

# From Pastor's desk...

October 2023

Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

October includes two observances that are not really church observances, at least not in the same way as Pentecost, which season we are shortly concluding.

The two events are close together. Actually, our calendar shows Celebrating the Reformation, and celebrating Halloween on the same day. Which one is the most important to people who embrace the Christian Faith?

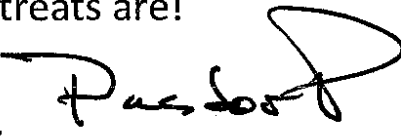

Of course, the answer is The Reformation. Ghosts and Goblins, and all sorts of Halloween silliness pales in comparison to the event which signaled a return to the Scriptural teaching of "Salvation by Grace alone, through Faith alone, in God's Word alone!"

Some so-called "Christian traditions" forbid their children from dressing up and going house to house begging for a treat, so that the house will not be bothered by ghosts and goblins.

Of course, the real answer is Holy Baptism, where the baptized are clothed with the righteousness of Christ and are therefore already immune to the silliness.

So, we do not worry about the silly things of Halloween, but we do insist upon the salient things: Baptism into Christ, God's Word which declares forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, and participation in the faith and fellowship life of the congregation.

That's where the REAL treats are!

Blessings! Pastor  

# October Happenings

**Advent Service times.....**The Board of Elders and Pastor are trying to determine the most convenient time for you to attend our Mid-Week Advent Services. Times being considered are noon or 6:30 P.M.. The noon service would not include a fellowship meal, the evening service would include a light meal before the service.

They acknowledge that most work during the day and others prefer not to drive after dark. They are soliciting your opinion. If you would be attending the Mid-Week Services, which time would you prefer? Please let them know by either anonymously completing the survey on the counter in the All Saints Addition or attending the Voters' Assembly Meeting on October 26. The time for the Advent Mid-Week Services will be determined at that meeting.

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**Fall Quarterly Voter's Meeting ...** The final regularly scheduled meeting of the Voters' Assembly in 2023 will held on Thursday, October 26 beginning at 6:30 P.M. This is an important meeting for all voters' to attend as the 2024 Budget will be presented and the election of officers will be held. New members and visitors are always welcome to attend!!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

**Confirmation Classes** begin Sunday, October 22 for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Head Elder, Brad Mahler will be the instructor for our students.

**Pictorial/Membership Directory...** The Pictorial Directory Committee has decided to combine the annual Membership Directory with a Pictorial Directory. We would like to include pictures of our members as well as church events that occurred throughout the year. The pictures will be informal or casual family – not the formal portraits of previous directories. There are 2 ways to submit your pictures – we will hold picture taking sessions immediately following the Divine Services on October 8, October 29 and November 12. Or, if you have a family picture that you'd like to submit, simply email it as an attachment to the church email ([zionpp@casscomm.com](mailto:zionpp@casscomm.com)) AND Lindsay VanZeLe ([Linshull2002@yahoo.com](mailto:Linshull2002@yahoo.com)).

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**Fall Clean Up Day...**The Trustees are inviting anyone who enjoys time outside to join them on Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 A.M. to 'clean up' the outside of our church. Projects include trimming shrubs, bushes, flowering plants, cleaning up branches, etc. Donuts and coffee will be provided! Please join in the "fun"!!





# October

## Birthdays

David Manuel	10/1
Megendeal Tesfazion Hibtes	10/1
Sondra Hermes	10/9
Mike Stolleis	10/10
Journey Nolting	10/11
Parker Kmett	10/12
Elise Greene	10/13
Keira Simmons	10/13
Elias Morgan	10/20
Nathan Curry	10/20
Katryna Tewes	10/23
Emery Greene	10/24
Olivia VanZele	10/26
Mary Wallace	10/27
Jacob Hermes	10/28
Steve Jurgens	10/28

## Baptism Birthday's

Bob TeRonde	10/6
Romel Nolting	10/7
Tammy Tewes	10/8
Jackson Kuhlman	10/9
Journey Nolting	10/11
Evelyn Thomas	10/14
Ron Jurgens	10/16
Ken Matzat	10/16
David Manuel	10/17
Kris Cowhick	10/17
Alexa Edwards	10/19
Kristin Irlam	10/19
Lexi Manker	10/19
Fallyn Shae Shull-Pernell	10/20
Diego White	10/21
Karl Carter	10/22
Henry Mason Collins	10/23
Stephanie Goebel	10/24
Bonnie Jurgens	10/25
Mary Wallace	10/27

## Happy Anniversary

Darrel & Shirley Patrick	10/3
Frank & Mary Wallace	10/8
Gary & Carol Kiel	10/10
Mike & Amy Wendling	10/11
Ken & Sue Matzat	10/16
Butch & Jeanette Ealey	10/25





***Darrell & Shirley Patrick's  
70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary***

***Open House  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Parish Hall  
October 8, 2023  
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.***

***All are invited!!***

Please join us for the Lutheran High Brunch  
Sponsored by the Foundation for Excellence

Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Serving 10:45-1:00

Trinity Lutheran Parish Hall  
515 S MacArthur Blvd

All proceeds will benefit the Lutheran High Bus Fund

RSVP with payment by Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup>  
5200 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street Frontage Rd E  
Springfield IL 62703

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Adult tickets @ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Student tickets (ages 6-12) @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Children 5 and under free \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to be a Crusader Sponsor \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I/we will use the 8 tickets included with the sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_

No, I/we are not able to attend \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to be a Silver Sponsor \$500 \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I/ we will use the 4 tickets included with the sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_

No, I/we are not able to attend \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to be a Blue Sponsor \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I/we will use the 2 tickets included \_\_\_\_\_

No, I/we are not able to attend \_\_\_\_\_

No, we are unable to attend please accept this donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_





## The Camp CILCA Lowdown

October, 2023

217-487-7497 / [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)

4124 Camp Cilca Rd.

Cantrall, IL 62625

### SAVE THE DATE:

- **October 7: G.R.I.T. RUN**
  - The Grueling, Rugged, Intense Trail Run (G.R.I.T. Run) is for the bravest of souls. The 5-kilometer course includes narrow trails, steep hills, creek bed crossings,\* scenic views, and stairs. Runners 6-18 run for \$10. Runners 19 and up run for \$30.
  - 8:30 am ~ Registration and Check-in at the large Picnic Shelter.
  - 10:00 am ~ Race starts!
  - Register online: [runsignup.com/Race/IL/Cantrall/CampCilca5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Cantrall/CampCilca5K)
- **November 3-5: Women's SCRAPBOOK RETREAT**
  - The cost is \$90 for your room and meals. (Private rooms are available upon request for \$120.)
  - Each participant will be given a 6-foot table to use. 3 meals will be served on Saturday, as well as brunch on Sunday. Bedding and towels are also provided in the hotel-style rooms of the Christian Growth Center.
- **November 4: Act Like Men WORKDAY**
  - 8am-11:30am, lunch provided
  - There is lots of hard work to be done preparing the camp for the winter season.
- **December 8-9: Joyful Hearts Christmas**
  - Camp CILCA welcomes campers of all ages with developmental disabilities for a 24 hour CHRISTMAS PARTY! Campers are partnered up with a high school or college-age volunteer who will help them have a fun and safe time doing Christmas activities like baking, decorating, singing, and more!

## Remembering our Home Bound Members.....

Several members of our faith family are home bound or just can't get around as well as they used to. Names and addresses of our members who receive Pastoral visits or mailings are below. Please keep them in your prayers. Also, with Fall and the holidays fast approaching, sending a note or card would let them know they are not forgotten by their faith family. When you sign your card, include "Zion Lutheran Church" below your name to help give them a reference. Thanks for sharing Christ's love with our fellow members.

Pastor & Mrs. Edward Balfour  
150 Mitchell Road  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Joann DeCroix  
4817 N. Oak Hill Rd., Apt. 402  
Rochester, IL 62563

Fred & Shirley Hagen  
620 Grandview Dr.  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

Barb Hand  
2601 Montvale Dr., Apt. 315  
Springfield, IL 62704

Nancie Klein  
3401 Hedley, Apt. 7  
Springfield, IL 62711

Robin Krone  
3645 Richland Elevator Road  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

Ted Mahler  
Prairie Rose Health Care Center  
900 S. Chestnut St  
Pana, IL 62557

Darrell & Shirley Patrick  
104 W. Main St., P.O. Box 42  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

Merle Theilen  
The Regency  
2120 W. Washington, #116, Bed 1  
Springfield, IL 62704

Evelyn Thomas  
4101 West Iles Ave., Apt. 3325  
Springfield, IL 62711



**The Stewardship Report** below represents the offerings received vs the budgeted expenses as of August 31.

<b>Zion Lutheran Church</b>		
<b>Stewardship Report</b>		
<b>Offerings compared to Budget</b>		
	<b>Offerings Received 8-Months ending <u>August 31</u></b>	<b>Budgeted Expenses 8-Months ending <u>August 31</u></b>
<b>General Operating Synod Support &amp; Missions</b>	<b>\$80,113</b>	<b>\$103,033</b>
	<b>\$7,239</b>	<b>\$15,333</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ -	Not budgeted- repairs/replacement approved by Voters
<b>Oswald Scholarship</b>	\$ -	Not budgeted - per generosity of membership
<b>Free Will</b>	\$ -	Not budgeted - earmarked when collected

**Did you know....**

**Your offering envelope allows you to direct your offering to at least 3 funds:**

**Current Expenses  
Synod, Missions, Benevolences  
Building Fund**

**If you do not designate your offering, we currently use the "90/10" rule: 90% of your offering is allocated to Current Expenses and 10% to Synod, Mission, Benevolences.**

**If you desire all or part of your offering to be allocated to a different fund, for example Glenn Oswald Scholarship Fund or Memorial Fund, simply note it on your envelope.**



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Minutes – Draft**  
**August 31, 2023**

Gary Klekamp called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. Present were Gary Klekamp, Pastor Pritchard, Lindsay Van Zele, Joe Curry, Eric Oschwald and David Manuel. Absent: Dennis Boesdorfer and Stacy Stremsterfer. Visitor present – Sue Matzat. Gary explained that Sue was present as temporary secretary in Stacy's absence.

Pastor opened with a reading from Pastor Harrison's book "Take Courage – Encouraging Words for Discouraging Times" and prayer.

**Minutes** from the May 25, 2023 (last Council meeting), were presented. Minutes were accepted as presented.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented. Reports indicated that the account balance in the General Fund is \$205.25 with approximately \$2,522.20 in upcoming bills. After discussion, David Manuel moved to table further deficit resolution discussions until after the Trustee's report. Lindsay Van Zele seconded. Motion passed. Treasurer's Report was accepted by unanimous decision.

The **Financial Secretary's Report** was presented by Eric Oschwald. Eric's report showed that offerings were lagging behind from this point in prior years. He commented that several of our "Legacy" givers had passed, which is resulting in an approximate shortage of \$20,000 a year. Financial Secretary's Report was accepted by unanimous decision.

**Elders Report** – Dennis submitted the following report to Gary, who presented it to Council. The Elders met on August 10. The following were discussed – Confirmation Classes this fall with 3 eligible students; a mentoring program for the younger people in our congregation to assist with the church services such as acolyting and collection of the offering; responses to the delinquent member letters and the dedication of the new electronic sign to be held on August 20. Pastor suggested that the Advent services be held at noon with lunch to follow. Elders agreed with time change. Dennis announced to the Elders that he was resigning from the Board of Elders at this time.

Council members discussed the proposed change of time to the Advent services. Majority were not in favor of the change, but would like input from the Voter's Assembly and congregation. Gary asked Sue to publish notices in the October newsletter and bulletins that times of the Advent services will be discussed at the Fall Quarterly Voter's Meeting and that opinions were welcome.

Church Council wanted to acknowledge the service Dennis has done as Head Elder and expressed their appreciation. Elder's Report was accepted as presented.

**Trustees Report** – Joe Curry presented a report on the bid for updating the sound system. Bill Schnake gave 2 bids – one an analog system, the other a digital system. Joe's report gave the strengths of both systems and the costs. Joe then presented a bid from BVB Glass to replace the plexiglass covering on the front stained glass windows in the Sanctuary. After discussion, Joe will go back to BVB Glass for additional information and options. The Trustees are recommending putting both projects on hold at this time. Church Council members agreed with recommendation. David Manuel made a motion to put a pause on both projects, Lindsay Van Zele seconded. Motion carried.

Following the installation and payment for the landscaping around the new electronic sign, the funds in Glenn Brandt's memorial account are now past the 2 year holding period. With no other project planned for those funds, motion made by David Manuel and seconded by Lindsay Van Zele to transfer the remaining funds in Glenn Brandt's memorial account to the Building Fund per current policy. Motion carried.

Pastor asked Joe about removing the piles of branches around the property from the June storms. Joe said he would take care of it.

Trustees Report accepted by unanimous consent.

**Board of Education** – Lindsay Van Zele reported that Sunday School was resuming on September 3. A rotating staff of teachers will conduct the classes. Board of Education report accepted by unanimous consent.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor reported Baptized -196, Communicant – 159, Average Attendance YTD – 47, Average Communed – 43. He has prepped for the Divine Services and Bible Studies. Home communions, hospital and nursing home visits as usual. He has attended meetings as needed, ISP and ILFOP Chaplain duties as usual, attended the state fair and made numerous Parish phone contacts. Pastor's report accepted by unanimous consent.

**Stewardship & Outreach Committee** – Pastor reported that the "Teacher's Welcome Back" donuts were appreciated by the teachers on their first day of classes. Thrivent Action Team grants are being used to fund their projects. Stewardship & Outreach Report accepted by unanimous consent.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

Eric Oschwald reported that the Glenn Oschwald Parochial Educational Scholarship committee is recommending that Mackenzie Matzat be awarded a scholarship for her tuition at Trinity Lutheran School for the 2023-2024 academic year. Scholarship to be presented to Mackenzie following the Divine Service in a few weeks. Recommendation approved.

Church Council discussed how to address the deficit in the General Fund. There was some question whether members understood how their offerings were allocated if it wasn't designated on their offering envelopes. Eric will work on preparing a bulletin announcement explaining how the undesignated funds are allocated (90% General Fund, 10% Missions).

Stacy Stremsterfer entered the meeting. Discussion was held regarding borrowing funds from the Building Fund to cover immediate expenses paid from the General Fund. Motion made by Eric Oschwald to approve the transfer of funds from the Building Fund to the General Fund not to exceed \$7500, with an initial transfer of \$5000. Borrowed funds to be repaid within 12 months. Stacy seconded motion. Motion passed with 1 abstaining.

Motion to adjourn.

Closed with recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Sue Matzat, Temporary Secretary

# Small + Church + Summit

Winter 2024

## Agenda

- 9:30: Sign in**  
**10:00: Opening Devotion**  
**10:15: Announcements**  
**10:20: "Around the Room" Introductions**  
**10:55: Group Selection of afternoon discussion topics**  
**11:00: Inactive Members (Pres. Scharr)**  
**12:00: Lunch**  
**12:30-2:10: Discussion Breakaways**  
**2:10: SCS into the future-Rev. Schurb**  
**2:30: Closing Prayer**

Questions to consider as part of your introduction:

Who are you? From which church?

Who else is from your church?

Where is the church? How many people?

Briefly tell us one thing your church has done in the last 5 years that you would like to share with the rest of us.

Moderators:  
President Tim Scharr (SID)  
President Michael Mohr (CID)  
Pastor Mike Strong (Farmersville)  
Vicar Tim Good (Trinity, Springfield)  
Trip Rodgers (CID Staff)  
Ken Schurb (CID Staff)

## Discussion Breakaways

The next 100 minutes will be broken into 25 minute segments and will give you the opportunity to be part of the discussion on 4 of the 6 available topics. The topics to choose from are as follows:

Stewardship of Spiritual Gifts:  
Rev. Mike Strong (Farmersville)

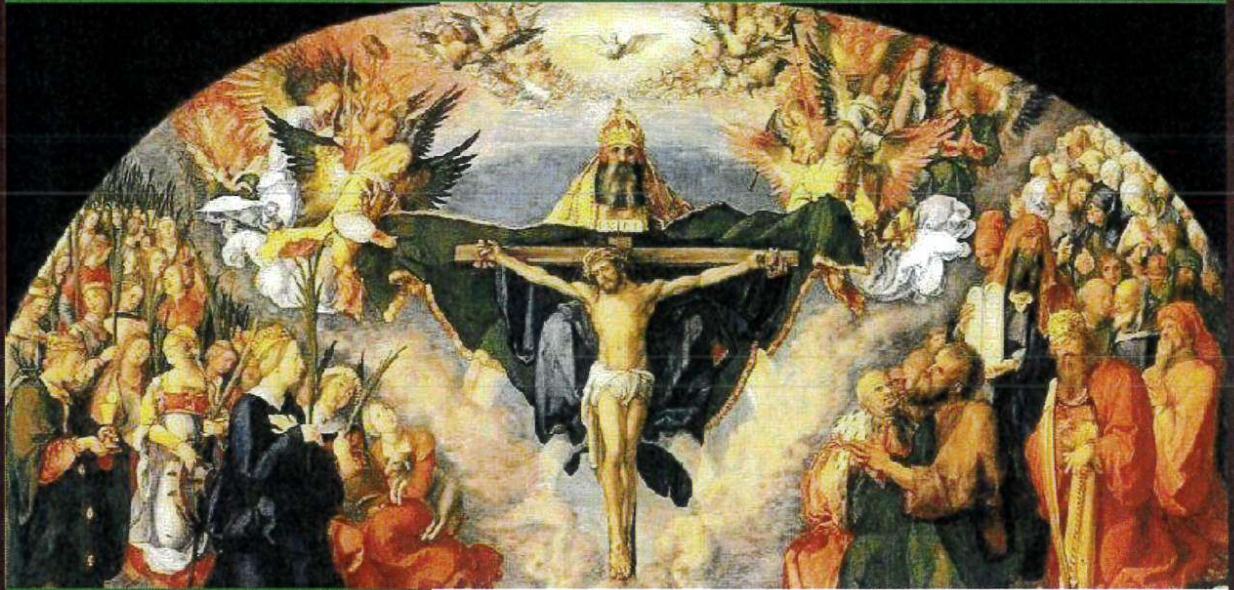
Congregational Partnerships:  
President Michael Mohr, CID

Bible Study in the Small Church:  
Ken Schurb

3 additional topics, decided by group of attendees prior to lunch

Moderators: Trip Rodgers, President Scharr,  
Vicar Good





### John 5:37-47

“The Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from people. But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive

## Let's Be Clear

Friday of Pentecost 12  
25 August 2023

Our lack of clarity about the meaning and intentions of Islam is due to our lack of clarity about the meaning of Christianity. The western world has assumed that Islam and Christianity are just species of the same genus, that is, as though they both can be placed together under the title: “religion.” In this thinking, both Islam and Christianity are merely “religion.” Religion encompasses all vaguely moral behavior and relegates to the outer fringes all talk of supernatural divine revelation as unverifiable. At most, therefore, religion becomes a moral pumpkin seed spitting contest to see which “religion” has the most fanatically devoted followers or has inspired the most deeply sacrificial efforts on the part of its co-religionists. By such standards perhaps we should become followers of Muhammad. Islam is replete with martyrs, sent to slaughter infidels, sacrificed in the name of Allah. Islam even pays some lip service

me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?" (ESV)

to Jesus as a prophet, even if He is superseded by Muhammad.

But biblical Christianity does not claim to be a mere religion led by a prophet. It is not primarily an ethical code, no matter how holy or elevated that code might be. Christianity is about Christ, who is not merely a prophet, but the God-Man. Christianity consists of Christ, the Son of God. Without Christ, His life, His death, His resurrection, His ascension, and His return to rescue us, there is no Church and no Christianity. And while ethics is important within its own sphere, it does not define Christianity, nor differentiate Christianity from mere religion. Our lack of clarity about Christianity's essence makes us blind to the vast differences between Christianity and Islam. If we do not know and confess the centrality of the person of the Son of God to our faith, we will never recognize what is inferior about Islam, and indeed every other mere "religion."

Christianity stands or falls on the contention that Christ, the eternal Son of the Father, true God and true Man, is the final and complete revelation of God in the world. Christianity stands or falls on the contention that this One divine and human person is the payment for the sin of the world by His death and life. Christianity stands or falls on the vicarious satisfaction of the eternal Son for us sinners. If that is not so, if these supernatural contentions about the person of Christ are only the superstitious and partly loopy beliefs of a mere fringe of the Christian faith, then we have every reason to accept as equally valid the moral teachings of Islam and its prophet Muhammad. But if it is true that Christ, God's Son, is the only way to our heavenly Father, then we have no reason to give any quarter to the religion of Muhammad. Let's be clear about that.

Rev. Dr. Scott R.  
Murray  
Memorial Lutheran  
Church

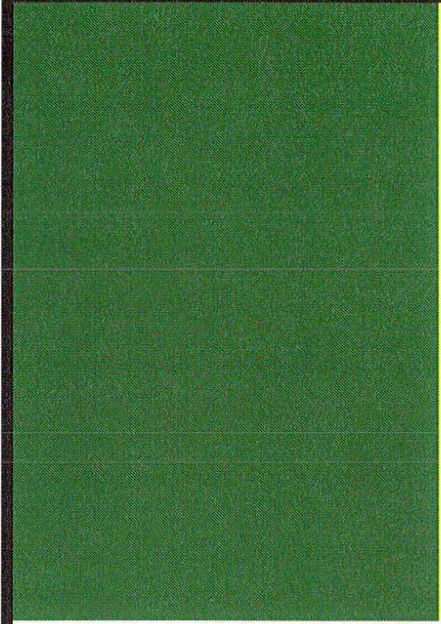


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## Martin Luther

“The outward life of the [Islamic] Turks is said to be marked by an appearance of piety. They pray, fast, give alms, establish charitable institutions, and build churches [mosques]. They are ready to help others. And with this appearance of holiness they deceive many people. Thus the pope also duped us. At the time we did not know better, but we believed that monastic orders and monkeries were the proper and correct way to heaven. Anyone who is not well armed with this article of faith and has not pressed it deep into his heart falls easy prey to the shining external shimmer of holiness as well as to the prominent names of prophets and teachers.

“But because they have devised such a variety of ways to heaven, we will tell them: ‘We will stick to the one way to heaven and adhere to Him who descended and simultaneously remained above.’ He is our sole resurrection, as is said in John: ‘I am the resurrection, and the truth, and the life.’ Therefore He is the only way to heaven, since He alone ascended there. Whoever remains loyal to this article of faith also remains loyal to Christ. Even if he were led captive to Turkey and were an eyewitness of the practice of the Turkish religion [of Islam], of their many fasts and prayers, he would still say: ‘All this fails to interest me. Even if the pope and the Turk were to raise the dead, even if they flogged themselves with rods till the blood streamed from them, even if they fasted several weeks on bread and water, I know, despite all this, that you are not the resurrection



or the life or the way to heaven. You will not deceive and delude me with all these acts. For Christ alone is the way, and no other.’

“If a Christian preserves this article of faith in its truth and purity, it will be easy for him to ward off all false teachers and deceivers as well as his own whims and notions. Yes, he who holds fast to this has a mainstay for life; and he will also be saved in death through this one faith in Christ, that is, if he believes that Christ alone ascended into heaven. Therefore, he will not be lost.”

**Martin Luther, *Sermons on John's Gospel*, 3.14**

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# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.	2 < - - - Fall	3 Pastor's	4 Conference - - - - >	5	6	7
8 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Pictorial/Membership Directory picture day Darrell & Shirley Patrick 70th Anniversary celebration	9	10	11 Mary Martha Guild 2:00 P.M.	12	13	14 Fall Clean Up Day 9:00 A.M.
15 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. LWML Sunday	16 Evangelism & Outreach Committee 6:00 P.M.	17	18	19	20	21
22 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M.	23	24	25 November Newsletter Articles Due	26 Quarterly Voter's Meeting 6:30 P.M.	27	28
29 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Pictorial/Membership Directory picture day	30	31 	1	2		
5	6	Notes: Elder Nathan Van Zele				

***Zion's Newsletter  
October, 2023***

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

***(217) 626-1282***



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

***LCMS***

***Email: [zionpp@casscomm.com](mailto:zionpp@casscomm.com)  
Website: [www.zionpp.net](http://www.zionpp.net)***