

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# Zion Chronicle

September  
2018



Welcome to Zion's NEW newsletter!

We hope you will enjoy having something different. Sit back and relax and incorporate God's word into your daily life.



Dear Church Family,

Where did summer go? Wow, it comes and goes faster with every passing year! hmmm . . . I must be getting older. In just a few days we will be starting the fall programs at Zion. We have lots of activities, Bible studies, and other events for you to participate, so check this newly designed newsletter, along with the additional information in the weekly announcements, Facebook and Zion's website. Don't say I didn't know about this or that, we are working hard to keep you informed and invited! Our biggest event is the kick-off of the Christian Education year with our grand rally day celebration on Sunday, September 9. Information about what is happening is in this newly titled newsletter "Zion Chronicle!" Lord's gracious blessing to you and your family!

To God be the Glory!

Pastor Matt

*"Sowing the Good News of Jesus Christ"*



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

924 Bridge Ave.  
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Phone: 507-373-8609  
E-mail: [zion@zion4jesus.org](mailto:zion@zion4jesus.org)  
Web: [zion4jesus.org](http://zion4jesus.org)

# Ladies Society

A few years ago, a number of women from the Ladies Society decided that they were tired of baking, but there was a dilemma. So many great projects had to be eliminated without the funds that the bake sales provided. Thus came the bake less bake sale. Through the generosity of Zion's women, all their good work has continued. Please note the envelopes placed in your mailboxes for any contribution you can afford.

Mark September 15 on your calendar for the LWML Fall Owatonna Fall Rally hosted by Zion's women from 9-12 with registration from 8:30-9. A brunch will be served. The speaker will be Monica Groves, mission advancement director of the Dwelling Place in the Twin Cities. It is designed as a safe place for battered women and children helping them with their immediate needs and also working to break the generational problems of poverty and abuse. The ingathering will provide basic household supplies. Check the list of needed supplies on the bulletin board. The cost for registration which includes brunch is \$10.

## **LWML Mission Grants 2018**

### **Lutheran High School Education Tuition Assistance**

**\$54,000**

Northrop Martin Lutheran High School, Winona Hope Lutheran High School, Mayer Lutheran High School and Roseville Concordia Lutheran High School provides tuition assistance for needy families who prefer their children to attend a Lutheran High School and receive the education centered around Christ. Lutheran Schools provide training to the next generation for Christian leadership. The students learn through God's Word to grow in their faith and share that faith with others long after graduation. The funds of this grant will be disbursed between the four schools. Each school will receive \$13,000. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, the righteous shall live by faith."* Romans 1:16-17

**Hannah Circle**  
**Sept. 4th at 9:30 am @ Zion**  
**Phyllis Bonfy and Pam Brown**

**Martha Circle**  
**Sept. 4th at 1:00 pm @ Home of Linda Sash**

**Ruth Circle**  
**Sept. 4th at 7:00 pm @ Home of Kelly Schultz**  
**Those needing a ride,**  
**carpool from church @ 6:30 pm**

**Ladies Executive Board**  
**Sept. 24th @ 3:30pm**



**Check out the LWML Websites.**  
The National LWML Website: [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)  
The LWML Minnesota South District Website:  
[www.lwml.mnslwml.org](http://www.lwml.mnslwml.org)

## Readings for September

### **Sept. 2 The Fifteenth Sun. after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9  
Psalm 119:129-136  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
Mark 7:14-23

### **Sept. 9 The Sixteenth Sun. after Pentecost**

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Psalm 146  
James 2:1-10, 14-18  
Mark 7:(24-30) 31-37

### **Sept. 16 The Seventeenth Sun. after Pent.**

Isaiah 50:4-10  
Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 9:14-29

### **Sept. 23 The Eighteenth Sun. after Pent.**

Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Psalm 54  
James 3:13-4:10  
Mark 9:30-37

### **Sept. 30 The Nineteenth Sun. after Pent.**

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
Psalm 104:27-35  
James 5:(1-12) 13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 5—Confirmation Orientation

Sept. 9—Rally Day

Sept. 9—Youth Get Together:  
Pizza and a movie

Sept. 12—First Class of  
JAM/Confirmation

Sept. 15 —LWML Fall Rally @  
Zion

## Need to Know

We have been experiencing that Wells Fargo has been getting more particular with the checks that we are depositing. When writing checks to the church make sure you have in the "Pay to the order of" section **Zion Lutheran Church**. If there have been any corrections done on the check, the bank will not accept them and we have to return them back to you.

# Special September DAYS

## Grandarent'sDay: September 9

A celebration of grandparents will take place on Sunday, September 9 as part of Rally Day service. We thank you . . .

- For the love you share.
- For the wisdom passed on.
- For the awesome cookies.
- For taking us to the game.
- For the time you spoil us.
- For the sloppy kisses and the pats on the back.
- For being there to listen.
- For all that you are . . . a gift from God!

## Patriot Day . . . 9-11



On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked American airliners and attacked the World Trade Center towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., inflicting major damage and the loss of over 3,000 lives.

## St. Michael and All Angels Day: September 29

“As Your holy angels always serve You in heaven, may they also defend us here on earth.”

O everlasting God, whose wise planning has ordained and constituted the ministry of men and angels in a wonderful order, mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (*LW*, p. 114).

## Holy Cross Day: September 14



Merciful and everlasting God, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins on the cross. Grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

This complex cross, also called the Crusader's Cross or Fivefold Cross, has several interpretations. The main cross is composed of four tau (T) crosses representing the Old Testament law. The four small Greek crosses symbolize the fulfillment of the law in the gospel.

The five crosses together represent the church's mission: to spread the gospel to the four corners of the earth. They're also said to symbolize Christ's five wounds (hands, feet and side). Godfrey de Bouillon, the first ruler of Jerusalem after it was liberated from the Muslims, used the cross on his coat-of-arms. It was also embodied in the heraldry of the Crusaders.



## LWML NEWS

### **September 2nd is Mite Sunday!**

Ladies of Lutheran Women's Mission League, including Zion members, can joyfully drop off your mite offering in the large LWML mite box located by the front sanctuary pew. Loud (coins) and quiet (dollar bills and checks) offerings are gladly welcome! During the offering, the mites will be dedicated! The LWML mites assist and fund mission projects of missionaries, school, Christian programs that local, national, and international.

The September Mite calendar is posted on the LWML bulletin board. Printed copies were handed out at the LWML circle meetings.

### **Cards for Sale**

Looking for a special card for a loved one. . . then stop by the LWML card stand in the narthex. There is an extensive selection of birthday, anniversary, sympathy and all occasion cards. You can buy them by the card or the whole box. An inspiring handwritten message is an eloquent addition to a beautiful card. If you are looking for something specific speak with Nancy Timm

### **LWML Sunday: October 7**

Need a break from this busy life and always wondering what might happen next? Then celebrate with us on the first Sunday in October for the observation of LWML Sunday! It will be pompous purple celebration as we unite around the theme, "Our Rest in a Changing World," from Psalm 62. The sermon, "The Rest We Share," giving pause and insight in seeking that rest.



# Devotional NEWS

## **Devotional: Portals of Prayer**

The Fourth Quarter of the Portals of Prayer is available at the Information Centers in the narthex and main entrance. Each devotion features a Bible reading, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format. *Portals of Prayer* is great for personal devotions, and these timeless devotions can be used to open meetings or launch Bible studies. You can also listen to them online.

## **Lutheran Hour**

The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am or KJLY (93.5 FM) at 6:00 am. And it can be streamed online too, [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

September 2

### **"Eager to Preach the Good News"**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

In a classic message from 1968, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann says, "The Good News (of Christ) is really good; good enough to believe, good enough to trust." (Romans 1:14-17)

September 9

### **"The Changeless Christ for a Changing World"**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Walter A. Maier

In a classic message first heard in 1937, Dr. Walter A. Maier tells how Christ comes to us in our world of change and decay with a message of unchanging hope. (Hebrews 13:8)

September 16

### **"The Mystery of God"**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

The undeniable hiddenness of God becomes the openness of God when you see His Son, Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 55:6-9)

September 23

### **"Come, Lord Jesus"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

In a classic message from 1998, Dr. Dale Meyer explains how a common table prayer reminds us of our dependence upon God and His gifts. (Exodus 16)

September 30

### **"Cut Off-for Us"**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.

Sin is serious because it cuts us off from God. Guest speaker Dr. Lawrence Rast says Jesus was cut off from God, in our place. (Mark 9:38-50)



# Devotional NEWS (cont.)

## New Lutheran Hour Speaker

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is pleased to announce that the Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler of St. Louis, Missouri, has accepted a call to serve as Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour** radio program. Zeigler succeeds to the microphone following the departure of Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, who accepted a call in 2017 to serve as executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. He will officially begin his ministry with LHM on Oct. 1 and will broadcast his first sermon on Reformation Sunday (Oct. 28). More information about the new Lutheran Hour speaker can be found at [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).

## Evangelism and Outreach NEWS

**I am a GUEST** will you please . . .

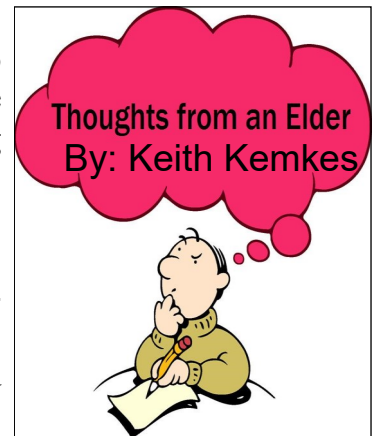
- ♦ Smile at me as I walk in the door. You are my first impression of the church.
- ♦ Help me find a place in the service. I will not find your help an intrusion.
- ♦ Speake to me following the worship, especially as your wait in line to greet the pastor I know that you want to see your friends but put yourself in my place.
- ♦ Tell me good things about your church and pastor. It's great to hear people believe that they are involved with something exciting and important for the LORD!
- ♦ Notice me – even if I am not a “family.” I don’t want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, divorced, a single parent, a teenage, or an older person.
- ♦ Talk to me again the second week when I come back, and the third. I am still not a part of your church family.
- ♦ Invite me to become part of something. I need to be affirmed by a group of people who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.
- ♦ Don’t assume that some else in the church is going to do this. They are probably making the same assumption.

freely adapted from **Diocesan Good News Service**

As we welcome guests to Zion, you will be surprised how many of them are looking for authentic spirituality, that is faith, Biblical truth, and Christian fellowship. Zion, a friendly congregation, can take steps to be even more welcoming to our guests; and returning members. These people are: new Christians; individuals who grew up in the church, rebelled, and now coming back; parents of young children, seeking the benefit of Christian values for their children; people who have relocated to our community; people seeking spiritual growth beyond their present church; and those who need a “change in spiritual scenery.” In looking for a new church home, God willing, Zion would be that place of sanctuary and spiritual grow in Christ. Knowingly, you have friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members that fit into one of those categories. By God’s grace, may you be His instrument to invite them to join you at Zion, your church home, for a worship service, Bible class, an activity or social event. Let us pray for these opportunities of welcoming, the people we greet and impact with the amazing love of Christ, our Lord and Savior! To God be the Glory! – Pastor

For the last few months, my siblings and I have had the not so comfortable conversations with my parents of about their ultimate deaths. My parents are writing down their desires and updating their will with the assistance of a lawyer.

We are all going to pass someday and letting trusted loved ones know your desires is a tremendous help when that day comes. Write things down. Memories fade and grief clouds memories under the stress of a death. It is a good idea to write down your desires as I was surprised at a few things my parents requested. Had they not written down some of their wishes concerning their deceased bodies and shared them with me, I would have presumed differently.



Consider an Advanced Health Care Directive. How do you want to be treated during the last days of your life and whom do you want to make those decisions? Consider your End-of-Life Housing desires. Where do you want to live?

Take the time and have a will prepared. The reality is that everyone has a will. If you do not have one prepared, the state has one for you. The state will have first claim on your property and distribute it as they see fit if you don't have a proper will prepared. A "dresser drawer will" is usually not going to work.

Collect in one place all your bank accounts, insurance, deed locations, etc. Even collect all those computer account passwords so they can be dealt with. Do you really want your Facebook account open for years after you pass.

Take some steps and pre-plan your funeral with the assistance of a funeral home. At the very least, let you loved ones know where you want your funeral. Pick your favorite hymns and verses. Write some details you would like included in your obituary.

I admit, I have only completed a few of these suggestions, but these are just a few "Thoughts from an Elder"

Keith Kemkes



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# THIS & THAT

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## Food for Backpacks

Many of our local children will be going back to school in a few weeks, for the Albert Lea School District #241, the first day of school is August 21. Did you know that there are over 200 children in the Albert Lea School District who go hungry on the weekend? For them the only meals, healthy and balanced, are the ones they receive during the week at school. Several churches in the community have banded together to assist these specific children through the program "Food for Backpacks." Zion and Grace Lutheran Churches are partnering in the "Food for Backpacks" program at Hawthorne Elementary School. The children will be receiving a bag of healthy food that cost \$1.31 per weekend. The program runs for thirty-four weekends during the school year. The food bags will be placed in their backpacks by the school's social worker before the kids go home for the weekend. Zion's goal is to sponsor 25 children for the 2018-2019 school year. Support this program through your prayers, picking-up, organizing, and delivering the food to school. Additionally, your financial support for this caring program will provide meals for these 25 children or more as the Lord blesses. Envelopes to support this program are in your church mailboxes or earmark your check "Food for Backpacks." Additional information on the meals is on the Community bulletin board. If you have any questions about this beneficial social ministry program, please speak with Debbie Viktora, Jodi Brown, Arlene Murray, or Pastor Matt.

*"For I was **hungry** and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you **hungry** and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? . . .'" - Matthew 25:35-40*

Thank  
You

Pastor and Mrs. Stohlmann wish to thank the members of Zion congregation. We appreciate the cards and gifts and all your kind thoughts at the time of Pastor's retirement. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you for your thoughtfulness. We look forward to worshipping with you again.

**September 12th** will be the first night of Confirmation and J.A.M. We will be having supper at **5:15pm** and classes will start at **6:00pm**. There will be an opening devotion for everyone and then the classes will split up.

If anyone would like to offer up a little of their time to help get the meals ready on Wednesdays evening, contact Deb Viktora.

**J.A.M.** kids – please bring a water bottle with you to class. We might be doing some fun things that will make you thirsty.

Parents, for the safety of all our children please come into the church to pick up your kids. Classes will end at 7:30pm. Only those who have been designated, on the registration forms, to pick up the kids will be allowed to take them.

Any children left, will be fed sugar, caffeine and take home a puppy or kitten! Just kidding.

## **September Stewardship Article**

It's September, and everything is in full swing again: back to school and back to church attendance after vacations and weekends away. And since everything is back into full swing, it's a perfect time to get back to basics, back to the foundation.

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, "Daddy, give me six pence to buy you a birthday present." Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is six-pence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers — stewards — acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deuteronomy 8:17–18), but also all that we are in this life (1 Corinthians 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability.

For the Lord said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (Luke 12:48b).

And from this comes blessing and reward: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands.

On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours — not as stewards but as sons (Galatians 4:1–7).

Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.



**You're invited to**  
**RALLY DAY**  
**Sunday, September 9, 2018**

**Traditional Worship Celebration – 8:00 AM**  
**Fellowship Time – 9:00 AM**  
**Christian Education Hour – 9:15 AM**  
**Contemporary Worship Celebration – 10:30 AM**

**RALLY DAY'S HAPPENINGS!**

1. **The worship service theme is "The Greatest Gift You Can Give: JESUS!"**;
2. **Installation of our Sunday School, J.A.M., Confirmation and Bible studies teachers and assistants;**
3. **All 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders will receive a Bible from Zion Lutheran Ladies Society;**
4. **This is a casual dress Sunday;**
5. **Rally Day treats and goodies will be served for Fellowship Time;**
6. **Sunday School and Youth will meet their teachers and check-out their classrooms;**
7. **Games and activities for the kids will inside and outside;**
8. **Adult Bible study on "The Lord's Prayer" begins;**
9. **Youth Group will have a pizza, movie, and devotion starting at 12 noon**
10. **Lots and lots of fun as we grow in the knowledge and grace of God in this new Christian Education Year!**



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## September Newsletter 2018

*Gifts given in Memory of...*



*Jeff Boelter*  
*Arlene Cole*  
*Jim & Lucy Does*  
*Paul Sharaga*  
*Clarence Niemeier*