

From Pastor's desk

NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Fellow-Redeemed of Zion,

It would be GREAT if this month's cover letter could begin with: "COVID ERADICATED, VACCINE SUCCESSFUL! ALL BUSINESSES OPEN AND RUNNING!"


Sadly, such a statement cannot yet be made. But we are hopeful that soon, the pandemic will have subsided, vaccines will be made safe and available, and things can return to a "new normal."

But here is an announcement that we can make: "SIN PAID FOR, SACRAMENTS SUCCESSFUL, THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS UP AND RUNNING!" I have said many times over the years, that we do not know what tomorrow holds, but we know WHO holds tomorrow. And so it is. "If we live, we live unto the Lord. If we die, we die unto the Lord. So whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's!"

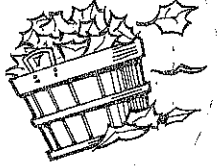
Such a Gospel truth makes each day, bleak though it may seem, a day of rejoicing, because of the WHO who holds us and tomorrow. "We need not fear, though the storms rage and mountains crumble to the sea." Almighty, powerful, gracious and merciful God administers his blessings, even in the very midst of the troubles of this life, something that we all should remember often.

And, so, in the aftermath of the election, we move forward into a time of preparation for a new church year. Although we won't be gathering for our usual Thanksgiving Fellowship dinner, God willing, we will still gather at The Lord's Table to receive His Body and Blood, under the bread and the wine, for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith, which wonderful things are not available in potlucks, but are always available to His redeemed people!

Blessed November, everyone!

Pastor Fritchard 

Zion News...



Our Helping Hands Food Drive was a **HUGE** success!! Thanks to everyone for their donations!! Many families in our community will benefit from our gifts during these difficult times.

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We need your help... Many of the altar duties are being done by only a few of our members. More help is needed to lighten the load. The altar duties include cleaning and filling the candles, changing the Paraments, hanging the banners, arranging the flowers and assisting with the preparation of Communion. We have a manual that provides excellent guidance and folks willing to work with you if you are interested in helping with any of these duties. None are difficult or time consuming, but sharing the responsibilities would help immensely. If you want more information or are willing to help, see Gary Klekamp.

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Due to the continuing pandemic, the **Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner and Advent Suppers will not be held this year.** In their place, the Mary Martha Guild is suggesting that whatever funds you might have spent be donated to Lutheran High School. Checks payable to Lutheran High School can be sent directly to 3500 West Washington, Springfield, IL 62711 or placed in our offering plate to be mailed.



Thanksgiving Eve Services will be held on Wednesday, November 25 beginning at 7:00 P.M. Mid-week Advent Services will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning on December 2 at 7:00 P.M. Social distancing and masks are encouraged.

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At the Fall Quarterly Voter's Meeting, the following officers were elected to new terms:

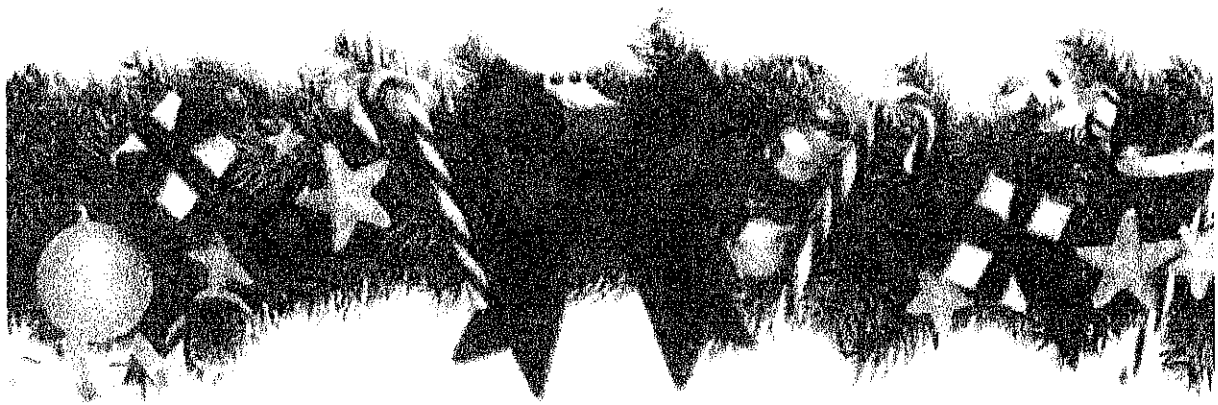
- Chairman** - Gary Klekamp
- Secretary** - Stacy Stremsterfer
- Treasurer** - Stacy Stremsterfer
- Financial Secretary** - Eric Oschwald
- Elders** - Dennis Boesdorfer, Brad Mahler, Paul Zerkel
- Trustees** - John Edie, Frank Wallace
- Board of Education** - Sarah Bloch, Cindy Pritchard

Many thanks for your willingness to serve!

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A comprehensive review of our members' information has begun. **Membership Information Sheets** are being distributed in person or by mail to all members for their review. When you receive your sheet, please review the information for accuracy and completeness. Review forms should be returned to the church no later than November 30.





PLEASANT PLAINS COMMUNITY CLUB'S
MINI FESTIVAL OF 
WREATHS AND TREES

Come get in the holiday spirit with us at our 1st annual event! We will have wreaths, trees (4ft - 7ft) and Christmas baskets on display that have been wonderfully made by local community members and businesses! Bidding dates and times are listed below and will be held at the Pleasant Plains Community Building!



Silent Auction Bidding Dates -
Nov 14, 20, 27, & 29: 1pm - 6pm

Nov 26: 3pm - 6pm

Dec 4 & 5: 1pm - 6pm



The first annual Mini Festival of Wreaths and Trees will begin on November 14 and end on Saturday December 5 at 6pm This is a silent auction for the Pleasant Plains Community Club and will be held at the Pleasant Plains Community building in Pleasant Plains.

Beautiful donated Holiday wreaths and Christmas Trees, along with specialty gift baskets will be on display for the community to come see and to bid. Anyone can donate an item and can get more info by calling 415-2976.

The community building will be open on the following days and times:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Saturday, November 14 | 1-6pm |
| Friday, November 20 | 1-6pm |
| Sunday November 29 | 1-6pm |
| Saturday, December 5 | 1-6pm |
| Thanksgiving Day | 3-6pm |
| Black Friday, November 27 | 1-6pm |

COVID rules will be followed and masks will be required.



Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (ESV)

We Have Become One

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
21 September 2020

A Nigerian friend of mine, Pastor Charles Wokoma, seems to be related to half the people in Nigeria. He now lives back in Nigeria, but while he lived in Houston whenever a Nigerian came to town, he went to the airport to pick up his "cousin." He went to the airport so often that he must have had thousands of cousins. Blood ties are extremely important to him, as they are to most people. "Blood is thicker than water." Earthly relations seem to overcome many other relations, that is, we prefer our own kin to anyone else. That's hardly surprising. It is a "dog bites man" story.

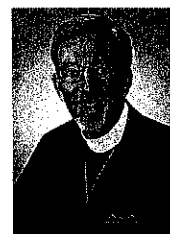
In a case where we prefer those who are not related to us over those who are, then we have a "man bites dog" story. This is unusual in human affairs. But this is exactly what happens in the life of the church in which those who share in the name Christian are as closely tied together as humans can be. Christ Himself is the connection. He ties together with His blood those who are in the church, and therefore have been cleansed by that precious blood. At the altar we partake of the blood of Christ together so that we cannot be anymore more closely united. I certainly feel

closely connected to the community of Christians that I am privileged to serve as a pastor. In many ways, though I love my blood relations, the people of my parish are my family. God often overturns our human expectations in which we would exhibit a preference for those of our earthly family.

John Chrysostom is right to point out that in the last analysis we are all relatives through the line of Adam. I baptized an infant named Eve Noelle some years ago. When I asked if she were named for anyone in her family her father indicated that she was not. In response I said that she bears the name of the mother of us all and that upon being baptized she was placed into a better relationship with our heavenly Father than her primeval namesake, because she was placed into the life and death of the promised Seed, Christ our Lord. And that changes everything. She gained lots of relatives that way. She is now a sister of Christ Himself and all the rest of the people in His blood-bought community.

One of the joys of serving a vibrant urban congregation is the remarkable diversity of church members our church serves. Africans, East Indians, Asians, Americans, Hispanics, and even a Canadian (a pastor) all serve and work together in one community under one Christ, through one baptism. When I suggested to Tanzanian members of our church that we could start a Bible study group for them, they chided me saying, "We are members of Memorial Lutheran Church. We will come to the events held for the members of Memorial Lutheran Church." This was music to my ears. They understood very well that our status as Christian folk supersedes any other issue of human ancestry. In Christ we have all become one (Gal 3:28).

Rev. Dr. Scott R.
Murray
Memorial Lutheran
Church



John Chrysostom

"Let us imitate the Apostle Paul, and glorify God in all things, by a vigilant way of life, and let us not feel confidence in the virtues of our ancestry, knowing the example that has been made of the Jews. For this is certainly not the relationship of Christians, because theirs is the kinsmanship of the Spirit. So the Scythian becomes Abraham's son and his son becomes more of an alien to him than the Scythian. Let us not then feel confidence in the doings of our fathers. If you have a parent who is a great Christian, do not imagine that this will be enough to save you, or get you honor and glory, unless you share that Christian character with your parent.

"So too if you have a bad parent, do not think that you will be condemned or put to shame because of this. For what can be less honorable than the Gentiles? Yet, by faith they became related to the saints. Or who were more nearly connected to God than the Jews? Yet by unbelief they were made aliens. For that relationship is of nature and necessity, in which way we are all relatives. For from Adam we all sprang, and none can be more a relation than another, both as regards Adam and Noah, and as regards the earth, the common mother of all. But the relationship worthy of honor is that which distinguishes us from the wicked. For it is not possible for all to be relations in this way, but those of the same character only. We do not call those brothers if they perform the same labor with us, but those who display the same zeal. In this way Christ gives men the name of children of God, and so on the other hand children of the devil, and so too children of disobedience, of hell, and of perdition likewise. So Timothy was Paul's son and was called 'my true child' by goodness (1Ti 1:2), but we do not know even the name of Paul's nephew (Acts 23:16). He was related to him by nature, and still that did not matter. Timothy was by nature and country unrelated to Paul since he was a native of Lystra (Acts 16:1-2), and yet he became most nearly related. Let us then also become the sons of the saints, or rather let us become even God's sons."

John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Romans*, 19

Collect for St. Matthew

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For the family and friends of Les Coolidge, whom our Lord Jesus Christ called out of this valley of sorrow, that they would mourn as those who have confidence in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come

For the people of the Gulf Coast, that they might be kept safe from threatening tropical weather and all who are imperiled by the storm would find their refuge in God their Father strong to save

For Jim Keller, that the Lord of the church would strengthen and build him up in his holy faith

For the gift of rain in California, that falling to water the earth we might receive bread for the eater and seed for the sower

Art: **CARAVAGGIO** *The Calling of Saint Matthew* (1599-1600)

[Contact Us](#)



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Memorial Lutheran Church | 5800 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77057

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FALL OPEN HOUSE
for PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

*Fall
Open House*

Wednesday, November 18
6:30 pm

Learn about Lutheran High School, tour the school, apply for enrollment for the 2021-22 school year.

LUTHERAN  HIGH

Current Parents/Guardians...please remember that word of mouth is the best way to advertise the great, in-person education going on at Lutheran High School!!



November Celebrations

Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| <i>Patsy Klekamp</i> | 11/4 |
| <i>Benjamin Morgan</i> | 11/6 |
| <i>Jane Webster</i> | 11/10 |
| <i>Chris Carter</i> | 11/14 |
| <i>Sue Matzat</i> | 11/15 |
| <i>Peggy Jurgens</i> | 11/16 |
| <i>Ben Pritchard</i> | 11/16 |
| <i>Thomas Darnell</i> | 11/18 |
| <i>Jean Morgan</i> | 11/21 |
| <i>Robison Carter</i> | 11/25 |
| <i>Alan Cowhick</i> | 11/29 |
| <i>Cindy Saylor</i> | 11/29 |

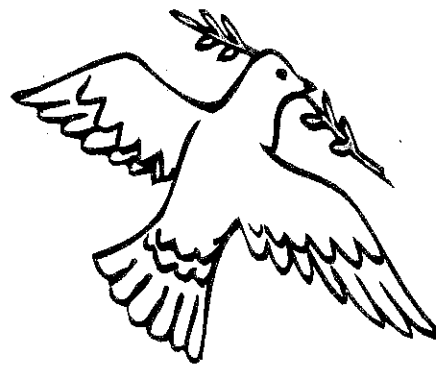


Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <i>Fred & Shirley Hagen</i> | 11/6 |
| <i>Brian & Shannon Rennecker</i> | 11/10 |
| <i>Tim & Bridget Wieland</i> | 11/25 |

Baptism Birthdays

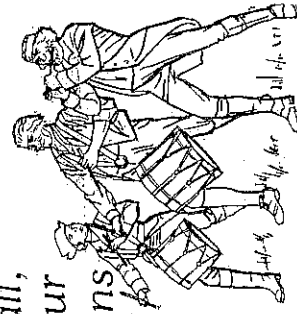
| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| <i>Jeff Jurgens</i> | 11/1 |
| <i>Megan Clark</i> | 11/2 |
| <i>Michelle Clark</i> | 11/2 |
| <i>Emery Greene</i> | 11/8 |
| <i>Elise Greene</i> | 11/14 |
| <i>Elliott Schneider</i> | 11/16 |
| <i>Grace Bowen</i> | 11/21 |
| <i>Thomas Darnell</i> | 11/23 |
| <i>Benjamin Morgan</i> | 11/26 |
| <i>Nathan VanZeLe</i> | 11/26 |
| <i>Alli Van Veldhuizen</i> | 11/28 |
| <i>Olivia VanZeLe</i> | 11/29 |



November 2020

LET'S GIVE THANKS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service - All Saint's Day - 10:15A.M. Confirmation Classes 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15A.M. Confirmation Classes 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. | 9 | 10 Circuit Pastor's at Concordia, Springfield | 11 Veterans' Day | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service - 10:15A.M. Confirmation Classes 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Church Council 6:45 P.M. | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15A.M. Confirmation Classes 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. | 23 | 24 | 25 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 P.M. | 26 Thanksgiving | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15A.M. Confirmation Classes 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. | 30 | 1 | 2 Advent Service 7:00 P.M. | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 <i>Hail all, to our veterans</i> | 7 | Notes: Elder - Dennis Boesdorfer Head Usher - Frank Wallace Due to the current Covid restrictions, the Congregational Thanksgiving Luncheon and Advent Suppers are cancelled for this year. | | | | |



Zion's Newsletter
November, 2020

Zion Lutheran Church
Rev. Don Pritchard
525 North Cartwright
P.O. Box 167
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677
(217) 626-1282

Sunday School/Bible Class 9:00 A.M.
Divine Service 10:15 A.M.

LCMS

Email: zionpp@casscomm.com