

From Pastor's desk...

November 2023

Dear Fellow-Redeemed of Zion,

Last month we participated in Halloween, and more importantly, we recalled the Reformation. For Christians of all stripes, it was the watershed breaking away from Medieval practices which subverted the Gospel of Jesus, and hid the riches of His grace from millions of desperate people.

But now, five hundred plus years after Martin Luther, the Christian Church still struggles. Sinners are in need of saving. How does that happen? On what basis?

Some say good works. Some say that you decide for Jesus. WE say that Jesus decided for us! And we receive all His benefits!

This does not mean that our lives glide smoothly along. But it does mean that our greatest enemy, death and the grave, have no hold on us now, and not ever!

So now we cruise along towards the narrative of Jesus coming into the world to assume our flesh and be our Savior. And it's a wonderful cruise, indeed! No more worries about good works. No more shaking in our boots as the cemetery draws near. We now have it made! It? Heaven! A free and generous gift from a loving, forgiving, merciful God!

Blessed November, everyone!

Pastor Ritchard

A handwritten signature consisting of a large, stylized letter 'R' followed by the letters 'i' and 'c' in a cursive script.

October 18, 2023

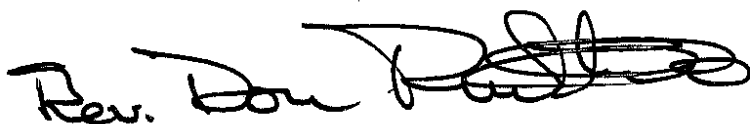
Dear Church Council and Zion Congregation,

On Sunday, October 15, I announced my retirement date of December 31, 2023. We will remain in Pleasant Plains, and will continue our membership in Zion Congregation for the time being.

We have enjoyed our time with the wonderful people of Zion! It has been twenty-five and one-half years since I was installed in July of 1997.

It has been my privilege to serve the people here. We will pray that the Lord of the Church provides suitable vacancy service, and eventually, will succeed in calling the next shepherd of the flock. We will greatly appreciate the indulgence and help of the Church Council in our move across town.

With deep thanks to God and to everyone at Zion,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Don Pritchard". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Rev. Don Pritchard

201 East Church Street

Pleasant Plains, IL 62677 (as of 01/01/2024)

Pre-Call Meeting Information

Central Illinois District President, Rev. Michael Mohr conducted a "Pre-Call" meeting with members on October 25.

Meeting highlights are:

We will have a Vacancy Pastor – the District Office will assist us in filling this position.

A "Call Committee" will be formed soon in accordance with our Constitution's guidelines.

Pastor Matt Schneider, Circuit Visitor, will be assisting us throughout the 'call' process.

Rev. Mohr reported that there are over 30 vacancies in the Central Illinois District. Zion will be joining that group when Pastor Pritchard retires at the end of 2023. If you have any questions or concerns about the 'call' process, please contact Head Elder, Brad Mahler.

Elected Officers

Congratulations to our newly elected officers, who will join returning officers in January. Installation of all elected officers will be held during the Divine Service on December 31, 2023.

Elected at the October 26 meeting of the Voters Assembly were:

Chairman – Eric Oschwald

Vice Chairman – David Manuel

Elder – Brad Mahler

Trustees – Rich Albsmeyer, John Edie and Frank Wallace

Board of Education – Sarah Bloch

Stewardship & Outreach – Debbie Edie, Stephanie Goebel and Michele Stremsterfer

LuHi News....

Lutheran High School Community,

I am excited to relay some news with you!

Over the last 14 months a committee has been working on the future of Lutheran High and a rebuilding plan. There have been many questions about what our future in Springfield would hold, and there certainly have been more questions than answers.

We know that the old building has to be demolished. Any chances of rebuilding on that property are unrealistic. In consultation with the Department of Natural Resources and other engineering experts, there is no guarantee that remediation of the property would allow construction to occur successfully. So we have focused on the next options, which is to rebuild elsewhere in the Springfield area.

We have had a committee of people composed of engineers, finance experts, stakeholders, and several others explore what the next best steps forward are. This group has been working to identify several possible solutions, including looking at current real estate on the market, multiple possible future locations, and any other possibilities that are out there.

As of October 2, 2023 the Lutheran High School Board of directors approved this committee to work to negotiate the purchase of a property for the future construction of a new Lutheran High School building in the Springfield area. Once these negotiations are finalized, we will notify you of more specific information.

^ ^

Robocalls, made only when there is important news to share with the congregation, will show a new number on your caller ID. The new number is: (855) 248-7295

& &

The Mary Martha Guild and Stewardship & Outreach Committee will be hosting a **traditional Thanksgiving potluck** following the Divine Service on **November 12**. First responders and village officials will be invited to join our potluck as an expression of “thanks” for their service. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy will be provided. Traditional Thanksgiving side dishes of salad, vegetables and desserts will be welcomed.

% % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %

New Altar Paraments and Pastoral Stoles will make their debut beginning on All Saints Day, November 5. Many thanks to the families of our Saints who designated their Memorial Funds to purchase the new paraments and stoles.

**Zion Lutheran Church
Stewardship Report
Offerings Compared to Budget**

	Offerings Received 9-Months ending	Budgeted Expenses 9-Months ending	
	<u>September 30, 2023</u>	<u>September 30, 2023</u>	
General Operating	\$88,263	\$115,913	
Synod Support & Missions	\$7,784	\$17,250	
Building Fund \$			- Not budgeted-repairs/replacement approved by Voters
Oschwald Scholarship \$			- Not budgeted - per generosity of membership
Free Will \$			- Not budgeted - earmarked when collected

Fellow members of Zion

I am writing this note to let you know that my wife, Cathy and I moved to De Soto, Kansas on October 10.

We are leaving to move closer to our two sons and five grandchildren that are in that area. We will be 20 minutes away from them instead of 5 hours. We also have our daughters' family and three more grandkids in Colorado that will be 5 hours closer.

It is very difficult to leave, as we have many good friends and relatives here. I have lived here since I was 7 years old and have been a member of Zion since it was built.

I have enjoyed serving our God, working to keep our Church in good condition. God has blessed me with the abilities and interests to fix things.

We all have different skills and I want to encourage you to please take the time to help out whenever you can. There are a handful of members that do the majority of the work in keeping the Church operating. If you don't know how to help, just ask. We love our Church and the Lord, so do what you can.

I won't be able to say goodbye to all of you in person, I pray that the Lord bless all of you and our church.

Dale & Cathy Dobbe
30755 84th Circle
De Soto, Kansas 66018

November



Birthdays

<i>Patsy Klekamp</i>	11/5
<i>Benjamin Morgan</i>	11/6
<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>Robison Carter</i>	11/25
<i>John Edie</i>	11/28
<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
<i>Carl & Cindy Saylor</i>	11/28



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>Michele Stremsterfer</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>Ali Van Veldhuizen</i>	11/28
<i>Olivia VanZeLe</i>	11/29



JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER AT RAISING CANE'S!

Mention the fundraiser at the register
and Cane's will donate **15%** of sales to:

Lutheran High School Sophomore Class

DATE & TIME:

November 14, 2023 from 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

LOCATION:

3100 W White Oaks Dr, Springfield, IL 62704
+1 217-361-0988



Raising Funds
WITH



raisingcanes.com

[f RaisingCanesChickenFingers](https://www.facebook.com/RaisingCanesChickenFingers) | [t Raising_Canes](https://twitter.com/Raising_Canes) | [@raisingcanes](https://www.instagram.com/raisingcanes)

© Raising Cane's USA, LLC. "Raising Cane's" and the Raising Cane's Logo are registered trademarks of Raising Cane's USA, LLC.

Poinsettia Order Form

Red and White Poinsettia will adorn our Sanctuary again this Advent season. If you would like to order Poinsettia in honor of/memory of someone, please complete the information below and return the order form and payment to the church office no later than November 19. Cost will be \$ 16.50 each.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

_____ Red # _____ White

In Honor of

In Memory of





Ezekiel 34:7-16

“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.

“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that

No Backbone

St. Luke, Evangelist
18 October 2023

The seminaries of the church are her backbone. Properly trained pastors will preserve the truth in the churches. Without their faithful leadership, congregations will be blown about by every wind of doctrine ([Eph 4:14](#)). With faithless clergy at the helm of the churches, everything will be lost. Every pernicious wind will blow such men away from the truth. For the pulpit is the great bulwark against heresy. The pulpit in the college chapel where I was an undergraduate was a massive marble prow fronted by an enormous bas relief of the burning bush. Here God was expected to speak. Here God’s Word could not be assailed or overcome by the frothing waves whipped up by the winds of change. The people came to hear and the preacher to speak. The preacher that cannot stand in the pulpit but paces to and fro is a symbol of uncertainty and change, blown here and there by every theological whim. O Lord, save us from such blown-about preachers!

Proper training will, therefore, not consist in the latest sociological techniques, crowd control methods, or organizational wizardry, but will consist in the divine Word. Without the Word of God, there can be no church. With the Word of God, there is the church. The seminaries exist to build the church and for no other reason. Her pastors must be well founded on the immovable rock of the church: in Christ and His speech. If the under-shepherds know not the voice of the Good Shepherd, they cannot call the sheep so that they hear the voice that leads to life. They will call the sheep to perdition, if they do not call with the voice of the Good Shepherd. There is no middle

have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice." (ESV)

ground; either the Good Shepherd calls or his rival, and our enemy, the devouring wolf does.

Luther held the faithfulness of lay people in contempt, calling them louts and plebeians. We must confess that modern church goers are no more likely to remain faithful and staunch defenders of the Christian truth if their pastors are prancing about in the flowery fields of faulty human wisdom. This isn't because they are as contemptible as Luther's lay community, but because poor shepherds lead sheep into poverty of faith and spirit. While shepherds stricken by poverty of spirit are trolling about for the latest magic bullet to make the church grow, the sheep go astray into the wrong fields and are cast down before the devouring lion. While the shepherds are looking for the world's riches, the Lord has placed into their hands the very riches of Christ's body and blood. They eschew such lowly, rich gifts, "What that same old thing? There must be something better than that old stuff." Such men are not in the Word of the Lord who lives. They rate the Lord to be a helpless fellow without their cunning help. "See what we are doing to grow our churches," they say. And truly they are growing their own churches, not the living Lord's. O Lord, save us from such "shepherds" who are fleecing Your flock. Poor shepherds leave the church without backbone.

Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray
Memorial Lutheran Church

Martin Luther

"It is the very devil when [denial of the resurrection] finds its way into the pulpit and the article of faith is assailed by those who are preachers and, following Paul, ascend the pulpit and govern Christendom in his stead. When such men open their despicable mouth and instill this in the people, they above all others work this murderous damage, especially if they are learned and very intelligent. For if only the pastors remain faithful and preserve the doctrine, God will bestow His grace that there will always be a number to accept it; for where the Word is pure and unadulterated, there will, of course, be fruit.

“Therefore I have exhorted so often, and still exhort, that all who wish to be saved pray diligently, as Christ Himself commands us to pray (Mt 9:38), that God may grant us faithful laborers and pastors who are sincere and adhere to the Word. Then if God be willing, there will be no danger. For the pulpit can and must alone preserve Baptism, Sacrament, doctrine, articles of faith, and all estates in their purity.

“However, if we neglect to pray and if we anger God with our security, lethargy, and ingratitude, He will send us, instead of St. Paul and all upright pastors, stupid asses who will snatch away both Sacrament and Word, and we lose everything, both in the doctrine and the office. Thus we can observe today that this has already befallen several countries and cities, which have not only lost the Word through such men but have also been led into every sort of misery. Through his lies and deceit the devil always leads to murder and ruin. But if faithful pastors had remained in those places, the pure doctrine would surely also have remained, and other misery would have been spared them, even though the rabble had espoused the error enthusiastically. For it does not dismay me so much to have a lout or a dolt blaspheme or to have a plebeian, insolent nobleman rave and rant, or to have some other smart-aleck jeer. For all of these, Christendom and the pulpit will remain intact. But the damage is wrought when they who teach become factious spirits themselves and the people are obliged to preserve themselves, and not only to preserve themselves, but also to be on guard and defend themselves against their own pastors. That is done only with great difficulty. For even without this the poor multitude is soon misled; it cannot govern and lead itself.”

Martin Luther, *Commentary on 1 Corinthians*

Collect for St. Luke

Almighty God, our Father, Your blessed Son called Luke the physician to be an evangelist and physician of the soul. Grant that the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments may put to flight the diseases of our souls, that with

willing hearts we may ever love and serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

For the presidents of the LCMS seminaries, Lawrence Rast and Thomas Egger, that their leadership would bear fruit in faithful preachers of Christ for the churches

For all parents of young children, that the Lord might give them joy in their abundant blessings

For all aged persons, that they would be kept in the care of the Lord

For all those struggling to forgive those who have sinned against them, that the Lord would give them strength to forgive as they have been forgiven

Art: **VERONESE, Paolo** *St Luke* (1555)



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

Contact Us



Visit Our Website

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

[Unsubscribe smurray@mlchouston.org](mailto:unsubscribe_smurray@mlchouston.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)




Sent by smurray@mlchouston.org powered by



Trusted Email from Constant Contact - Try it FREE today.

Try email marketing for free today!

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.						LuHi Decommissioning Service 3:00 P.M. Set clocks back 1 hour before retiring.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.			Mary Martha Guild 2:00 P.M.			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Congregational/Community Thanksgiving Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.		Circuit Pastors at Trinity, Auburn 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.		Elders 5:30 P.M.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.			Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30 P.M.			
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.				Church Council 6:30 P.M.		

Notes: Elder Brad Mahler

Zion's Newsletter
November, 2023

Zion Lutheran Church
Rev. Don Pritchard
525 North Cartwright
P.O. Box 167
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

(217) 626-1282

To All Veterans



Whether At Home Or Abroad
Active Duty ~ Reserves ~ Retired

All Americans Say:
THANK YOU!

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Divine Service 10:15 A.M.

LCMS

Email: zionpp@casscomm.com
Website: www.zionpp.net