

The Messenger

A newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church ~ Ottawa Lake, MI

January 2020

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Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast



On January 11, 2020, we will begin our Lutheran Men Monthly breakfast. Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. We will have a hot breakfast, devotion, and a Bible study. **Please come and feel free to invite a friend or neighbor.** It would be great to see you there!

Zion Lutheran Church Council

We will have our monthly Church Council Meeting after church on January 19, 2020.

Women of Zion

On January 27, 2020, the Women of Zion will have their monthly meeting at 2:00 p.m.



We will begin to have a Movie Night on January 24, 2020. We will meet at 6:30 for a light supper and then will watch a movie. If you don't drive at night, pastor will be happy to pick you up so that you can attend. The first movie that we will watch is called, "WAR ROOM,." If you have not seen this movie, it will be one that you don't want to miss.

Here is a little information about War Room



A seemingly perfect family looks to fix their problems with the help of Miss Clara, an older, wiser woman. Filled with heart, humor, and wit, **WAR ROOM** follows Tony and Elizabeth Jordan, a couple who seemingly have it all—great jobs, a beautiful daughter, their dream home. But appearances can be deceiving.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

LCMC ~ LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION FOR CHRIST

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CUSTODIAN AND ORGANIST~ JOSEPH EXTEJT

For Your Information

The following members give of their time to the leadership of this congregation. Please keep them in your prayers. If you have any questions, comments, or offers of help, please contact them.

Chairman: Dwight Gilliland

Secretary: Connie Sieler

Treasurer: Dennis Reitzel

Financial: Ron Clark

Elders: Ron Vincent and Lee Edignton

Deacons: Ben Schmidt and Bruce Ahleman



LCMC ~ WHO WE ARE

**Free in Christ + Accountable to One Another + Rooted in Scripture
and the Lutheran Confessions + Committed to the Great
Commission**

Prayers Are Important

If you have an occasion to request a prayer, please call the church office. If you would like your request to be on our prayer chain, please call Sandy Brady (419) 410-9380 or Pastor Jeff at the church or on his cell phone (785)340-5635.

Please Inform the Church Office. . .

- *when a member of your family is ill or hospitalized or if they are discharged or moved to another facility.
- *when your address changes.
- *when a new baby arrives.
- *when a family member marries or leaves home for college, or military
- *when planning a wedding to be conducted at Zion.
- *when a new family moves into your neighborhood.
- *when you are planning to be out of town.
- *when a brother or sister in Christ needs a visit from Pastor.



OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2020

Offering Envelopes are available for 2020. If you did not receive a box of envelopes for the New Year and want credit for your offerings for tax purposes in 2020, please contact Sandy Brady.

From the desk of Pastor Geske....

Greetings to you in the name of Christ! 2020 will be here soon or may be it is already here as you read this newsletter. In this new year, we will all have 2020 maybe not in vision, but it is a new year. Another year to experience and to live the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that as we serve our Lord in this New Year, we would again commit ourselves to fulfilling the call of Christ and the mission of our church, which is to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus. I ask you to challenge yourself to find new ways to be involved in the mission of our congregation. For some, a good goal would be to be in worship every Sunday. For some, a goal might be to increase your offerings. It could also be attending a Bible study, offering to have a Bible study for 6-8 weeks in your home, or start a small group Bible study that would meet once or twice a month throughout the year? Yes, my prayer for our congregation is that all of us would seek new opportunities to be serving and growing in God's Word and His family here at Zion.

I am thankful to God that He has called me to serve as an under-shepherd of the Good Shepherd in the LCMC and this congregation. I rejoice in the ministry that has happened and I pray that will continue to happen here at Zion. I came across these words on the LCMS website, but I believe they speak to our congregations in the LCMC. Reflect with me on these words., "Being 'Lutheran,' our congregations accept and teach Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther that inspired the reformation of the Christian Church in the 16th century. The teaching of Luther and the reformers can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone. **Grace alone:** God loves the people of the world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him and do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly. **Faith alone:** By His suffering and death as the substitute for all people of all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for them. Those who hear this Good News and believe it have the eternal life that it offers. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him. **Scripture alone:** The Bible is God's inerrant and infallible Word, in which He reveals His Law and His Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the sole rule and norm for Christian doctrine."

As you begin this new year and focus on how you can be more involved in our ministry together, I pray that you would live the message of grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone in your life as God's child. What a joy to know as Christians that with Christ there is forgiveness, hope and the certainty of eternal life! The joy of knowing that we did not chose Christ, He chose us to know, trust, and to live His love and forgiveness. Remember it is not because we gotta, but because we get to. What joy to serve the Lord and to grow in His awesome love and forgiveness. Yes, I look forward to seeing you in God's house in this New Year.

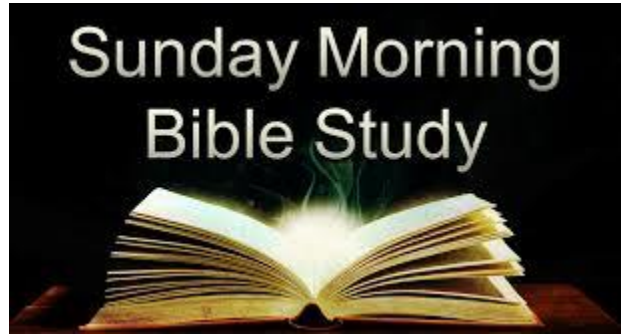
In Christ,
Pastor Jeffrey D. Geske

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Please come and join our interesting study of the Word of God!

Why Join A Bible Study By Peter Krol

1. To get to know people
2. To learn about the Bible
3. To support my church or the people in the study
4. To sit under a gifted leader
5. To be a part of something great
6. To make new friends, or to deepen existing friendships
7. To be in a supportive environment
8. To build a tightly knit community
9. To develop more theological insight or biblical understanding
10. To grow as a Christian



Let me repeat: these reasons are all good. We should have Bible studies for reasons like these. But let's keep the best reason front and center. The good reasons are good only when they serve the best reason. What is the best reason?

To know God through his Son Jesus Christ

THANK YOU, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF PEACE

- *Thank you to all who decorated the church for Advent and Christmas
- *Thank you to those who provided special music for the past year.
- *Thank you to all of you for attending the celebration of our Lord's birth and for sharing with everyone that Jesus is the Savior of the world.
- *Thank you to everyone for making the celebration of our Lord's birth so special.

Thank You

We would like to thank the congregation for all of the kindness and love that we received this Christmas. Your love and support are greatly appreciated!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Geske, Sandy Brady, and Joseph Extejt

Newsletter Article – January 2020



Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ],” St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His “yes” to you, but others will find it, too, through

you. "But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).

(--From the LCMS website)

WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS

From Luther's Small Catechism **BAPTISM**

First

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." [Matt. 28:19]



Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church

"The Lutheran Hour," which began in 1930, is now heard on more than 1,300 radio stations around the world. "The Lutheran Hour," hosted by Dr. Rev. Michael Zeigler, is the world's oldest continually-broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program proclaims the message of Jesus Christ to all

people and serves as a bridge, linking them to the Church. Listen to the Lutheran Hour on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at FM 99.5 KAWZ or AM 1560 WWYC or anytime at www.lhm.org

January 2020

January 5

"Mercy In This Dojo"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

New Series

(Genesis 37)

January 19

"Unforgettable"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy

New Series

(Genesis 40:1-23)

January 12

"People are Treasure"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

New Series

(Genesis 39)

January 26

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

New Series



THRIVENT NEWS . . .

If you would like more information about Thrivent, its products, or its fraternal functions, please contact our area representative Greg Durivage in Maumee, OH at (419)-740-4193.

If you are a Thrivent Member, please consider using a Thrivent Action Team to support our ministry here at Zion..

What is a Thrivent Action Team? Thrivent Action Teams make it easy to live generously. Thrivent provides promotional resources and seed money to jump-start your fundraiser, educational event or service project. Your team provides the people power to bring it to life.



It' Time!!! Direct Your Choice Dollars!



If you're a Thrivent Financial member, you may be eligible to participate in Thrivent Choice® and recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's 2020 charitable outreach funds go. The deadline to direct Choice Dollars® is March 31!

Here's what to do:

1. Call 1-800-THRIVENT or visit the Thrivent Financial website to find out if you have Dollars you are eligible to direct.
2. To direct Choice Dollars® to Zion Lutheran Church. you can do so online or over the phone – but you must direct Choice Dollars® by March 31st!



Food Bank~

Thank you for your generous help with our Food Bank. If you have any question or would like to help in any way, please contact Rick Keck at (734) 854-4710. The Food Bank serves families and individuals on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Home Visits Please sign up for Pastor Jeff to visit you. Over the next several months, Pastor Jeff will be making home visits to get to know our members better. Please be open for a home visit and sign up at church.



Some Thoughts on the New Year

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have -- these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to wish Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to the following individuals who are celebrating this December. If you are not listed or you know someone not listed, please contact Sandy Brady or Pastor Jeff.

- 4 Chad Gilliland
- 18 Amber Aman
- 21 John Rittner
- 30 Samantha Junkins



We wish the following couples a very Happy Anniversary!

January 7~ Curt and Beck Aman

January 28 ~ Melvin and Connie Sieler

Flowers on the Altar ~ If you would like to place flowers, please sign up in the hallway by the restrooms.

For the Month of December, the following have signed up:

- 5. Ron and Shirley Clark
- 12.
- 19.
- 26. Melvin and Connie Sieler



Community Rewards Program

Do you shop at Kroger? If you do, you can sign up for their Community Rewards Program and Kroger will give back to Zion money every quarter. Go on Kroger's website and sign up under Community Rewards. If you need help or don't have an email address check with Pastor Jeff. (*Our code is NC512*)

