



# Zion Lutheran Church

# Newsletter

September 2020

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## Pastor's COLUMN

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

If you are like me, and I am guessing as fellow South Dakotans you are, you have been eating corn lately. It is exciting to drive down the interstate or a country road and look at everyone's corn growing to great heights. Recently my Uncle John gave us a bunch of sweetcorn from his garden and my wife promptly began to shuck it for our supper. From the outside, each ear of corn looked perfect, but the first ear my wife shucked had a large fungus growing on the kernels that was only exposed by opening the husk. The fungus, which I think is known as huitlacoche, grows directly on the corn. It affects every part of the corn and causes the kernels to swell up. My wife made a quick judgement and threw that one away, preserving the healthy ears of corn to be eaten by our family.

The point of the illustration is that if we liken this to ourselves and peel back the layers that cover us, and truly examine our hearts, what would we see? Would we see someone living up to their potential for good in the world, a person with a pure heart, or would we see some parts of us that need to be removed, and the rest of the kernels strengthened.

When Samuel the prophet was looking to anoint a new king for Israel, and went to Bethlehem to visit Jesse's sons, the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature...For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

The condition of our heart is quite important according to Proverbs 4:23, "keep your heart with all vigilance". Proverbs chapter 4 is known as the Father's Wise Instruction. If we use our corn analogy, it would be like a farmer sitting down with his corn seed at planting time and telling the seed all the ways to grow good ears instead of diseased ones. Proverbs 4 is like the Lord saying, "Do this and you will bear good fruit."

"Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight; do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil ... Keep your heart with all vigilance ... or from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked speech and put devious talk far from you. Let your eyes look directly forward, and you gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure." (These verses are

taken from Proverbs 4, and much benefit can be gained from reading the whole chapter.)

There are two instances where the heart is mentioned in those verses. The first pertains to the heart holding fast to the Father’s words and keeping the commandments, and the second focuses on guarding or “keeping your heart with all vigilance.” These verses remind us to be faithful, watchful, and accountable.

What is the result of our daily vigilance in keeping our hearts open to the Spirit of the Lord? We are promised by the Lord that we will receive the riches of the kingdom, that we will have His Spirit with us and ultimately, be with God. Matthew 5:8 says, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Say you have been lax, you have let your guard down, or you have let something someone said or done wound you. Say your heart is not as it should be. All is not lost. As we sing in the offertory each week. “Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free Spirit” (Psalm 51:10-12).

Return to the Lord with full purpose of heart and he will receive you, forgive you, create good fruit in you, and renew you. Unlike the diseased ear of corn that got tossed in the trash, there is redemption for us all through Christ’s atonement. Jesus’ death on the cross, our repentance and daily taking up our own cross, means we can be one with the Lord. We will not be cast away but restored and upheld in the Kingdom of our Father. This is my prayer for each of us.

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree (or corn!) planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream and does not fear when heat comes for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought for it does not cease to bear fruit.” Jeremiah 17:8-9

Pastor

Other verses in the Bible about Hearts to ponder;

Ezekiel 36:26-7 “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules..”

Jeremiah 17:10 “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

Proverbs 21:2 “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart.”

Matthew 15:18:20 “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person.”

Hebrews 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Psalm 24:3-4 “Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart. Who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.



# Zion's NEWS & Notes

## Sunday School & Confirmation Classes

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND  
CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Have tentatively been set to start on  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4.

If you have questions or concerns please  
contact Pastor Hinckley.

## Bible Study



"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light  
unto my path! (Ps. 119:105).

Reminder, Men's Bible study meets every  
Wednesday morning at 6:45. We are beginning  
a study of the Gospel of John so it is a good  
time to join.

Women's Bible study meets on Sundays at 4:00  
and is finishing a study of Joy and the epistle of  
Philippians, again a good time to join as they will  
be starting a new topic.

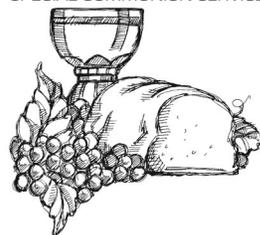
Both Bible studies are meeting via Zoom, so  
please email Pastor Hinckley at  
rmhjr2@gmail.com to receive an invite to the  
meeting. If you know of anyone else who might  
be interested, let Pastor know and he will send  
them an invite. Thanks and see you there!"



Zion Lutheran church services are again  
being recorded and uploaded on to the  
website: [zionchamberlain.com](http://zionchamberlain.com)

Also you may submit your tithes and  
offerings online. If you are interested in  
Simply Giving (an automated giving program)  
please contact the church office. Thank you.

SPECIAL COMMUNION SERVICE



**Pastor Hinckley is offering a special by  
appointment communion service for those  
unable to attend the divine services on  
Saturday or Sunday. If you are interested -  
please give him a call at 605.413.2671.**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES-August 12, 2020

The August meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church Council was held in the fellowship hall August 12, 2020. Council members attending in addition to Pastor Hinckley were Rocky Knippling, Jim Ristau, Kenny Knutson, Rick Hargens, Kurt Kelsey, Todd Van Den Bosch, Joe Mason and Marsha Houska. The meeting was called to order by Rocky Knippling at 8:10PM. Pastor Hinckley opened the meeting with prayer.

The council minutes from the July 8, 2020 meeting were provided by Secretary Marsha Houska and read individually. Balances to be corrected in the July treasurer's report are the beginning balance of the general fund \$20,199.54, ending balance \$22,084.20 and building fund \$5,000.37. Kurt Kelsey made a motion to approve the July minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Joe Mason. The minutes were approved.

The treasurer's report was provided by Todd Van Den Bosch.

**June 2020 treasurer's report:**

Checks Paid in May:

- . \$619.82 NWE
- . \$3089.37 CPS
- . \$397.06 NC Insurance
- . \$42.60 Garrett George – March snow
- . \$201.48 Larsen Tax
- . \$58.45 CFC
- . \$17.56 Chamberlain Variety
- . \$75.00 Good News
- . \$486.47 Burke Oil
- . \$55.15 Post Office
- . \$3,039.77 CPS
- . \$100.00 CNA Surety Bond
- . \$40.12 USPS
- . \$101.43 Larsen Tax
- . \$75.00 Good News
- . \$91.18 Midstate Comm
- . \$260.08 Burke
- . \$1,384.00 Pastor Laptop

**July 2020 treasurer's report:**

**General Fund :**

Beginning balance: \$20,199.54  
Ending Balance: \$22,084.20

**Special Funds:**

Building Fund \$5,000.37  
Audio Fund \$659.70  
Memorial Fund \$12,686.78

Thrivent Fund \$10,364.97

**Checks Paid in June (Less Payroll):**

- . \$63.44 CVI
- . \$75.00 Good News Radio
- . \$239.63 Olson Pest Control
- . \$100.00 Larsen Tax
- . \$243.50 CPH
- . \$136.31 Cross Roads Book and Music
- . \$101.01 Midstate Comm
- . \$192.00 Jim Pullen
- . \$488.18 NWE
- . \$160.05 CPH
- . \$1,225.00 North Star Insurance
- . \$117.00 Foster Iverson
- . \$3,064.57 Concordia Plan Services
- . \$548.64 NWE
- . \$45.22 CPH
- . \$241.21 CPH

**August Treasurer's Report:**

**General Fund:**

Beginning balance: \$22,084.20  
Ending Balance: \$20,132.62

**Special Funds:**

Building Fund \$5,000.61  
Audio Fund \$659.70  
Memorial Fund: \$12,686.78  
Thrivent Fund \$10,364.97

Checks Paid in July:

- . \$45.77 CPH
- . \$100.00 Larsen
- . \$89.52 Midstate Comm
- . \$312.75 SD State Treasurer
- . \$75.00 Good News Radio
- . \$248.00 Jim Pullen
- . \$257.13 CPH
- . \$323.90 CPH
- . \$120.00 US Post Master
- . \$3064.57 CPS
- . \$240.00 Jim Pullen
- . \$66.46 Wholesale
- . \$933.55 NWE

Outstanding Bills as of 08.12.2020

- . \$240.00 Pullen
- . \$106.44 Chamberlain Variety
- . \$267.37 Byre
- . \$75.00 Good News Radio
- . \$86.21 Dick Feltman – Irrigation
- . \$100.00 Larsen
- . \$68.81 Midstate

Received Kulm Scholarship \$1,000 Memorial Fund and Virgil Kiehn \$751.14 in Building Fund

Motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay outstanding bills as presented was made by Kurt Kelsey with Rick Hargens seconding the motion. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:**

Will begin recording services again and posting to the website; will check into other ways to record /live stream  
 Sent out postcards to all members  
 Will be recording for Main Street Living Aug 21<sup>st</sup> in Pierre to be aired Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
 Baptism for Samuel James Swanson held August 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Has been decided to delay the start of Sunday School and Confirmation classes with a target start date of Oct 4<sup>th</sup> or will open with zoom if need be  
 Jim Ristau will be helping teach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation classes. There are 8 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 5 8<sup>th</sup> graders. 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be held upstairs and 8<sup>th</sup> grade downstairs  
 Upcoming Baptism for Brittany DeHaai's baby; no date set  
 Will incorporate into membership Jonathan Tyrell and Jessica Smith, possibly in September or October  
 Gates/fence are finished at the parsonage and tree has been removed  
 Wiring on marquee sign has been fixed

**Trustees' Report:**

Power Com fixed front marquee sign (ran new line, capped old line, installed 4 plug outlet for Nativity set); cost estimate <\$750  
 Reported on progress for bell tower repair; had 3 companies look at project; Darrel will continue looking for tuck pointing contractor and getting estimates  
 May install fire pit where tree was  
 Thank you to Joe and Kenny for their work on the fence and gates

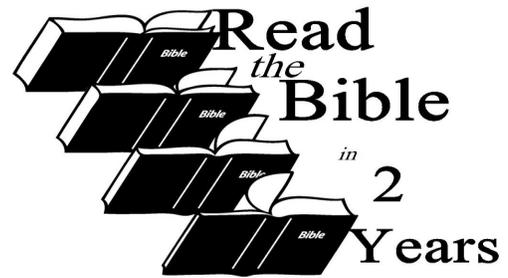
**Life Team: No report**

**Old Business:**

Discussed social distancing for services; remind members to socially distance when seating  
 Look into pew markers

**New Business:**

Pastor will be taking a couple days vacation to celebrate anniversary  
 Pastor changing benefit plan to Healthy Me HSA option C; grandfathered in so can stay on with slight rate increase  
 Next meeting will be held September 9<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Rick and seconded by Kurt. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM, closing with the Lord's Prayer.  
  
 Respectfully Submitted,  
 Marsha Houska, Church Council Secretary  
  
 (These minutes are unofficial and will be presented to the church council for approval at the next meeting.)



Train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it hold promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

**Week 96 [Aug 31-Sept. 5]**

Monday	2 Timothy 3:1-4:22
Tuesday	Titus 1:1-16
Wednesday	Titus 2:1-15
Thursday	Titus 3:1-15
Friday	Philemon 1-25
Saturday	Hebrews 1:1-14

**Week 97 [September 7-12]**

Monday	Hebrews 2:1-18
Tuesday	Hebrews 3:1-19
Wednesday	Hebrews 4:1-16
Thursday	Hebrews 5:1-14
Friday	Hebrews 6:1-20
Saturday	Hebrews 7:1-28

**Week 98 [September 14-19]**

Monday	Hebrews 8:1-13
Tuesday	Hebrews 9:1-28
Wednesday	Hebrews 10:1-18
Thursday	Hebrews 10:19-39
Friday	Hebrews 11:1-40
Saturday	Hebrews 12:1-29

**Week 99 [September 21-26]**

Monday	Hebrews 13:1-25
Tuesday	James 1:1-27
Wednesday	James 2:1-26
Thursday	James 3:1-18
Friday	James 4:1-17
Saturday	James 5:1-20

**Week 100 [Sept. 28-Oct 3]**

Monday	1 Peter 1:1-25
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:1-25
Wednesday	1 Peter 3:1-4:19
Thursday	1 Peter 5:1-14
Friday	2 Peter 1:1-2:22
Saturday	2 Peter 3:1-18



**Serve the Lord with gladness! Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us and we are His ... (Psalm 100:2a, 3a).**

Zion LWML will not meet until October. Please watch the bulletins, website and Newsletter for any updates.

The offices of president and secretary are up for election. We ask that you would prayerfully consider serving for one of these offices.

If you are willing please contact one of the officers: Colleen Swanson, Sharlene DuVall, Britini DeHaai or Connie Cleland.



### LWML SD Chamberlain Zone Fall Rally

**ATTENTION:** St. John's Lutheran Church in Gregory was scheduled to host the LWML SD Chamberlain Zone Fall Rally, but due to Covid-19 they are not comfortable hosting at this time.

A Zoom meeting is being scheduled to be able to conduct zone business. There will be a short Bible study then a very short business meeting. The meeting should last about an hour. If you would like to attend send your email to Susan Swanson at [smswanson@midstatesd.net](mailto:smswanson@midstatesd.net) to receive an invite to the meeting. Plan on attending from the comfort of your home!

You can check Zion's website and watch the church bulletins for updates.



### Christian Life Workshop

**TOPIC:** "The God Who Showed Up -- Jesus in the Old Testament"

**PRESENTER** The Rev. Dr. Peter Kurovski, Zion Lutheran Church, Canistota, SD

#### Friday, September 18

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, 688 Dakota Ave. [this workshop will be livestreamed]

#### Saturday, September 19,

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls; 601 N. Cliff Ave.

#### Friday, October 2

Zion Lutheran Church in Chamberlain, 314 South Main

#### Saturday, October 3

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Custer; 744 Harney St.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. followed by opening devotions and the main presentation.

There is a one hour break at noon for lunch, fellowship and visiting the LWML store.

The workshop concludes at 3:00 p.m., following a closing devotion.

Bring your Bibles and be inspired to reach out to others with the life-saving Word!

## A September to Remember

### GivingTuesday

Two out of every three people do not know Jesus as their Savior. Lutheran Women in Mission is reaching out to a world in need of the Gospel through mission grants. You have the opportunity to help reach others with the saving Word of Jesus.

This year, LWML is celebrating **GivingTuesday** on September 15. You may donate toward the 2019-2021 LWML Mission Goal by using LWML Facebook, [lwml.org/givingtuesday](http://lwml.org/givingtuesday). Your donation will be doubled on that day, thanks to the commitment of a generous donor. You can HELP by sharing on GivingTuesday.

(If you are unable to donate online, you may send your contributions to the LWML office at 801 Seminary Place Suite L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Be sure to note GivingTuesday 2020 with your contribution.)



**Main Street Living September Schedule**

The program is interpreted and closed captioned for the hearing impaired. For more information go to the web site: [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com)

**Sept. 6, 2020**

10:00 AM-This is the Life-“The Sin of Sue Bradley”- Misguided meddling leads to jealousy, threatening a loving relationship.

10:30 AM-Rev. Christopher Navurskis, pastor at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Huron, SD. Presents the message “He is Right There.” The message is based on Matthew 18:1-20.

**Sept. 13, 2020**

10:00 AM-This is the Life-“Old Smiley”-For over 40 plus years, Charlie Grebs was certain that his “Happiness God” from the Orient brought him good luck. In less than one day, he fully realizes that things are not always what they seem to be.

10:30 AM-The message, “I Forgive You” is based on Matthew 18:21-35 is presented by Rev. Steve Weispfennig of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Yankton, SD.

**Sept. 20, 2020**

10:00 AM-This is the Life-“To Take a Life”-A devoted son’s loving father is terminally ill, suffering severely and pleading to die.

10:30 AM-The message is presented by Rev. Nathan Neugebauer, pastor at St. John’s and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches in Reville, SD. Based on Matthew 6: 24-34, the scripture tells us “The True God Says, Don’t be Anxious.”

**Sept. 27, 2020**

10:00 AM-This is the Life-“Sharing the Gospel”- Sharing the Gospel is neither swift nor easy, but truly rewarding in the end.

10:30 AM-Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, pastor at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church in Black Hawk, SD presents *today’s* message “Hope and Hopelessness Meet In Jesus.” The scripture base is Luke 7:11-17.

**LCMS Stewardship September Article**

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

## No More Stress: Teaching the Faith at Home

Written by Katie Koplin  
August 24, 2020

As I write this, I am listening to the decisions made by my home state of Minnesota about school this fall. After this spring and the experience of distance learning, my children and I are ready for school to be back in session.

Prior to the “school at home” mandate, we attempted homeschooling. I adored parts of homeschooling and abhorred others. Both while we were homeschooling and while we were distance learning, I had a constant fear looming over my head that I was missing something. When I hear the word “teach,” all of my insecurities and shortcomings come to mind. I see visions of worksheets and red pens, wrong answers, and questions I do not have answers to.

The same insecurities and shortcomings come to mind when I think about teaching the faith at home. But teaching the faith to our children does not have to be anxiety-inducing like schooling at home may have been. You don’t need a craft every time you sit down and read your Bible. It does not have to be at the kitchen table. It does not need to be rigidly scheduled and planned. There is no need for a red pen to mark answers right or wrong, because the answer is consistently the same: Jesus. All you need is family and the Word, because the Holy Spirit is at work on account of the work Christ has already completed.

Teaching the faith does not hinge on abilities or insecurities or strengths or our weaknesses. The Holy Spirit is working through us to teach our kids.

If you are looking for a resource other than a Bible, there are a plethora of them. There are new resources available, along with ones that have been around for hundreds of years. As Lutherans, we have a phenomenal resource that can sometimes be forgotten after confirmation: Luther’s Small Catechism. It was designed to give the head of the household help in teaching the faith. After all of these years, it is a helpful place to start and become rooted. With the help of Scripture, it asks and gives answers to questions like “Who is God?” and “Where is Church?” and “What is sin?”

In our household, we often feel rushed. A resource that helps us slow down and look at Luther’s Small Catechism is the Illuminated Catechism. It takes pieces of the Small Catechism and pairs them with coloring pages, hymn verses, and devotionals. It helps us to linger together and around the Word longer, and it may be a suitable resource for you and your family too.

When thinking about family devotions, it’s important to think about what your family is like and ask questions such as,

- How and when do you communicate well?
- What time of the day are you routinely or usually home?
- How much time do you have?

These are good questions to ask when thinking about how to get started teaching the faith at home. Christian families are called to teach the faith, but there is not a one-size-fits-all recipe for how to do it. Look at your family and talk about what would work for you. It could be a devotional podcast to listen to during a commute. It could be passing a devotional journal back and forth to ask and answer questions. It could be simply reading through a book of the Bible a chapter at a time.

Whatever you decide on, remember:

*“Faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ.”* Romans 10:17

And:

*“He who started this good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”* Philippians 1:6

Whatever plans you implement or resources you use, know that each time you read the Word or talk about the faith, the Holy Spirit is at work. Teaching the faith is not about what you do; it is about the completed work of Christ and the continuing work of the Holy Spirit for you and your family.

To find everything you need to teach the faith at home, check out the CPH homeschooling page below to find devotions, Bibles, catechisms, and more.

Katie Koplin resides in west-central Minnesota with her husband and four kids, where fields of grain meet woods and water. She keeps busy caring for her kids, writing for her blog ([lovedinspiteofself.com](http://lovedinspiteofself.com)), drinking coffee by the pot, quilting, reading, camping, leading Bible studies, and working at her much-adored local library. Her writing and speaking focus on encouraging others to live in freedom, equipping people to see Christ for them in Scripture, and empowering others with the great love Christ has for us.

## Survey reveals impact of COVID-19 on congregations

By Megan K. Mertz

2020 has been an unpredictable year, and the long-term repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic are only just starting to emerge.

In an effort to begin to examine the pandemic’s impact on the Synod, LCMS Rosters, Statistics and Research Services sent a survey to every congregation with a valid email address — 4,787 in total — in June. More than 1,200 congregations responded, providing a representative sampling of what’s going on in congregations of every size, district and community type (urban, suburban, rural).

While many of the survey results are in line with what one might expect, there were a few surprises and bright spots regarding congregational finances and the Synod’s ability to walk together during difficult times.

### Moving online

Congregations in every LCMS district faced restrictions in some form or another. Approximately 67% of respondents were located in communities that restricted churches from gathering for in-person worship. Only 5% of congregations reported being able to meet as usual, and less than 15% met in person for Easter.

Instead, most churches moved online. About 80% of congregations used the internet to livestream or post recordings of services or sermons — up from 45% prior to the pandemic. Going forward, 70% plan to continue posting online, and nearly half of all respondents will continue livestreaming services or sermons.

Among this group, Facebook was by far the most popular platform used, although many churches also used YouTube and/or their own website.

Even though members were still able to attend worship through online platforms, the survey revealed that other areas of congregational life suffered as a result of restrictions. Roughly half of congregations canceled or postponed meetings, confirmations and vacation Bible school. Instead, they focused on providing midweek Bible studies or devotionals online (67%), offering the Lord’s Supper on an individual or family basis (59%), and making an intentional effort to contact every member household at least every two weeks (56%).

This sudden shift wasn’t without consequences for the Synod’s workers, however. Approximately 80% of senior or sole pastors in the survey report that they have been busier than normal, and 65% of rostered workers who took the survey say that they are personally worn down by the added stress of the pandemic.

### Reason to hope

There’s no question that the pandemic has taken a financial toll on many Americans, who may have been laid off or furloughed during the shutdown. Based on the survey results, LCMS Rosters, Statistics and Research Services estimates that nearly 65,000 LCMS households have lost income.

And yet, early signs suggest that this situation and the economic upheaval it has caused may be less severe for churches than originally thought. Most congregations have not had giving decrease due to the pandemic. Less than 12% say that it is down significantly, while more than 25% report that giving is actually up from the previous year.

Nearly 90% of respondents believe that they will get through this time with only minor budget cuts, and the same percentage do not expect to make any reductions to payroll budgets.

However, the news wasn’t quite as promising for congregations that own or operate a school. Those respondents were more likely to say they will need to make “significant budget cuts.” There were also a handful of small (weekly attendance less than 150) and very small (weekly attendance less than 35) congregations that were facing “serious” budget issues.

### Other bright spots

Despite the ongoing uncertainty, the survey results highlighted several reasons to be optimistic about the future:

- 75% of congregations say their members more clearly see the importance of their Lutheran identity.
- 92% of congregations had returned to in-person worship (approximately half of those at reduced capacity) by July 5.
- The majority have a highly favorable view of the support they’ve received from their district, the Synod and their neighboring LCMS congregations.

In addition, over 40% of congregations say they have no major needs at this time, and nearly another 30% say they only have a few needs. Most of the needs brought by congregations are relational — such as how to minister amid social distancing — rather than programmatic or logistical.

“I was encouraged by the overall resilience of our congregations and their determination to continue to proclaim Christ come what may,” LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison said of the results. “And despite the challenges, the evidence of collegiality and trust in circuit, district and Synod is a blessing in our life together.”

*Posted Aug. 25, 2020 in the LCMS Reporter*

# Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

**WORD LIST:** covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

M I C W L O O F Y C C M N C T  
 D S K A C X J X H M K I P P N  
 E N I L P I C S I D A Y R E A  
 E J H K T O T R N T W O Y K S  
 D E L I G H T E N O T U R A A  
 E U G N O T G U A E S T C S E  
 H T A P N Y O N C C D H O R L  
 A U J L X F Z T E C H Y V O P  
 E Q N E I G H B O R T I E F W  
 T H G I S N I F L R T L N J I  
 H O N E S T A O E I B S A G S  
 E V I L I T R V I M S R N T D  
 V M X U H D O A U M I T T A O  
 O E R E Y P Y H E K U B E R M  
 L F R K S L E E P H C N P N R

L F R K S L E E P H C N P N R  
 O E R E Y P Y H E K U B E R M  
 V M X U H D O A U M I T T A O  
 E V I L I T R V I M S R N T D  
 H O N E S T A O E I B S A G S  
 T H G I S N I F L R T L N J I  
 E Q N E I G H B O R T I E F W  
 A U J L X F Z T E C H Y V O P  
 H T A P N Y O N C C D H O R L  
 E U G N O T G U A E S T C S E  
 D E L I G H T E N O T U R A A  
 E J H K T O T R N T W O Y K S  
 E N I L P I C S I D A Y R E A  
 D S K A C X J X H M K I P P N  
 M I C W L O O F Y C C M N C T

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Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

# Puzzle!

**SEPTEMBER**  
Birthdays

September 1 Karen Smith  
 September 3 Heath Woodraska  
 September 4 Wesley Priebe  
 September 6 Sheila Thompson,  
 Rondell Busack,  
 September 7 Evan Engel  
 September 8 Jeanie Reuer,  
 Carol Powers,  
 Erik Hickey  
 September 9 Charles Swanson  
 September 14 Sally Rohrback  
 September 15 Tina DeHaai,  
 Maxwell Kelsey,  
 Lauren Swanson  
 September 16 Kammie Thompson,  
 Rexton Larsen  
 September 17 Julie Bode  
 September 18 Richard Hansen  
 September 19 Joan Goetsch,  
 Lila Speckels,  
 Frank Bailey  
 September 20 Steve Priebe,  
 Sharon Wojciechowski,  
 Natalie Ketelhut  
 September 21 Quin Peterson,  
 Desiree Priebe  
 Samuel Swanson  
 September 22 Val Mosel  
 September 24 Alvin Reuer,  
 Rodney Reuer,  
 Leslie (Swanson) Meyer  
 September 25 Britini DeHaai  
 September 26 Jeanne Mueller  
 September 27 Marlin Dominiack,  
 Aspen Hansen  
 September 28 Beulah Smith,  
 Darren Mosel  
 September 30 Becky Hansen

**SEPTEMBER**  
Baptisms

September 1 William Dahlman,  
 Kaitlynn Smith  
 September 2 Yvette DuVall  
 September 4 Tory Engel  
 September 5 Janece Palmer  
 September 7 Gracelinn Keiner,  
 Marin Omanson  
 September 8 Garret Ristau,  
 Gunner Ristau  
 September 10 Hope Lutter  
 September 11 Kathy Randall  
 September 13 Michael Engel  
 September 14 Lillianna McGhee  
 September 16 Ryder Bunnell  
 September 17 Belinda Holscher,  
 David Thompson,  
 Sutton Swanson  
 September 18 Edward Swanson,  
 Brady Bunker,  
 Tavi Larsen  
 September 19 Brylee Brennan  
 September 22 Henry Swanson,  
 Jaxson Richardson,  
 Journey Richardson  
 September 23 Janice Mosel,  
 Melissa McConniel,  
 Mitchell Swanson,  
 Grace DuVall,  
 Evelyn Julius  
 September 24 Carol Powers,  
 Lish Bairey,  
 Collin Powell,  
 Isabelle McConniel  
 September 28 Judith Brownell,  
 Jovie Van Den Bosch

**SEPTEMBER**  
Anniversaries

September 2  
 Pastor & Lindy Hinckley  
 Matthew & Robin Mueller  
 September 3  
 Desirae & Patrick Toomey  
 September 6 Rick & Janece Palmer  
 September 9  
 Cindy & Dennis Wingert  
 September 14  
 Russell & Renae Bunker  
 September 15  
 Courtney & Jonathan Tyrell  
 September 23  
 Tom & Andrea Schmidt  
 September 25 Bill & Kathy Randall  
 September 28 Scott & Ann Powers



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
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 Permit No. 2

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**“Holy, holy, holy  
 is the Lord God  
 Almighty,  
 who was,  
 and is, and is  
 to come.”**

Revelation 4:8

<p><b>SEPTEMBER WORSHIP TIMES</b></p> <p>Sunday, Divine Service 9:00 AM      Saturday, Divine Service 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>MEETINGS</b></p> <p>Elders Second Wednesday 7:00 PM      Council Second Wednesday 8:00 PM</p> <p><b>Lutheran Women's Missionary League</b></p> <p>Chairman Colleen Swanson 894-4129      Vice Chair Sharlene DuVall 894-4405      Secretary Britini DeHaai      Treasurer Connie Cleland 734-5487</p>	<p><b>ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH</b></p> <p>Pastor Rev. Robert Hinkleley 605-413-2671</p> <p>Email rnhjr2@gmail.com      Administrative Assistant Susan Swanson</p> <p>Email zionlutheran@midstatesd.net      Web Site www.zionchamberlain.com      Church Office (605) 234-9466</p> <p>President Chisum Peterson      Vice President Rocky Knippeling      Secretary Marsha Houska      Treasurer Todd Van Den Bosch</p> <p>Elders Joseph Mason, Kurt Kelsey,      Darrel DuVall, Rick Hargens,      Mike Reimer, Charles Swanson,      James Ristan, Philip Wendling</p> <p>Trustees Mark Klein, Tom Schmidt,      Ken Knutson, Scott Walker</p> <p>Stewardship Tom Schmidt      Sunday School Supt Britini DeHaai</p>
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