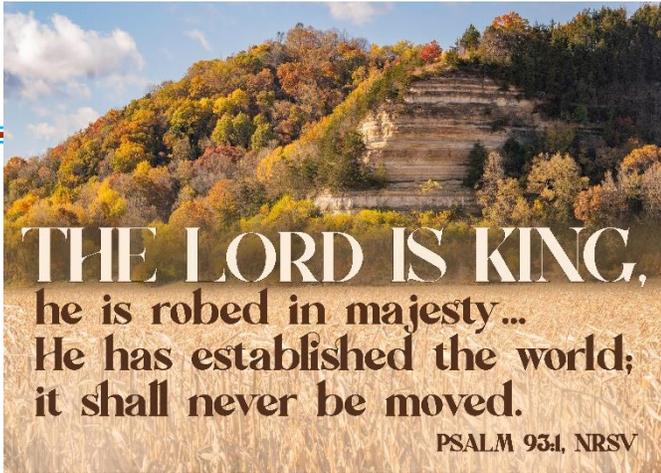


Zion's Weekly Announcements

Sunday, November 21, 2021



GOOD MORNING, ZION FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Today we celebrate Christ the King, whose kingdom is grace and who rules by love. Welcome to worship.

MORNING PRAYER: Alpha and Omega, the A and the Z, the beginning and the end: King Jesus, please rule in my life. Amen.

All visitors to Zion, you are encouraged to wear your mask as COVID cases remain steady in our community. If you are feeling sick, please stay home to rest and recover.

All worshipers, please sign **the Fellowship Registry** book at the end of your pew. Thank you!

Need **prayers** for healing or any other concerns? Request the Pastor or elders to pray for you in public worship or privately as the needs arise (James 5:14-16.) Call the church office to contact Pastor Matt (507) 373-8609.

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S LESSONS

Christ the King Sunday
The Last Sunday of the Church Year
In Repentance We Are Alert
to the Coming of Christ

The signs of the end are all around us, constant reminders that *"heaven and earth will pass away."* But all of these signs are centered in the cross of Christ, whereby He has conquered sin and death,

that we might be raised with Him in righteousness through His Word of the Gospel, which *"will not pass away"* (Mark 13:31). He is *"the firstborn of the dead,"* who in His great love *"has freed us from our sins by his blood"* (Rev. 1:5). His salvation is certain because *"his dominion is an everlasting dominion"* and His kingdom *"shall not be destroyed"* (Dan. 7:14). For this purpose He came into the world, to reign in love through His voice of the Gospel, which is the truth (John 18:37). So is the righteousness of Christ *"a light to the peoples,"* which *"will never be dismayed"* because it is the justice of His cross and resurrection (Is. 51:4-6). As He *"is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory,"* so wait upon *"the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life"* (Jude 20-24).

STEWARDSHIP PONDERINGS

Isaiah 51:6b – "... for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment ..." The things of this earth – the things that hold our attention, that cause us worry, and that tempt us away from the Lord – are all passing away. They will vanish like a garment. They are not for us to worry over. Rather, they are to be used for the Lord's purposes. The things of this world are not the ends, in and of themselves, but only the means to be used wisely by the children of the Kingdom that has no end.

WEEKLY MEMORY PASSAGE

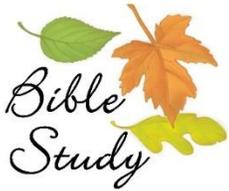
Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. - **Psalm 96:2**

DAILY QUOTE

"When you are down to nothing, God is up to something!"

WITNESS AND OUTREACH

Mark 13:24-37 - The end of another church year reminds us to be watchful and prepared for Christ the King's second coming to judge both the living and the dead. It will be a day of rejoicing for believers but a day of doom for unbelievers. May we use every opportunity we are given to share the saving faith in Jesus Christ the King with others who are still living in unbelief, so that they may also share life everlasting with all the King's children in heaven.



Join us today for Adult Bible Study in the Conference Room at 11:25 AM. We are wrapping up "**Tongue Taming**" (James 3:1-12). Our next session is "**Mission: Submission**" (James 4:1-17).

Joseph: Carpenter of Steel

Men's Early Morning Bible Study

Monday, November 22
6:30 AM - Conference Room

For hundreds and thousands of years, carpenters plied their trade with hand tools like hammers, saws, planes, and files. For most of them, carpentry wasn't a road to riches, fame or power. It was the way you put a roof over your head, food on your family's table and clothes on your children's backs.

In this study, we look at one of these men, a common, ordinary carpenter. Like countless guys before and after him, he lived his life in obscurity, working hard to support his family and do his part in his community.

The thing that stands out most about Joseph is how common and ordinary he was. You might say he was just an "average Joe." A lot like most of us. Do you expect your name to be written in history books, or to have buildings, streets or cities named after you? Joseph never expected those things. But when he discovered his betrothed was pregnant, everything changed.

Session 1 speaks of Joseph's struggle over what to do when he discovers Mary is pregnant with a child (Jesus) he knows isn't his. It would fit very well into the upcoming Advent season that begins next Sunday.

We have **Time and Talent Survey** for you to fill out. Paper copies (lavender color) are available at the Information Center table (Fireside Narthex). Place your completed survey in the "Stewardship Survey Box." Thank you!



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 24

In-Person Service - 4:30 PM

(Online Service, around 7 PM)

A Service of Praise, Prayer, and Thanksgiving



CORNUCOPIA—Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessings.



HELP FIGHT HUNGER!

Would you please help us by donating non-perishable food items to help benefit those in need this holiday season? Items can be placed in the shopping cart by the Information Center in the Fireside Narthex.

The local food pantry will be receiving this year's generous gathering. Thank you!!!



Did you know that about 128 students at Hawthorn Elementary School and 40

students at the Albert Lea Alternative Learning benefit from the Food for Backpack Program? Your past donations have been a joyful blessing in funding this vital ministry. Currently, we are asking for continued support through your generous donations. It now takes about \$4,500 to fund Zion's portion. In addition, Food for Backpack receives numerous community and state grants and support from other local churches. Place your donations into the offering plate and earmark them from "Food for Backpack Program." Thank you!!



Zion Ladies Society has Christmas cards for you to purchase at \$6.00 a box. They are on the Information Counter at the main entrance. Get them before they are gone.

We are glad to inform you that we have new card boxes (12 cards per box) at "the Card Stand" for Sympathy, Empathy, Encouragement, Get Well, Praying for You, Happy Birthday, Anniversary, Wedding, and Thank You. Each box is \$6.00. So make your check out to Zion Ladies Society.



THE JOURNEY BEGINS AT ADVENT

When Advent begins on November 28 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday,

the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

"Like a great waterwheel," writes Joan Chittister, "the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."

NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: "I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert

with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

ZION LADIES SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEETING & BRUNCH

Saturday, December 4, 2021
9:30 AM – 12 Noon

Program: Bible Art Journaling
Presenter: Deb Rohne

The sign-up sheet and program details are on the Zion Ladies Society's bulletin board. So join us for an adventurous morning of Christmas fun!



CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR

Do you like to sing? We are looking for singers for the Christmas Eve services at 3:30 PM and 6:00 PM. Eileen Nelson Ness will be directing our merry group carolers. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by Pastor's Office. Rehearsals will begin the week December 12.

A HYMN OF PRAISE

The familiar hymn often called "The Doxology" or "The Common Doxology" was written by Thomas Ken in 1674 as the concluding verse of a morning hymn, "Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun," and an evening hymn, "Glory to Thee, My God, This Night." The lyrics are appropriate for any time of giving or thanksgiving. Consider using this hymn as your Thanksgiving dinner prayer.

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Some church bodies have altered the words to "The Doxology" slightly, but the overall sentiment — praising the Triune God — remains the same. How profound to know that when we sing it, we join Christians around the world and across nearly 440 years!

LEAVE SOME WHITE SPACE

In publication layouts, white space is an important design element. Instead of being a wasted area, it actually provides visual relief for readers.

A similar concept applies to a family calendar. How much "white space" do you leave in each little square? With a fast-paced, no-white-space life, relationships suffer. But when you allow your schedule to slow down, leaving openings for adventure, spontaneity and down-time, family members can grow closer to one another.

HEARTFELT THANKS

He who thanks but with the lips thanks but in part; the full, the true Thanksgiving comes from the heart. —J.A. Shedd

BIBLE QUIZ

Complete this proverb from the Bible: "Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is ... "



- A. " ... than a silver platter of meat and unresolved anger."
- B. " ... than a fatted ox and hatred with it."
- C. " ... than a prepared bird and family bickering."
- D. All of the above.

Answer: (See Proverbs 15:17, NRSV.)

PUZZLE

Why we're thankful

Leaves falling from trees are a sign of autumn's arrival. Giving thanks to God is a sign of our gratitude for his many blessings.

Directions: Using the words in the leaves, discover why it's good for us to thank God. (Hint: Use word length to help you.)

_____ ;
 _____ ;
 _____ ;
 _____ ;
 _____ ;

16:34, NIV

Answers: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV

This Week's Calendar +

Sunday, November 21, 2021 – Last Sunday of the Church Year (Christ the King)

- 9:00 AM – In-Person Service with Holy Communion
- 10:15 AM – Christian Education Hour for All Ages
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Drive-In Communion
- 3:30 PM – Online Worship Service (available)
- 6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)

Monday, November 22, 2021

- 6:30 AM – Men's Bible Class @ Zion (Conference Room)
- 3:30 PM – Zion Ladies Society Executive Meeting @ Zion (Conference Room)

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 – Thanksgiving Eve

- No Zion Quilters (Thanksgiving Holiday break)
- 4:30 PM – In-Person Service of Praise, Prayer and Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 25, 2021 – Thanksgiving Day

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 26, 2021

Pastor's Day Off (Office Closed)

Saturday, November 27, 2021

- 9:00 AM – Communion Set-up (Flower and Altar)

Sunday, November 28, 2021 – The First Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 AM – In-Person Service with Holy Communion
- 10:15 AM – Christian Education Hour for All Ages
- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Drive-In Communion
- 3:30 PM – Online Worship Service (available)
- 6:00 PM – Lutheran Hour on KATE Radio (1450 AM)



PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY: The appointed Scripture readings for **The First Sunday in Advent** – Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, and Luke 19:28-40. **“The Great Expectation”** is the theme for the Sundays in Advent based on the Old Testament readings.

Week of November 14, 2021

In-Person Attendance:	94
YouTube Views:	36
In-Person Communion:	88
Drive-In Communion:	0
Men's Bible Class:	7
Sunday Bible Class:	17
Confirmation	10

FOR KIDS . . . MY DEVOTIONS

The December 2021-February 2022 issue of *MY DEVOTIONS* is available for the children at Zion. Parents pick up your copy for your children. They are excellent devotions for the whole family!

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
and afternoon by appointment
Friday: Office Closed • Saturday: by appointment

Church Phone: 507-373-8609
Church Email: zionalbertlea@gmail.com

Pastor: Matthew L. Lehman
Email: lehman.ml@zionlutheran.com