
The Zion Messenger

September 2018

September 3 – Labor Day

September 5 – Evangelism

September 6 – Trustees
Men's Club

September 9 – Rally Day
Fall Festival

September 10 – Church Planning

September 11 – Admin. Council

September 13 – Shipmates

September 18 – Elders

September 19 – Glenwood
Sri Lanka Missionary

September 26 – Heritage Health

September 27 – Alumni & Friends

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and Come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” Jeremiah 29.11-12

Picture in your mind this scene: Arriving home, you get out of your car, go up to your house, open the front door and **“SURPRISE! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!”** You walk in to find your house full of friends, including some from out of town. You can't help wonder, 'How did all this happen?' Things like this do not just happen. Someone had you in mind for a while. Someone had a plan to make the whole thing come about.

God works in just this way. Before He created the world He had a plan in mind. God's plan called for light and dark, water above and below, planets and stars, and you and me in His perfect presence. *“God chose us in (Jesus) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.”* Ephesians 1.4 What a plan! What a thoughtful God.

In the beginning God's plan was perfect. But then trouble – sin – a 'problem' so serious we no longer had a future. The problem of sin is not just what we do it's what we don't do. Our sins of thought, word, and deed are not just using good things in a bad way, sometimes it's not doing anything at all. After Adam and Eve brought sin into God's perfect plan, they justly deserved His eternal punishment. But God had other plans. God had a plan to make right the mess sin caused. God had

plans for peace not evil, *plans to give us a future and a hope*. Out of His gracious and steadfast love God acted on His plan for our good, *God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us*, to make us righteous again and to restore us to Himself forever.

Back in Jeremiah's time the days were evil. Because of their own sin, time had run out, hope had run out for the people of God - about to be taken away in exile. But God had plans for them. *“Build homes, plant gardens, get married, have children, seek peace wherever you live.”* This word of God spoken by the prophet, many thought strange. Never the less, *“I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord.”*

Facing life's challenges and daily attack of the enemy it's easy to lose sight of God's great plan for the world. When this happens our focus tends to move from outward to inward. **Strategic Ministry Planning** is about assisting congregations to step back from the grind of 'same old routine' in order to refresh, replenish, repent, refocus and then revamp where it is needed. This doesn't usually come cheap and some will say the cost is too great. But when the plan is Gods' plan, we can be sure God Himself will provide resources of time, talent, and money. So, *"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

So no matter how things look in life - God has a plan. Our loving God has planned an eternal party hosted by Jesus Himself. This great party, like our small parties, requires planning and preparation. Amazingly the plan includes us – in building, planting, evangelizing, and over all things loving and forgiving as only the Body of Christ can do. Party time's around the corner Christian. Let's pray in advance, empty our hands and open our hearts to His plan.

CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING 101: Coming to Zion on Monday September 10 Demographics and Church Planning Workshop . . . Rev. Heath Curtis will facilitate as we review the 'State of Zion' along with a recent report of community demographics - (Mission InSite Report – provided through the SID and LCEF) - The need for such prayerful planning was described in a recent synodical publication:

"Christians make up a smaller and smaller proportion of the American population every year. Every district of the LCMS has experienced numerical decline in the past decade. What's going on? Will it get better? What does the future hold?" In Acts 16 we read how God re-directed Paul in mission, by way of a vision of a '*Man of Macedonia*'. Your prayers are requested as we join with leaders/pastors from other circuit 1 congregations and Rev. Curtis and come together for **Congregational Planning 101**.

GUEST MISSIONARY SPEAKER BEN VANDERHYDE Freewill 'love' offerings are encouraged and welcome on September 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! I thank God that, by his grace, my family and I will be joining you all at Zion Lutheran Church on Wednesday, September 19 to worship Him and receive His gifts. We also bring a gift along with us: good news about the work God is accomplishing on the other side of the world! After the service Wednesday evening, I will share some slides and talk about the work to which God has appointed us as LCMS missionaries on the island of Sri Lanka in South Asia.

The two years we spend in Sri Lanka will function as my vicarage. I am in fact *your* vicar. This vicarage assignment is not to a particular congregation but to the Office of International Mission, which represents every congregations of the LCMS. God has blessed us with the opportunity this September to thank you for sending us, and to encourage you as we celebrate together all that God is working. We are excited to meet you, and to be encouraged by you as well.

May our Lord give us strength to follow him in word and deed as members of his Holy Church. May He bring us safely together on the 19th gathered around his gifts of grace. Amen.

Peace be with you, Ben, Grace and Larson Vanderhyde

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY: Sunday September 9. Come one and all and join our Family Sunday school, meeting at 9:15 in the gym. Our pattern again this year, God's people gather-worship-focus-pray and then scatter to assigned study groups by age.

- Early Childhood: Susan Fletcher / Georgia Henke
- Lower Elementary: Lisa Coan / Taylor Seelbach
- Upper Elementary: Mary Ann Mitteis
- 5/6 Bible History: Jackson Tujo / Hannah Mitteis
- 7/8 Junior Youth: Chris Secoy
- High School Youth: Lisa Haenel / Krissy Pfeiffer / Tim Seelbach

ZION CATECHISM 2018-19: Catechism at Zion is designed to teach what we believe and confess as Lutheran Christians. It also prepares students for rite of confirmation and for reception of the Lord's Supper. Joining catechism this year will be 7th grade students: Brock Ahrens, Alyssa Bogard, Alexis Carlen, Breanna Feely, Jessica Futrell, Della Hannig, Ava Hupp, Bryle Langer, Adrienne Meade, Lucas Ocepek, Dillon Pritchett, Trey Schlechte, Jack Sigafoos, Kendall Sigafoos – 8th grade students: Andrew Dustman, Abigail Lesko, Zachary Painter, Lexi Pfeiffer, Jack Pritchett, Logan Rushton, Taylor Seelbach. Let us remember all our young people in prayer. To God be the Glory!

WEDNESDAY EVE – 6:30 – SERVICE OF CONFESSION/SACRAMENT

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!” Isaiah 55.1 Here is the bread of life, the well of our salvation; Christ is the *Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.*”

GRIEFSHARE GreifShare is coming soon, beginning Sunday, September 16, 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Parish Center.

FALL FESTIVAL & CHILI COOK-OFF: Zion's Fall Festival on September 9th, will include a chili cook off. Prizes will be awarded. If you would like to enter please sign up on the sheet located in the Narthex or contact Liz Taggart at (217) 839-4483 to leave a message or by text at (813) 486-2665. Instructions are also located next to the sign up sheet in the Narthex. In addition to the chili cook off, we will have food, drinks, sweets, face painting, a bounce house, and games at the Fall Festival.

September

2018

Zion Lutheran Church

Staunton, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5pm Worship w/C 9am Catechism
2 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C	Labor Day 3 No School Church Office Closed	4	5 9am Lydia Circle 3:30pm Catechism 6:30pm Communion 6pm Evangelism 7pm Christ Cares	6 10am Bible Study: Acts 6:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Men's Club	7	8 5pm Worship w/C 9am Catechism
9 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School Rally Day /Fall Festival 10:30am Worship w/C	10 7pm Church Planning 101	11 7pm Admin. Council	12 9am Lydia Circle 3:30pm Catechism 6:30pm Communion 7pm Bible Study	13 10am Bible Study: Acts 6pm Shipmates	14	15 5pm Worship w/C 9am Catechism
16 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm GriefShare	17	18 7pm Elders	19 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 3:30pm Catechism 12:30pm Glenwood 6:30pm Communion 7pm Missionary	20 10am Bible Study: Acts	21	22 5pm Worship w/C 9am Catechism
23 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm GriefShare	24	25 7pm Parish Ed.	26 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 2:30pm Heritage Health 3:30pm Catechism 6:30pm Communion 7pm Bible Study	27 10am Bible Study: Acts 7pm Alumni & Friends	28	29 5pm Worship w/C 9am Catechism
30 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm GriefShare						

Zion works at His Service Station September 10-15