

# From Pastor's desk...

September 2023

Dear Fellow-Redeemed of Zion,

It has surely been a memorable Summer! The heat has drained our utility budgets, the news from around the world, and lately from Lahaina on Maui has been bewildering, and wildfires have polluted our atmosphere. Life in a fallen world is surely no joke!

Some were ill. Some passed out of this life and into the life of the world to come. And some recovered to live another day. And for some, the struggle continues.

But an old song reassures us, "I know where I'm going, I know who's going with me, fairest of the fair." And who is "the fairest of the fair?" It is none other than Jesus, the God-Guy. He laid claim to us in Holy Baptism, and has struggled with us, rejoiced with us, and comforted us every step of the way, whether we were aware or not.

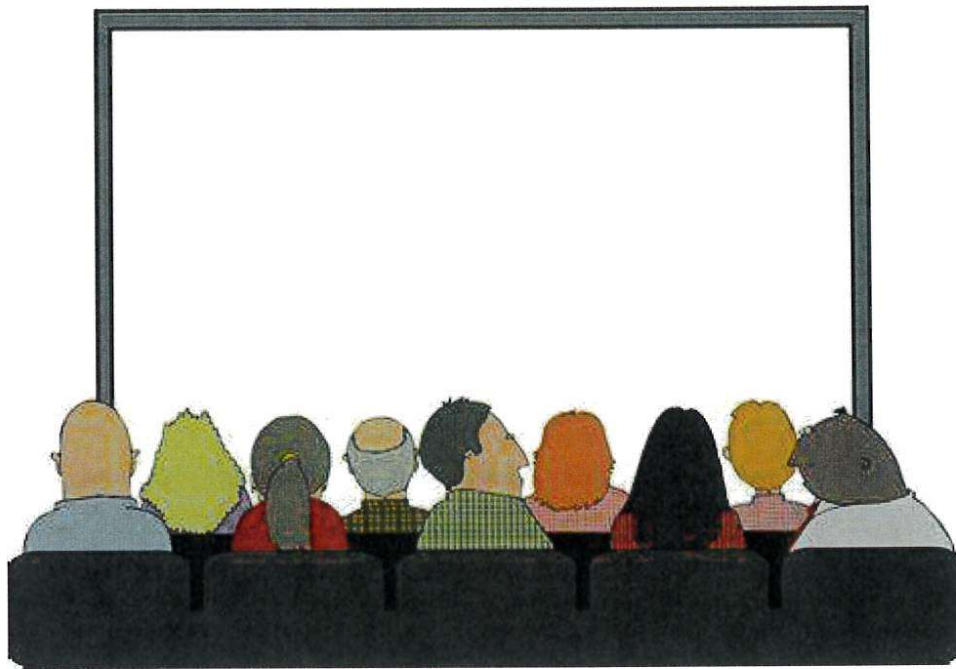
That is perhaps the richest blessing that we receive, even when it seems like everything, including ourselves, is against us. "I will never leave you nor forsake you," he promises. "I am with you always, even to the very end of the age..."

So, "we've laid around and stayed around, this old town too long, Summer is almost gone and Winter is coming on." But unlike the song, we need not fear feeling like "we've got to travel on." Why? Because Jesus walks with us every step, carries us when we are too weak, and welcomes us back in confession and faith.

Blessed September, Everyone!

Pastor T! ☺

# LCMS NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT



I attended the LCMS National Convention in Milwaukee, WI from July 29 - August 3, 2023 as a Lay Delegate from the Central Illinois District, Springfield West Circuit. It was very interesting to be with over 1400 other Lay and Pastoral Delegates from all over the United States as well as 20 other areas all around the World. We discussed and voted on approximately 200 resolutions. We also elected approximately 200 people to various offices and boards. The “hot” topic with the most discussion was Concordia University Texas who is trying to separate from the LCMS and will probably succeed in doing so as they are deviating from the LCMS Doctrine. As most resolutions were just a paragraph long, the resolution pertaining to this specific issue was 24 pages long. We had assigned seating so I got to know the people around me very well and truly met some great people in our LCMS from different areas. If you have any questions about the LCMS Convention, please feel free to contact me.

Dennis Boesdorfer  
217 (652-6153)

## **Beware of Faith Decay**

A message on a billboard sponsored by the local dental association reads, "IGNORE YOUR TEETH AND THEY WILL GO AWAY."

What happens when you ignore your teeth? When you stop brushing, flossing, eating the right foods and having regular checkups? Foreign materials get lodged in your teeth and cause them to begin to rot – tooth decay.

The deceptiveness of tooth decay is that it doesn't show up the minute you stop brushing. True, the rotting begins immediately, but its effects aren't seen for a period of time. You can smile into a mirror for a long time and never notice anything wrong. Until... Until one day your teeth begin to hurt and you may find that they are beyond repair. "Ignore your teeth and they will go away."

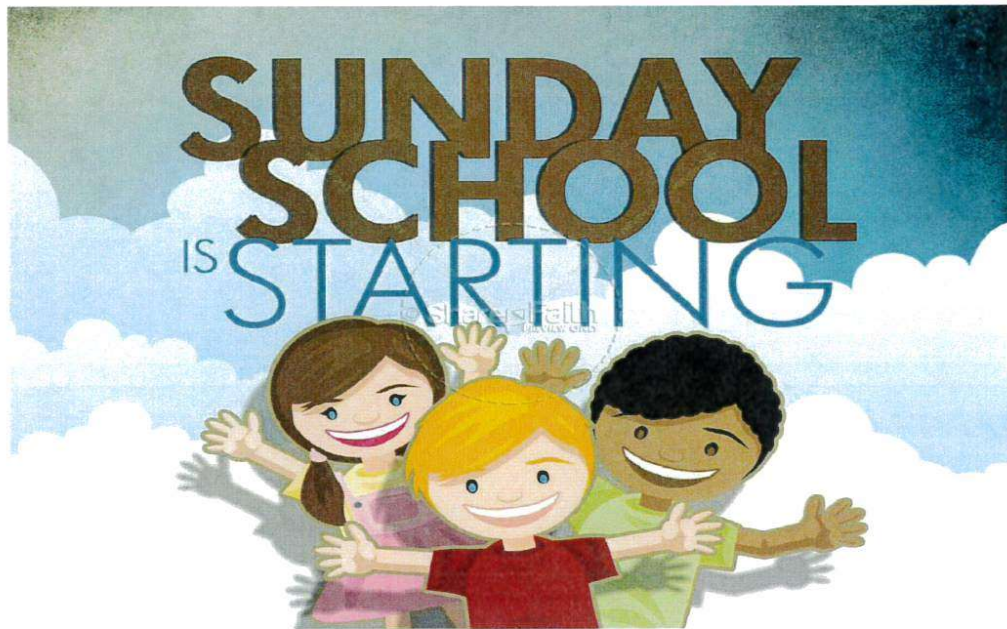
The same is true of your faith. Ignore it and it will go away. When you stop confessing and repenting of your sins, looking to Jesus for His cleansing forgiveness; when you stop applying the Word of God, which is given to feed and build up your faith; when you stop regularly participating in the fellowship of the saints, you are opening yourself to the rotting effect of sin. Faith decay has set in.

This rotting effect begins immediately. However, many people continue to think they are Christians long after they have ceased to be "in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5). And they continue to go through life smiling merrily without any thoughts about forgiveness, Jesus, or His church. Until...until their lives begin to hurt from the rotting effects of sin. And for some, they had so hardened their hearts against Jesus that they could no longer respond to His sweet voice calling, or His knocking at the door of their hearts (Revelation 3:20). They perished because they had let their faith decay beyond repair.

How about you? Is your faith being reflected in your life? Are you talking to God each day in prayer, reading His Word, letting Him talk to you? Are you gathering with others to thank and praise Him for all His blessings? Are you strengthening the weak, visiting the sick, comforting the widows, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others? In other words, are you living the Christian life? Or are you saying "Wait" or "Let others do it"?

It is not yet too late. Through this tract Jesus is again knocking at the door of your heart. His voice whispers sweetly of love, forgiveness, cleansing, new life, eternal assurance. His voice is once again calling to you to open up to Him, receive His forgiveness, receive His life. Listen to Him! Share once again in the fellowship of the saints. Let Him restore the joy of your salvation even in the midst of this fearful and troubled world. Rejoice in the Lord, for His love and mercy are everlasting.

Bill Schroeder



**Summer break is over!!!**

Sunday School resumes September 3,  
9:00 A.M.

All children, ages 4 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend.





<b>Stewardship Report</b>		
<b>Giving vs Budget</b>		
	<b>Offerings Received</b>	<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>
	<b>7 Months ending <u>7/31/2023</u></b>	<b>7 Months ending <u>7/31/2023</u></b>
<b>General Operating</b>	<b>\$72,599</b>	<b>\$90,154</b>
<b>Synod Support &amp; Missions</b>	<b>\$6,532</b>	<b>\$13,417</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$3,180</b>	Not budgeted-repairs/replacement approved by Voters
<b>Oschwald Scholarship</b>	<b>\$510</b>	Not budgeted - per generosity of membership
<b>Free Will</b>	<b>\$549</b>	Not budgeted - earmarked w hen collected

The **Stewardship & Outreach Committee** is sponsoring a **Paper Products and Bath Supplies** collection for the Pleasant Plains Helping Hands Food Pantry. This collection will run through the month of September.



Suggestions for items include toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels, bath soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. Donations can be left on the table in the Parish Hall.

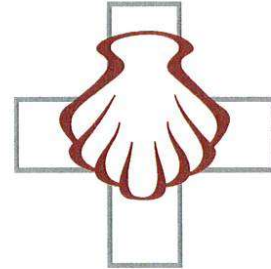
Thank you in advance!

# SEPTEMBER



## Birthdays

Anna Bruce	9/1
Jim Krone	9/1
Jackson Kuhlman	9/2
Alexia Manker	9/3
Madison Maro	9/9
John Morgan	9/9
Debbie Sparling	9/9
Lisa Carter	9/14
Ainsley Gumbel	9/14
Carol Frantz	9/16
Michele Stremsterfer	9/16
Stephanie Goebel	9/17
Jeff Jurgens	9/17
Kendra Theilen	9/17
Bonnie Jurgens	9/20
Tammy Tewes	9/22
Alexa Edwards	9/23
Kris Cowhick	9/24
Dana Greene	9/25
Norman Stremsterfer	9/26
Mike Wendling	9/26
Ken Matzat	9/27
Joe Curry	9/28
Romel Nolting	9/29
Debbie Edie	9/30



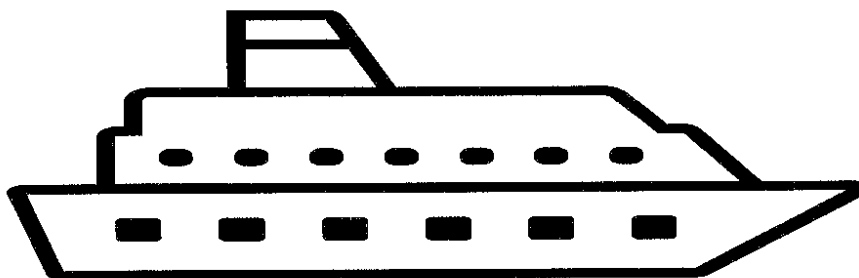
## Baptism Birthday's

Jeff DeGeal	9/1
Monica Boesdorfer	9/2
Colton Stremsterfer	9/2
Dawson Manuel	9/4
Carolyn Greer	9/5
Joyce TeRonde	9/5
Kevin Hecht	9/9
Darrell Pabst	9/14
Bob Bernoteit	9/15
Courtney Wieland	9/15
Clifton Mahler	9/18
Amanda Wieland	9/19
Luke Oswald	9/25
Trenton Anderson	9/30
Ainsley Gumbel	9/30



## Wedding Anniversaries

Carl & Sondra Hermes	9/14
Alan & Kris Cowhick	9/27
Eric & Ann Oswald	9/27



## LWML CID FALL RETREAT

### Journey To Faith: The Trip For A Lifetime

October 6 & 7 5:00 p.m. Friday

If just coming Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

### CAMP CILCA

Several ladies are bringing bazaar type items that will be available for sale with all proceeds going to Mites.

If you would like to contribute items, please have them priced and be prepared

to take items back home that do not sell.

.....  
Registration Form – Try to Include Roommates Forms in one envelope.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Suggestions: Christian Growth Center 3 per room

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Friday and Saturday: \$50; Friday & Saturday Commuters or Campers: \$40; Saturday only: \$35

Make checks payable to LWML – CID

Registration Deadline September 22, 2023

Send Registration forms to: Deloris Blessman, 24204 CR 1850N, Topeka, IL 61567



# SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.			Choir Practice 7:00 P.M.			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M.		Circuit Pastor's Meeting	Mary Martha Guild 2:00 P.M.			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M.	<-- Pastor	off --->				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M.			Newsletter Articles Due	Church Council 6:30 P.M.		

1

**Notes: Elder Bob TeRonde**  
In September, we will begin using Setting 4 for our Divine Services on the 2nd and 5th Sundays of each month.

***Zion's Newsletter  
September, 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)***