catherine Helgen Della Niemann	25	Kyle Frerichs Travis Schwab
4	Douglas Grosenheider Jo Wernsing	15	Mel Cordani	23	Steven Walker
5	Roger Bergman Alex Farrar	16	Terra Hamby Chloe Horn	26	Maria Eilers Brenda Horn Kate Hull
7	Tyler Markulakis Alyssa Williams	17	Alexander Azbell Jennifer Helgen Kate Justison	27	Alexander Rovey Hannah Schmidt Wade Schmidt
7	Rebecca Hollo Willow Neese CJ Pollard Dennis Yokley	18	Douglas Neverdowski Jessica Frerichs Gerald Mehochko	28	Katie Wilson David Boedecker
8	Roman Fuchs Kaiden Waldrup	10	Betty Monke Troy Stephenson		Victoria Lueker James Niemann Dalyn Riemann Jacob Rull
9	Erin Kresko Shay Westhoff	19	Melanie Pence Campbell Poetain Christa Walker		Matthew Sillman Dale Weidler
10	Chuck Feldmann Olivia Heiser Laura Mulhern	20`	Sherry Dagon Clinton Hartkins Charles Rimmel	29	Tatum Wertin Gavin Winstead
	Alexandra Rull Shelley Schmidt Cole Zumwalt	21	Chad Marburger Elizabeth Logsdon	30	Brent Austin Zoe SanMiguel Catherine Schmidt Kelly Schmidt
11	Kevin Helgen Jack Webb Heath Beccue	22	Alicia DeWitt Donna Frerichs Emma Stinnett		Willaim Schultz

Cullen Brumm Daryl Fuchs

12



September Anniversaries

1	Brian and Kiley Fuchs Matthew and Jennifer Rovey	14	Bradley and Mary Bowles Erik and Meghan Hyam	
2	Stephen and Amy Hicks	15	Elmer and Suzanne Fritzsche	
3	John and Sherry Rundquist	16	Cody and Lindsay Epley	
Andy and Tessa Scharf Laura and Jeff Rull 1		17	Joseph and Angela Sarti	
4	Jay and Connie Niemann	18	Shane and Beth Beck Grant and Melisa Buske	
5	Darin and Deana Riemann	22	Jonathan and Kate Schmidt	
7	Sara and Christopher Porter			
9	Dustin and Dee Ellinger	23	Marcia and Lloyd Johnson Charles and Robin Pezold Douglas and Michelle Wernsing	
11	James and Andrea Gordon	0.7		
12	Rex and Cindy Nail Jeremy and Shannon Sarti	27	Shay and Bobbi Westhoff Steven and Cecelia Walker	
	Jeremy and Shannon Sard	28	Steve and Loretta Sarti	
		29	Dustin and Ashley Everett	
		30	Nicholas and Mindy Pastrovich	

Elders Serving Us in September

Sat. Sept. 2 - 5:30 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Chris Poirot Paul Frerichs and Brad Bowles Roger Davis
Sat. Sept. 9 - 5:30 p.m. Sun. Sept. 10 - 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Roger Davis Gary Meyers Paul Frerichs and Allan Spelbring
Sat. Sept. 16 - 5:30 p.m. Sun. Sept. 17 - 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Brad Bowles Allan Spelbring and Bud Helgen Darn Ashby
Sat. Sept. 23 - 5:30 p.m. Sun. Sept. 24 - 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Darin Ashby Chris Poirot Gary Meyers and Roger Davis
Sat. Sept. 30 - 5:30 p.m.	Allan Spelbring

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Saturday	Esther 9 Psalm 61 Thess. 5	Ezek. 6Psalm 681 Tim. 2	■ Ezek. 13 ■ Psalm 75 ■ 2 Tim. 1		Ezek. 20 Psalm 81 Titus 1	Ezek. 27 Psalm 88 Heb. 2:10-18	30
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Friday	Esther 8 Psalm 60 Thess. 4	Ezek. 5Psalm 671 Tim. 1:12-20	Ezek. 12Psalm 741 Tim. 6:11-21		Ezek. 19Psalm 802 Tim. 4:9-22	Ezek. 26 Psalm 87 Heb. 2:1-9	
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Thursday		Ezek. 4Psalm 661 Tim. 1:1-11	Ezek. 11Psalm 731 Tim. 6:3-10		Ezek. 18Psalm 792 Tim. 4:1-8	Ezek. 25 Psalm 86 Heb. 1:8-14	
lay		6		7	20	1	27
Wednesday		Ezek. 3Psalm 652 Thess. 3:6-18	Ezek. 10Psalm 721 Tim. 5:17-6:2		Ezek. 17Psalm 78:36-722 Tim. 3:10-17	Ezek. 24Psalm 85Heb. 1:1-7	
day		2:13-3:5	9	2	21-35	1-25	26
Tuesday		Ezek. 2 Psalm 64 2 Thess. 2:13-3:5	# Ezek. 9 # Psalm 71 # 1 Tim. 5:1-16		Ezek. 16 Psalm 78:1-35 2 Tim. 3:1-9	Ezek. 23 Psalm 84	
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Monday		Ezek. 1Psalm 632 Thess. 2:1-12	■ Ezek. 8 ■ Psalm 70 ■ 1 Tim. 3:14-4:16		Ezek. 15 Psalm 77 2 Tim. 2:14-26	Ezek. 22 Psalm 83	
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Sunday		Esther 10 Psalm 62 Thess. 1	Ezek. 7Psalm 691 Tim. 3:1-13		Ezek. 14Psalm 762 Tim. 2:1-13	Ezek. 21 Psalm 82 Titus 2	2 < AUGUST 2023



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1301 N. State St., Litchfield

Sunday, September 17, 2023 11:30am - 1:00pm

MENU: Barbequed Pork Loin
Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce, Bread & Dessert
\$14.00

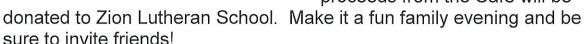
	Sat 2 5:30pm Worship- Trad/Comm	9 Mens Bible Study 7:30am 5:30pm Worship-Trad	16 5:30pm Worship- Trad/Comm	23 Mens Bible Study 7:30am 5:30pm Worship-Trad	30 5:30pm Worship- Trad/Comm LWML-SID Fall Retreat Carlye 9am
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023	Thu	7 9:15am Berean Bible Study 7:00pm Elders 7:00pm Ladies Aid	14 9:15am Berean Bible Study 6:30pm Church Council	21 9:15am Berean Bible Study	28 9:15am Berean Bible Study
eptember 2023	Wed	6 8:30am Chapel 6:000pm Confirmation 6:00pm Festival Bells 7:00pm Adult Choir	13 8:30am Chapel 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Festival Bells 7:00pm Adult Choir	20 8:30am Chapel 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Festival Bells 7:00pm Adult Choir	27 8:30am Chapel 6:000pm Confirmation 6:00pm Festival Bells 7:00pm Adult Choir
Sel	Tue	5.00am Sewing Circle 5:30pm Mission & Evangelism	12 9:00am Sewing Circle 5:30pm School Board	19 9:00am Sewing Circle	26 9:00am Sewing Circle
	Mon	4	1-1	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25
	Sun	3 8:00am Worship- Trad/Comm 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship-Trad.	8:00am Worship-Trad 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship- Contemp/Comm	8:00am Worship- Trad/Comm 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship- Contemp. Drive-thru Dinner	24 8:00am Worship-Trad/ 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship- Trad/Comm



Join us at Skyview Drive-In on Friday, September 29th for Zion Lutheran Night!

Teachers, staff, and Board of Education members will be delivering food and helping out. Gates and

the cafe open at 6:30 p.m. Paw Patrol starts at sundown. A portion of the proceeds from the Cafe will be







7th/8th GRADE FUNDRAISER

Zion's 7th and 8th grade students are currently selling Gianni's frozen pizzas to raise funds for their trip to Camp Wartburg at the end of September. There are several varieties available, including gluten-free options, and all are reasonably priced! Please contact the office (217)324-3166 or a Zion 7th or 8th grader to place an order!

Zion Lutheran Church & School 1301 N. State Street Litchfield IL, 62056

Rev. Fred Kraemer, Pastor Miss Jami Pryor, Principal

September 2023 Newsletter

Join Us for Worship

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Bible Studies 9:15 a.m.

Via Facebook Live

Zion Lutheran School Page 8:00 a.m. Zion Lutheran Church Page 10:30 a.m.