



**ZION LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL
LITCHFIELD, IL
JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER**

*Rev. Fred Kraemer, Pastor
Church (217) 324-2033*

*Miss Jami Pryor, Principal
School (217) 324-3166*

Let's go stumping!

My Dad grew up in the early 1900's, a time of transition from animals to machines doing work. He moved to Wisconsin from Germany in 1930, working on a farm. Gasoline was limited, and since horses needed feed whether they worked or not, my Dad often used horses to do the work.

One story Dad told was about clearing fields of stumps - hard work. Many would use two big horses, and with their combined strength, get the job done. Not so Dad. He used two unevenly matched horses. One was larger, used as the steady base of a fulcrum; the other, lighter but quick, gave a fast jerk on the fulcrum. Together, this mismatched team cleared out many stumps.

About 20 years ago, I put this lesson into practice on a work trip at Camp Luther in northern Wisconsin. Its pine forest had been thinned out, leaving stumps that made activities dangerous. I supervised about eight teenage boys tasked with stump removal. This mismatched group ranged widely in size, experience, and strength. We soon discovered 'diggers' (use shovels), 'choppers' (safe and accurate with axes), and 'muscles' (brute strength needed). This team challenged and encouraged each other to work faster, do better, remove more stumps. We would have been moved to other tasks and a different team take our place, but because we worked so well as a team (even nicknamed 'the stumpers'), we were asked to continue the work the next day – which we gladly did!

As a congregation, we face some deep rooted, long-standing, stubborn stumps - the challenges in ministry. With Spirit-gifted pastors, teachers, and other staff, much has been accomplished. With gifted lay leaders serving on different boards, more challenges were successfully faced. Also remember the volunteer work of members and school families as even more has been accomplished. As a team, under God's supervision, using differently gifted people, 'stumps' were removed.

We still have many stumps (challenges in ministry). Another school year is approaching, with increasing enrollment, and some staffing needs. Reaching out to the 'unchurched', we continue to welcome them and guide them through God's Word. Worship attendance continues to grow from the lows caused by Covid, and are seeking to again have Sunday School. We seek to pay off soon our building addition along with filling that space. Activities continue, and we anticipate new activities to reach more people. There are lots of stumps.

Personally, I'm still a 'stumper'. From what I have seen in many of you – the many volunteers and your financial generosity– I think many of you are 'stumpers' as well. Together, united in ministry and using our varied gifts, we will meet any challenge, any 'stump' that hinders our ministry. With the Lord's guidance, let's keep on stumping!

Pastor Fred



Morning Devotions with Pastor
Like and follow along with Pastor every morning as he goes live.
Visit the Zion Lutheran School Facebook Page at 9:00 a.m.
(times may not be exact, but approximate)
If you do not have a Facebook account, no worries,
you can still view our page.



News from Zion Lutheran School
News from Zion Lutheran School
Miss Pryor, Principal

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through summer vacation! Soon displays of new school supplies will be featured at stores and calendars will be filled with school activities.

Our summer camp program continues to do well. We welcome Ms. Tricia Kelley as a teacher on Mondays and Fridays and her daughter Audrey, an eighth grade student at Zion, as her helper. The students have been to Litchfield Country Club to swim, fishing at Lake Lou, and walked to Ice Cream Man for a sweet treat. They also took care of the flowers around Zion for a week in June. One of their favorite days was being able to play in the water when the fire department was flushing the hydrants. We thank Mrs. Waldrup and her helpers for all of the exciting adventures these students are having this summer!

The week of June 12th-16th was a very busy week, as Zion hosted Vacation Bible School, and students learned how they can shine God's light and love to our world. Each day was filled with singing, crafts, snacks, games, and a special message. Mrs. Covert served as our director and we thank her and all those who helped to make this such a wonderful week for all those who attended.

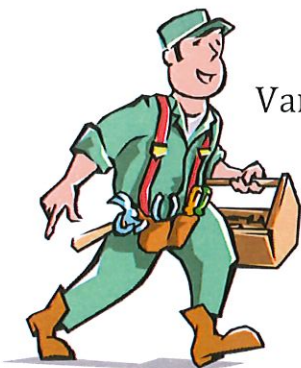
We would like to thank Zion's Ladies Aid for the new window shades in the office and principal's office. They block the sunlight and reduce the visibility into these areas, but still allow us to see out, and provide a refreshed look to both areas.

Zion was blessed to receive \$3,500 from the Kilton Grant. This money will be used to expand our current camera system. We are so appreciative of the support our school continues to receive from the community.

Preparations for the upcoming school year are already being made. Textbooks and materials are being ordered. Teachers are thinking about lesson plans and activities. Registration for the 2023-2024 school year continues, and our morning pre-k-4 year old and kindergarten classes are almost full!

The theme for our upcoming school year is "Hooked on Jesus." Please join us in praying for the nets that we cast for students to be blessed by the Holy Spirit and returned full of families seeking a Christian education for their children at Zion.

Property Maintenance Month



Various repairs and maintenance are a constant need around Zion. The schedule is to work every Monday morning (7am-noon) starting July 10th until the start of school. Contact David Helgen at (217) 246-4375 if you have questions or would like to tackle anything outside of the scheduled time.



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was a huge success this year thanks to all of your efforts!

Our theme was "Stellar" Shine Jesus' Light. For the week of VBS we had an average of 53 children each day. Plus several leaders and helpers.

Thank you to all who donated snacks for our VBS children and to all of our VBS Volunteers.
A Shout out to our VBS Director: Susie Covert (Thank You!)

Thank you all for your special part in the event, without each of you VBS wouldn't have been possible.
The offerings from V.B.S. will go toward the Mission project of Water for Tanzania

Landscaping Committee

The Landscape Committee has been busy again. We hope you have noticed the beautiful plannings in the urn around the property. If you like to help us water the urns around the Church this summer, please call Bev Zoschke for more information.



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Rummage Sale

Ladies Aid greatly appreciates all the donations from the congregation for their semi annual rummage sale. Money raised will be used to support various church, community, and LWML mission projects. We are especially grateful for the help with setting up, sorting and pricing merchandise, working the sale days, and with the gym cleanup following the sale.

Raise Right

Don't forget to continue using Raise Right through the summer months. Our program is a year around fund raiser that helps benefit our church, school and even your children enrolled with us. Raise Right gift cards are available between church services, so stop by our table and look at what we have readily available for purchase. You may also stop by the office during hours or give Jim Wreath a call at 217- 324-3581 and he will get the cards to you. Also did you know that you can get Raise Right cards right on your phone, or even delivered to your home? Download the app and you're on your way to earn rebates for your school.



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

Zion Lutheran School

2023 – 2024 Registration

Registration paperwork can be found on our website at www.zionlutheranlitchfield.com under the school tab or they can be picked up from the office. Please return these forms along with registration fee at your earliest convenience to ensure your child's placement within the class as Classroom sizes are limited. For questions or more information please call the school office at (217) 324-3166. (Note: the morning 4-year old pre-k and kindergarten classes are almost full.)



Help encourage others to consider Christian education here at Zion!

We appreciate your continued financial support. If you would like to provide a scholarship for a child who could not otherwise attend, please contact our School Secretary at (217) 324-3166.

You could be the person who makes a real difference in a child's life.

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**MISSION SERVICE:** The July gathering will be for the seminary food bank. The seminarians and their families will be gearing up for another year, and they are most appreciative of the help they get from the food bank. Paper goods, cleaning supplies, cereal, crackers, diapers, baby wipes, coffee and tea are some suggestions, but they can use anything. If you would like to help but would prefer not to do the shopping, financial donations are fine and can be given to Sharon Cordani, Becky Helgen, or Kate Poirot. Thank you for helping these families as they prepare for full time ministry.



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## Does PICKLE BALL interest you?

This was suggested at the men and boys' gathering in May. It sounded interesting, so the evangelism committee will be sponsoring an activity in July. This is open to anyone who has an interest in playing or learning to play. You are welcome to just come to watch the fun. The date and time will be in a future bulletin.

## Elders Serving Us in Worship

|                  |                                                                         |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday July 1  | 5:30 p.m. – Doug Martin                                                 |
| Sunday July 2    | 8:00 a.m. – David Brakenbush & Bud Helgen<br>10:30 a.m. – Tom Frerichs  |
| Saturday July 8  | 5:30 p.m. – David Brakenbush                                            |
| Sunday July 9    | 8:00 a.m. – Gary Meyers<br>10:30 a.m. – Allan Spelbring & Kyle Frerichs |
| Saturday July 15 | 5:30 p.m. – Doug Martin                                                 |
| Sunday July 16   | 8:00 a.m. – Allan Spelbring & Brad Bowles<br>10:30 a.m. – Paul Frerichs |
| Saturday July 22 | 5:30 p.m. – Allan Spelbring                                             |
| Sunday July 23   | 8:00 a.m. – Paul Frerichs<br>10:30 a.m. – Bud Helgen & Gary Meyers      |
| Saturday July 29 | 5:30 p.m. – Doug Martin                                                 |
| Sunday July 30   | 8:00 a.m. – Kyle Frerichs & Tom Frerichs<br>10:30 a.m. – Brad Bowles    |



Miss Jami Pryor, principal of Zion Lutheran School, was recently presented her School Leadership Endorsement from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). She began the year-long program in June of 2022 and received leadership training designed specifically for school leaders serving in Lutheran schools and was mentored by two well-respected administrators, including Dr. Alan Freeman, the national director of LCMS schools. Miss Pryor began teaching at Zion in 1999 and has been principal since April of 2022.

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CHURCH NEWSLETTER: Do you know someone who is not getting the newsletter and would like to receive it? If so, please let office know so we can update our mail list.

Did you know you can receive your newsletter through E-mail? If you have an email and would like to sign up call the church office at 217-324-2033 or send email to

[churchsecretary@zionlutheranlitchfield.com](mailto:churchsecretary@zionlutheranlitchfield.com). Doing this saves on material cost as it's not using paper, ink, and stamps. It ensures that you get your newsletter right away, no waiting. You can always go back to your email to review information, so no more misplacing it or throwing it away. The news letter is also posted on our Church website every month. Visit [www.zionlutheranlitchfield.com](http://www.zionlutheranlitchfield.com) and choose newsletter under Church tab.

# ***STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE***

## **Go ... Sell All You Have?**

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What’s more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth. Don’t let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry

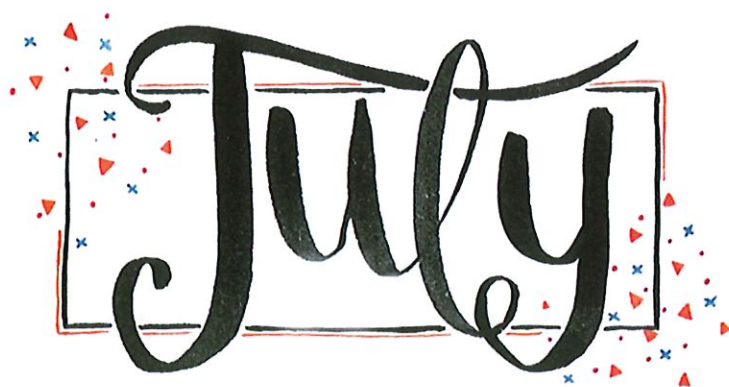
July 2023

| Sun                                                                                       | Mon                                          | Tue                                                                                | Wed | Thu                                                                     | Fri | Sat                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
|                                                                                           |                                              |                                                                                    |     |                                                                         |     | 1<br>5:30pm Worship-<br>Trad/Comm  |
| 2<br>8:00am Worship-<br>Trad/Comm<br>9:15am Bible Study<br>10:30am Worship-Trad.          | 3                                            | 4<br>6:00pm Mission &<br>Evangelism                                                | 5   | 6<br>9:15am Berean Bible<br>Study<br>7:00pm Elders<br>6:30pm Ladies Aid | 7   | 8<br>5:30pm Worship-Trad           |
| 9<br>8:00am Worship-Trad<br>9:15am Bible Study<br>10:30am Worship-<br>Contemp/Comm        | 10                                           | 11<br>5:30pm School Board                                                          | 12  | 13<br>9:15am Berean Bible<br>Study<br>6:30pm Church Council             | 14  | 15<br>5:30pm Worship-<br>Trad/Comm |
| 16<br>8:00am Worship-<br>Trad/Comm<br>9:15am Bible Study<br>10:30am Worship-<br>Contemp.  | 17                                           | 18                                                                                 | 19  | 20<br>9:15am Berean Bible<br>Study                                      | 21  | 22<br>5:30pm Worship-Trad          |
| <b>Congregational Meeting</b>                                                             |                                              |                                                                                    |     |                                                                         |     |                                    |
| 23<br>8:00am Worship-Trad/<br>9:15am Bible Study<br>10:30am Worship-<br>Trad/Comm         | 24<br><b>NEWSLETTER<br/>ARTICLE DEADLINE</b> | 25                                                                                 | 26  | 27<br>9:15am Berean Bible<br>Study                                      | 28  | 29<br>5:30pm Worship-<br>Trad/Comm |
| 30<br>8:00am Worship-<br>Trad/Comm<br>9:15am Bible Study<br>10:30am Worship-<br>Trad/Comm | 31                                           |  |     |                                                                         |     |                                    |
|                                                                                           |                                              |                                                                                    |     |                                                                         |     |                                    |

## *Birthdays*

- 1 Avery Barcum
- 3 Jace Fuchs  
Brian Niemann  
Lyndsy Winstead
- 5 Matthew Rovey
- 7 Timberleigh Everett  
Robert Hermsmeyer  
Angela Johnson  
Edward Purdy
- 8 Nancy Black
- 9 Amanda Gerdes  
Korbin Johnson
- 11 Susan Gartner  
Lindsey Bedinger  
Andrea Gordon  
Doug Martin  
MaKenzie Westhoff
- 12 Cheryl Frerichs  
Kimberly Stinnett  
Mary Westhoff
- 13 Doris Cunningham  
Leanne Kruse  
Henry Webb  
Meg Wertin
- 14 Shirley Helgen
- 15 Karen Presnell
- 19 Hope Brackenhoff
- 20 Tish Spelbring  
Lois Volentine
- 21 Kimberly Monke  
Jean Salzman
- 22 Rachel Helgen  
Joyce Williams
- 23 Barbara Grosenheider  
Earl Schmidt
- 24 Kaden Brown  
Karen Webb  
Joyce Frederick  
Ryder Wertin  
James Wreath
- 25 Shelley Bergman
- 26 Brad Saxby
- 27 Jackson Niehaus  
Mariana Pence
- 29 Jack Butcher  
Steven Dougherty
- 30 Piper Logsdon  
Adam Pennock
- 31 Diane Grosenheider

Katherine White



## *Anniversaries*

- 1 Bill and Georgia Hull  
Michael and Elizabeth Logsdon
- 3 Dennis and Donna Yokley  
Robert and Mary Lou Allen
- 7 Earl and Barbara Schmidt
- 12 Matthew and Janine Belcher
- 14 Tyler and Kimberly Helgen
- 15 Devin and Lindsey Bedinger
- 16 Karol and David DeWerff
- 21 Dacia and Brian Brown
- 23 Brad and Risa Falter
- 27 Lloyd and Karen Lueker
- 31 Marci and Kevin Aherin

## *Altar Flowers and Bulletins*

Sign-up sheets continue to be out on the table in the Narthex during Church services. You may also call the church office Tues -Thurs between 9am & 1pm to sign up.

**Flowers are \$25 and checks can be made payable to: Zion Ladies Aid**  
**Bulletins are \$10 and checks can be made payable to: Zion Lutheran Church**

We ask that payments be made at the time of sign up, or soon thereafter.

Payments may be placed in the church collection plate, or left in the office basket located above the church mailboxes in the hallway.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

- Jer. 26:16-24
- Psalm 150
- Acts 15:36-16:10

# JULY 2023

1

- Jer. 27:1-11
- Psalm 1
- Acts 16:11-24

- Jer. 27:12-22
- Psalm 2
- Acts 16:25-40

- Jer. 28
- Psalm 3
- Acts 17:1-9

- Jer. 29:1-23
- Psalm 4
- Acts 17:10-21

- Jer. 29:24-32
- Psalm 5
- Acts 17:22-34

- Jer. 30
- Psalm 6
- Acts 18:1-17

- Jer. 31:1-22
- Psalm 7
- Acts 18:18-28

2

- Jer. 31:23-40
- Psalm 8
- Acts 19:1-10

- Jer. 32:1-15
- Psalm 9
- Acts 19:11-20

- Jer. 32:16-35
- Psalm 10
- Acts 19:21-41

- Jer. 32:36-44
- Psalm 11
- Acts 20:1-16

- Jer. 33:1-13
- Psalm 12
- Acts 20:17-38

- Jer. 33:14-26
- Psalm 13
- Acts 21:1-16

- Jer. 34
- Psalm 14
- Acts 21:17-26

8

9

- Jer. 35
- Psalm 15
- Acts 21:27-36

- Jer. 36
- Psalm 16
- Acts 21:37-22:5

- Jer. 37:1-10
- Psalm 17
- Acts 22:6-21

- Jer. 37:11-38:6
- Psalm 18:1-30
- Acts 22:22-29

- Jer. 38:7-28
- Psalm 18:31-50
- Acts 22:30-23:11

- Jer. 39:1-10
- Psalm 19
- Acts 23:12-22

- Jer. 39:11-18
- Psalm 20
- Acts 23:23-35

15

16

- Jer. 40
- Psalm 21
- Acts 24

- Jer. 41
- Psalm 22
- Acts 25:1-12

- Jer. 42
- Psalm 23
- Acts 25:13-27

- Jer. 43
- Psalm 24
- Acts 26:1-11

- Jer. 44:1-19
- Psalm 25
- Acts 26:12-32

- Jer. 44:20-30
- Psalm 26
- Acts 27:1-12

- Jer. 45
- Psalm 27
- Acts 27:13-38

22

23

- Jer. 46
- Psalm 28
- Acts 27:39-44

- Jer. 47
- Psalm 29
- Acts 28:1-10

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

&lt; JUNE 2023

AUGUST 2023 &gt;



Other staff will be in sporadically over the summer.  
Please utilize emails or our answering machine  
service on days  
staff are not available and we will return your  
message at our earliest convenience.

**Summer Office Hours**  
Monday - Closed  
Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Friday - Closed

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

Rev. Fred Kraemer, Pastor  
Miss Jami Pryor, Principal

**July 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