ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWS

MAY 2015

Highlights In This Issue

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Birthdays and Anniversaries
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School & Church Calendars

SUMMER SERVICE TIMES BEGIN MAY 24, 2015

Sunday 1st Service
8:00 am
Sunday 2nd Service
10:30 am
Monday Service Time
7:00 pm

"What Does the Holy Spirit Do For Us?"

Scriptural answers to questions people often wonder about Christianity.

A famous doctor once conducted a series of autopsies in which he made a stunning observation. Here is how it happened. He had carefully examined the body of a convicted murderer when he noticed a connection to the body of a convicted thief. The two individuals had the exact same internal problem. It got a little crazier. He went back over the notes from a few other cases and he discovered that a few more bodies had the same internal problem. But it didn't stop there. He went back over all his cases and, regardless of the person's background, all of the people had that same internal problem. The doctor shared his findings in a book which is still the top-selling book of all time.

Do you want to know what the connection was between all of those people? They all had heart problems. You have probably heard the name of the doctor. His name is Jesus. Jesus once pointed out (Mark 7) that all evil thoughts and actions come from within the heart. When someone cuts you off on the highway and your first reaction is NOT to smile and wave, it comes from within the heart. When someone hurts your feelings and you want to hurt them back, it comes from within the heart. When you say something in anger that you immediately want to take back, it comes from within the heart.

That is the problem. So what is the solution? One man said it well, "Create in me a pure heart, O God" (Psalm 51:10). We need new and pure hearts and God is the only one who can create them. This is where the work of God the Holy Spirit comes in. He uses something sharper than a surgeon's scalpel to penetrate and change the heart. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God. Like a skilled surgeon, the Holy Spirit cuts deeply in order to heal divinely. The Holy Spirit uses that Word of God to teach us that the "blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:17). The Holy Spirit uses that Word of God to change the heart so that it beats with faith and hope and love. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God so that it pours out joy, peace, patience, kindness, and goodness. Thank the Holy Spirit for your new heart!

For more Questions & Answers, go to www.WhatAboutJesus.com, then *Questioning God*.

COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. The Coordinating Council met on April 14, 2015, and opened with devotion.
2. Pastor's Report: At the recommendation of the Elder's Board, the following members were released from membership at Zion Lutheran Church: Scott & Charlene Stevenson, Joel Palmer, Devin Wilcoxson, Monica Silva, Tracy & Jody Hedrich, and Chad Goodrich. Additionally, the following members requested and were granted a transfer to Mt. Sinai Lutheran church in Montrose: Doug & Paula Schlorf, as well as Shane & Marissa Schlorf along with their children, Jaxson and MaKenna.

3. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS

- Financial secretary Kevin MacNeill reported that we are $11,800.00 under budget this year with poor February offerings and adequate March offerings.
- Church treasurer Robert Wille reported that Zion is $25,000.00 behind in making pension payments.
- School Board Chairman Jim Emmendorfer reported that planning of the school calendar is taking shape, and shared a list of items to be accomplished on the annual Clean-Up day on April 19, 2015.
- Elder's Board chairman Steve Lane discussed the upcoming outdoor service and recent member visits.
- Property Board: No report from Chairman Ray Klipper.
- Evangelism Board: No report from Chairman Clayton Kaufmann.
- Family Ministry Board: No report from Chairman Brian Rohac.
- Adult Discipleship Board: No report from Chairman Tom Hoover.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- **Heating and Cooling:** Official blueprints are coming soon!
- **Electronic Giving:** The system is live and set up on the church website.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- **Budget Committee:** The Council agreed that an additional $1,500 should be added to the office supplies section of the budget for software, bring next year's budget to roughly $292,000.00, which is $11,000 more than last year.
- **Church Picnic and Outdoor Service:** The Council decided that Zion will celebrate 8th grade graduation on May 31, 2015.
- **Clean-Up Day:** The annual Clean-Up Day has been scheduled for Sunday, April 19, 2015 with a rain day of Sunday, April 26, 2015. The Council will also plan a meal for the workers.
- **Future of Christian Education:** The men from Christ Lutheran Church in Oakley would like to meet again. Pastor Thomford will continue to converse with them on this topic.
- **Vicar Program:** Pastor Thomford explained that there is a possible chance to get a vicar in the future.
- **Concealed Weapons Policy:** The Council suggested enacting a policy similar to a policy that Hope Lutheran Church utilizes. This was tabled until the May meeting.
- **Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting is currently scheduled for Sunday, June 14, 2015. A meal will be provided. Discussion will include the adoption og the 2015-2016 budget and the replacement of a window in Karen Thomford's classroom for $900.00.
- **2015 Annual Report:** Work has begun on the Annual Report. Please have all reports to the church office by May 1, 2015.
- **District Convention:** The Michigan district convention will be from noon on Monday, June 8, 2015—noon on Wednesday, June 10, 2015. The Council needs someone from Zion to serve as a delegate.

6. The meeting closed with Luther's Evening Prayer.

WOMEN SERVING CHRIST MEETING MINUTES

- Women Serving Christ met on April 21, 2015.
- Pastor opened with a devotion called "I Am the Light of the World". God's Word gives us the light of faith and leads us out of the darkness of unbelief and sin.
- The Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Constitution:** Changes to the Women Serving Christ constitution were made and approved.
- **Easter Breakfast:** Around 70 people attended, and both preparation and clean-up went very smoothly.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **LWMS Elections:** Jean Devereaux led voting for the different positions on the national LWMS boards, as well as cast votes for the proposed home and world missions that LWMS will focus on for the next year.
- **Spa Night:** All attendees made three do-it-yourself spa products out of things that are commonly found at home: A foot soak, lip scrub, and lemon-raspberry hand scrub. A good time was had by all!

Present: Terry Barancik (President), Thelma Parshall (Treasurer), Jean Devereaux (LWMS Reporter), Katie Augustine, (Secretary) Mona Jean Allen, Kaylene VanWagner, Priscilla Bleisner, Kim Schoch, Christine Roach, Paula Huggard, Barbara Kukulis, and Harriet Kukulis.

FINANCIAL NEWS

FUND SUMMARY ANALYSIS MARCH 2015

$29,750.49	March 2015 Offerings
-$3,053.00	minus memorials and non-budget offerings
$26,697.49	Offerings to pay 2014-2015 budget
$5,339.50	Offerings per week, 5 Sundays/ 4 Lenten
$5,328.00	Offerings per week needed to pay budget
$2.30	Over/needed per week in March 2015

YEAR TO DATE OFFERINGS

$209,370.05	July 1,2014 through March 31, 2015
-$13,383.82	minus memorials and non-budget offerings
$195,986.23	Offerings to pay 2014-2015 budget
$5,025.29	Offerings per 39 Sundays
-$5,328.00	minus needed to meet budget
$302.71	Under budget per week
$11,805.69	Under budget for 39 Sundays

OFFERING STATISTICS

April 2, 2015
$712.00

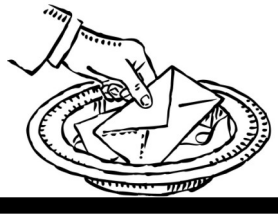
April 3, 2015
$2,929.40

April 5, 2015
$9,309.00

April 12, 2015
$4,080.57

April 19, 2015
$6,295.07

April 26, 2015
$4,252.95



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Russell Dones	5/1
Vickie Klipper	5/2
Mary Lynn Jordan	5/4
Wendy Neumeyer	5/4
Alexander Agnew	5/5
Bradley Agnew	5/5
Harriet Kukulis	5/6
Nicholas Archibald	5/9
Loretta Wille	5/9
Laura Schoch	5/10
Michelle Spolarich	5/10
Lucas Jensen	5/13
Joselyn Emmendorfer	5/17
Yvonne Neumeyer	5/17
Ronald Palmer	5/17
William Hedrich	5/18
Clifton Deming	5/19
Mary Burk	5/20
Caleb Wyant	5/22
Sarah Wyant	5/22
Rhonda Bleisner	5/23
Cynthia Cicalo	5/23
Ian Coon	5/25
Slade List	5/26
Christine Roach	5/26
Thomas Sevech	5/27
Michael Cicalo I	5/28
Joan Rieder	5/31

No May Anniversaries to Report

If your May birthday or anniversary was not listed in this issue, it means we don't have that information in our computer. Please contact the church office with the appropriate information and we will gladly update our records. Thank you!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

PASTOR THOMFORD RETURNS DIVINE CALL: After deliberation and prayer, I was led by the Holy Spirit to return the Divine Call to serve the saints of God in Caledonia and continue to serve the saints of God here at Zion in Chesaning. I know that many of you offered your advice and for that I was very thankful. Most of all, thank you for your prayers as I weighed this difficult decision. I am firmly convinced that the Lord of Church, Jesus Christ wants me to serve you, the members of Zion, and work together with you as we spread the name of Jesus to our community and to the world. My prayer is that Jesus would now fill us with fresh enthusiasm and joy in doing his work! Your shepherd under the Good Shepherd, Pastor Joel W. Thomford

SPRING CLEAN-UP RECAP: About 30 people attending the Zion annual Spring Clean-Up day on Sunday, April 19, 2015. Because of their hard work, the carpets at church were cleaned, a trench was dug at school for the installation of new spotlights for the school sign, gardens were weeded and raked, a new projector was mounted in Mrs. Mose's classroom, and work was started to repaint the school pavilion, among other things. The volunteers celebrated their hard work with a delicious potluck afterward. Thank you to all who donated their time or food to help with this event! You make our school and church look great.

ZION ALL SING ON MOTHER'S DAY: All of our Sunday School children and Lutheran Elementary School children will be singing for Mother's Day on May 10, 2015 in the 10:30 am service. Sunday School children will receive copies of the song in Sunday School and will also begin practicing the song.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: On May 15, 2015, it will be Zion Lutheran School's turn to host the annual Mid-Michigan Small School Track Meet at Michigan Lutheran Seminary's track (4332 N. Mackinaw, Saginaw). The school is especially in need of concession stand help. Volunteers would work two-hour shifts. If you are hoping to see a child or grandchild participate in an event during your scheduled time slot, you can still go watch them compete. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby for those willing and able to assist Zion in hosting this event! If you would be further willing to help with running events, handing out ribbons, or any other part of the track meet, please contact Mr. Augustine at 920.327.9613. Thank you!

SCHOOL PLAY: On Wednesday, May 20, 2015, Zion Lutheran School will be performing their annual school play at the Peet Center in Chesaning. The play, entitled "Dig It," follows a pair of explorers as they adventure through time and learn about ancient civilizations. Make plans to attend this exciting event and see all the hard work the children have put in to make the play a success!

SUMMER SERVICE TIMES: Please mark on your calendars that our summer service schedule will begin at the end of May. Starting on Sunday, May 24, 2015, there will be no coffee hour or Sunday School. Instead of the second service beginning at 10:30am, it will begin at 10:00 am. Additionally, weeknight services will be offered during summer months on Monday nights at 7:00 pm for those that are out of town. Monday services will always repeat the previous Sundays sermon. On both Memorial and Labor Day, services will be held on the Tuesday after the holiday at 7:00 pm.

PASTOR THOMFORD OUT OF TOWN: Pastor and Karen Thomford will be in Minnesota from May 13-17, 2015 to attend their son Hans Thomford's graduation from Martin Luther College. Pastor Fred Zimmerman, a retired WELS pastor, will serve as the gues preacher on Sunday, May 17, 2015.

8TH GRADE GRADUATION & CHURCH PICNIC: On Sunday, May 31, 2015, Zion Lutheran Church will celebrate the graduation of this year's 8th grade students, Laura Schoch and Matthew Emmendorfer. Zion will also hold its annual church picnic at 12:00 pm at the pavilion on the grounds of Zion Lutheran School.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As Zion Lutheran School finishes its 32nd school year, we rejoice that students at Zion work in an atypical environment. What truly makes us different is that our discipline is based in law and gospel so that students not only recognize the seriousness of their sin, but also that Christ died for us despite those embarrassing moments. Our school is unlike the rest not because we are perfect, but because we see ministry opportunities when our students are disciplined. We preach Christ crucified. Students that are graduating this May have spent three years in my classroom and nearly a decade at Zion, and I pray that as they journey away from our atypical school, they take away these three lessons:

First of all, academically, students can accomplish much by applying willpower to their God-given abilities. A well-known video in my classroom is of a research study done decades ago testing the willpower of preschoolers. The test, named the "marshmallow test", began with a scientist who placed a marshmallow in front of a preschooler in an empty room and told the child that if he/she could avoid eating the food for fifteen minutes, the child would be given *two* marshmallows to eat. The results? Two-thirds of young children ate the marshmallow before the fifteen minutes ended; many of them ate it instantly after the researcher left the room. Researchers talked to these children later in life, and found that **100% of the children who ignored the urge to eat a marshmallow were "successful".** The students had made friends, were faithful students, and stayed out of legal trouble. My point? God has given us many gifts. Some of us are even unbelievably talented academically, but willpower and focus may be the most important skills you will use when you are tempted to skip studying, cheat, or slack on the job. I hope our students have learned academic willpower at Zion.

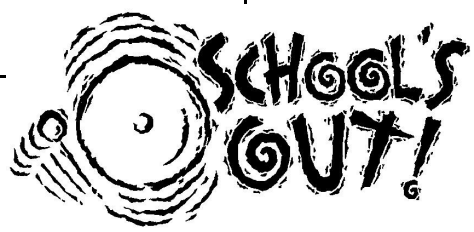
Next, socially, students can learn much from watching their peers. It has been said that eighty percent of what a student learns is learned by purely watching others. The same logic could be applied to growing socially. Not only is it wise to learn from those around you, but also learn from the mistakes of those around you. If a friend learns a hard lesson and pays the price, hopefully you also can learn not to replicate that action. I hope our student have learned to not make the same mistakes as those around them.

Finally, spiritually, students can continue to grow and live their faith as they recognize ***God's lack of fairness***. Life is not fair, and it is at those times that we must realize that we are saved by God's lack of fairness. Jesus taking our punishment and suffering a brutal death is the biggest injustice this world has ever seen! My hope for our graduates this year is that they weather the spiritual storms in their life with the understanding that God is wiser and more powerful than any being in our world, and his teachings remain true today and forevermore. May God continue to bless the ministry of Zion Lutheran Church and School!

Below are news and events from Zion Lutheran School

- **Congratulations 8th graders–** Zion Lutheran School's faculty would like to congratulate Matthew Emmendorfer and Laura Schoch on their ensuing confirmation and graduation. Both are talented students who will accomplish much in their future studies. God's blessings to you both!
- **Soccer Camp –** Dates have been set for this summer's Bible/soccer camp at Zion Lutheran. Save space on your calendar for the week of August 3-7, 2015, and watch for online registration so that your child can receive a free t-shirt for registering early!

SCHOOL CALENDAR — MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 **3:00 pm** Faculty Meeting	5	6 **Hot Lunch Menu** Pizza, bread sticks, fresh fruit, sundaes	7	1/8 **9:30 am** C.M.L.A.L Grades 5-8 Track meet	2/9
10 **Confirmation Sunday** **10:30 am** Zion All Sing **Mother's Day**	11	12 **6:30 pm** Board of Education Meeting	13 **Hot Lunch Menu** Spaghetti, garlic toast, fruit, floats	14	15 **8:45 am** Mid-Michigan Small School Track Meet at MLS	16
17	18	19	**Hot Lunch Menu** 20 Nuggets, mac & cheese, fruit. popsicles **7:00 pm** School Play, "Dig It"	21 **Grades 4-8 Field Trip**	22	23
24	25 **Memorial Day** **NO SCHOOL**	26 **K-4 Field Trip to Splash Village**	27	28	29 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**	30
31 **10:30 am** Grades K-8 sing Zion Graduation						

CHURCH CALENDAR — MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:25 am Teen & Adult Bible Class 10:30 am Worship	4 **9:00 am** Odd Job Club **6:00—7:30 pm** Public School Catechism Class	5 **7:00 pm** Evangelism Committee Meeting	6	7	1/8	2/9
ASCENSION SUNDAY 10 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:25 am Teen & Adult Bible Class 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion Zion LES & SS students in K-8th sing	11 **6:00—7:30 pm** Public School Catechism Class	12 **6:30 pm** School, Property, & Elder's Board Meeting **8:00pm** Coordinating Council	13 **PASTOR THOMFORD IN MINNESOTA**	14	15	16
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 17 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:25 am Teen Bible Class 10:30 am Worship **PASTOR THOMFORD IN MINNESOTA**	18 **6:00—7:30 pm** Public School Catechism Class	19 **7:00 pm** Women Serving Christ	20 **7:00 pm** Zion Lutheran School Play, "Dig It"	21	22	23
FESTIVAL OF PENTECOST 24 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:25 am Teen & Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship	25 	26 **7:00 pm** Worship	27	28	29	30
TRINITY SUNDAY/GRADUATION 31 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:25 am Teen & Adult Bible Class 10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 12:00 pm Church Picnic at school						

PLEASE NOTE

Sunday May 24, 2015 will be the first Sunday of summer service times. Services will now be held at 8:00 and 10:00 am.

MAY

1st Service Deacons: M. Hook, L. Thiel, B. Rohac **1st Service Usher:** C. Hook
2nd Service Deacons: D. Archibald, R. Peterson, R. Birchmeier, J. Ruthig
Counters: 3 Donovan, 10 T&R Bleisner, 14 P & P Bleisner (Thursday), 17 Mose/Schoch, 24 MacNeill/ Mose, 26 Huggard/Klipper (Tuesday) 31 Borucki
Office Helpers: M.J. Allen, T. Parshall **Trash Removal:** R. Klipper **Flower Committee:** Lori Lane

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod (WELS)
133 Commercial Street
Chesaning, MI 48616

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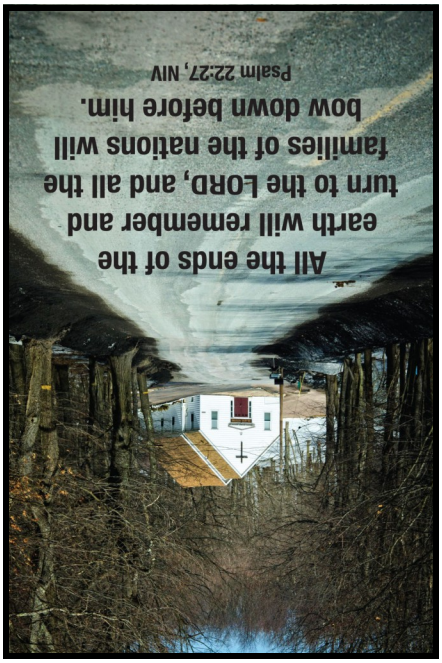

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May 2015

He was taken up to **heaven.**
ACTS 1:2