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# The Zion Messenger

October 2018

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October 3 – Evangelism

October 4 – Trustees

## Men's Club

October 8 – School Board

October 9 – Administrative  
Council

October 11 – Shipmates

October 16 – Elders

October 17 – Glenwood

October 23 – Parish Education

October 24 – Heritage Health

October 25 – Alumni & Friends

October 28 – Trunk or Treat

**There's** an old story about an unhappy wife whose husband **didn't really love her. The man prepared a list of rules for** her to follow, a list he insisted be re-read every day. It was literally an inventory of jobs demanding: what time she must get up in morning, when breakfast was to be served, how housework was to be done. Not wanting to upset her husband, the wife went along with his demands, including the daily re-reading of the list. Then with a heavy heart **she'd tuck the list away to be read again the next** day. Morning by morning, week after week, on and on it went for years until the day the husband died and she was set free. In time she met another man, very different from the first. Soon they were married. This husband dearly loved her and was more than a dream come true! Day after day he showered her with love and appreciation. One day while cleaning, she came across an old folded up note **tucked away in a drawer. It was the "do and don't" list. As** she read the list a warm feeling began to rise in her heart **and it dawned on her . . . she was doing 'almost to a t' the** things on the list. But what a difference! All of those things being done, not out of obligation, but out of love.

Reflect upon your life for a moment: Where do you see yourself in the story? Are you someone whose life is really **just 'doing out of obligation'?** Perhaps you are the one controlling others. Or maybe you are the one set free and who now frees others? Reflect for yourself . . . Are you living your life out of obligation or love?

In only a few weeks, it will have been 601 years since a time when Christianity was corrupted by **'bad' theology. That bad theology included teaching people that they must do good works in order to have God's love and approval. Martin Luther** helped lead the way out of those dark times by his actions and words on behalf of the gospel. Thus the epistle read by the church at **Reformation**, "*Then I saw another angel flying overhead, with the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.*" Revelation 14.6

The general teaching of Martin Luther can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace Alone – Faith Alone – Scripture Alone. **Let's have a look at . . . GRACE.**

In Ephesians 2.8 we read, “For you have been saved by grace through faith, and this the gift of God.” “Salvation by grace through faith in Christ” is perhaps the most common Reformation saying among Lutherans. In catechism we learned that grace is God’s undeserved favor. **Martin Luther once wrote, “Although out of pure grace God does not impute our sins to us, He nonetheless did not want to do this until complete and ample satisfaction of His law and His righteousness had been made. Since this was impossible for us to do, God ordained for us, one who took upon Himself all the punishment we deserve. He fulfilled the law for us. He averted the judgment of God from us and appeased God’s wrath. Grace therefore, which costs us nothing, cost another much to get on our behalf. Grace was purchased with an incalculable, infinite treasure, the Son of God Himself.”**

One of the presenters at our fall pastors conferences commented that up to 90% of those who walk through the door to counseling are people who feel alone and unloved. Lonely and unloved, and realize it or not what they are looking for can be found only in Jesus Christ. Only **in the church can we find God’s truth, His immediate presence** – care – love and purpose as we **Witness, Mercy, and Life Together**. Jesus said, “The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that you might have life, and have it in all its fullness.” Engraved in back of church is his Scripture: “But you have come to Mt. Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering.” **Our risen Savior’s speaking and presence are the center of worship. His sprinkled blood speaks better things to us: forgiveness, life, and salvation. And that dear friend . . . is all GRACE!**



## NOTES FROM SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

Vacancies and Calling Congregations – We have seen a rise in the number of calling congregations in the past year. As of September 15, there are 377 calling congregations for a sole pastor. In addition, 67 congregations are seeking a senior pastor, 67 more congregations calling for an associate pastor for a total of 511 calling congregations. This is up 99 from the same time one year ago.

Joyfully Lutheran – The theme for the 67<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the LCMS, July 20-25, 2019 in Tampa FL. Representing our Circuit 1 will be Pastor Chris Prumm-St. Paul Nokomis and Layperson Daniel Winningham-Zion Carlinville

**The pastor's conference theme: Making the Case for Lutheran Education** with 3 guest speakers highlighted: Educating our children to be in, yet not of, the world is one of the chief duties of parents and pastors. Lutheran schools, since the founding of the Synod have been significant to faithful formation. So when we experience our schools closing, what do we do? When we want to promote Lutheran education, what can be done? This conference is for every parish pastor with or without a school!

Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Thomas Korcok took us through the theological premises that undergird government sanctioned education and how these work against the educational and catechetical needs of the Church.

Guest Speaker Rev. Stephen Kieser gave us the historical context which illustrates the pursuit of faithful Lutheran education in a contemporary setting.

Guest Speaker Dr. Scott Bruzek presented on behalf of the congregation that has lost its school, and how they have endeavored to faithfully raise up the next generation without a school.

## NOTES FROM 2018-19 CATECHISM CLASS

This year there are 21 young people in catechism: 7 eighth grade, 14 seventh grade. We are studying the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chief Part of the Small Catechism-**Lord's Prayer**. **Our entire class will be** presenting by memory the Small Catechism definition on Sunday, November 11 in the 10:30 service. So far, attendance in class has been great but attendance in church not so great. Therefore, I will share from the catechism syllabus for all to read:

**Jesus said,** “*Let the little children come to me.*” **In the bible we read where** God has given to the fathers (parents) the responsibility of teaching the Word of God to their children. For this reason Luther wrote his Small Catechism to assist parents. Then what is begun at home is continued in church, in Sunday school, in bible history for 5/6 graders, and in catechism study for 7/8 graders. Attendance at the weekly worship is dynamically connected in all of this! **“Remember the Sabbath Day” is God's command . . . not an option for us to pick and choose. The Bible says,** “*Let us not neglect the habit of meeting together (church) as some are in the habit.*” **Hebrews 10.25 If worship is not a vital part of our goal for the discipleship of children, then the question needs to be asked, “Why seek confirmation?”**

Please remember our catechism class and families in prayer.

## GRIEFSHARE CLASS CONTINUES

GriefShare meets on Sundays in the Parish Center at 5:00 p.m. GriefShare is a 13-week support group to provide help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. Sample topics are: Is This Normal?; Challenges of Grief; The Journey of Grief; Guilt and Anger; and Why? For more information, contact Pastor Mitteis (635-2880), Darlene Barr (815-641-3377), or visit [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

## CHRISTIAN BASICS' ADULT INFORMATION CLASS

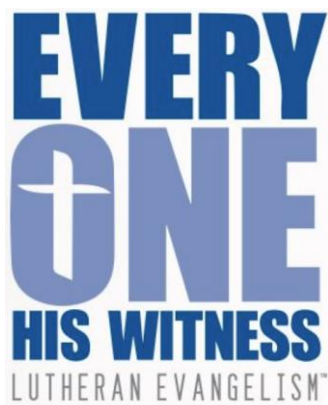
The tentative schedule for class will be as follows:

- October 7 6:30 - 7:30 PM God, Holy Trinity, Human Dilemma of Sin
- October 14 6:30 - 7:30 PM **Jesus Christ, God's Solution to Sin**
- October 21 6:30 - 7:30 PM God the Holy Spirit, Inspired/Written Word
- October 28 6:30 - 7:30 PM **Experiencing God's Love Part I, Baptism**
- November 4 6:30 - 7:30 PM **Experiencing God's Love Part II, Holy Communion**
- November 11 6:30 - 7:30 PM Our Response to **God's Love, Commandments 1 – 3**
- November 18 6:30 - 7:30 PM **Our Response to God's Love, Command's 4 – 10**
- November 25 6:30 - 7:30 PM The Church, Prayer, Conclusion
- December 2 8:00/10:30 Reception/Confirmation as new members\* of Zion.

About the Class:

- **Participants may read (in class) at their discretion. Let me know if you'd like to read.**
- All questions are welcome. No such thing as bad question!!
- Any sessions missed will be made up by arrangement.
- Please contact me in case of anticipated absence, 318 979 7991 or church 653 2880.
- You can also give me your phone/email info for my communication.
- Participants who desire to join Zion\* at the end of the session are welcome.

***“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*** Psalm 119.105



**Witnessing. What's it all about? The Every One His Witness Lutheran evangelism program puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with people in our everyday lives. The Board of Evangelism is hosting the Every One His Witness seminar on Saturday, November 3, in the gym. Participants will learn what is **witnessing? Why do we witness? And the “how to” of witnessing using the LASSIE approach — Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-Encourage.** The seminar runs from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. A continental breakfast and lunch will both be provided. Please RSVP to Danielle Campbell (217) 556-0886 (text or voicemail) if you plan to attend or if you have questions.**



ZECEC will host a Trunk or Treat event on the back lot of the school on Sunday, October 28, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Families are needed to enter cars and pass out candy. If you are able to enter a car in our event, please contact Pam Kleckner at 635-2446 ext. 02 or

email [pam.kleckner@zion-school.org](mailto:pam.kleckner@zion-school.org). Cars should enter the lot between 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. to set up and be ready for trick-or-treaters to enter at 4:00 p.m. If you wish to donate candy, please drop it off at the daycare or church office. We encourage all trick-or-treaters to bring a non-perishable food item or personal care product and help fill a trunk. We will be **“tricking” hunger and “treating” the food pantry.** We look forward to making this a great event for Zion and the Staunton community.

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## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Zion Lutheran School PTL Dinner Auction

Saturday, November 10, 2018

At the Crystal Ballroom

Dinner served buffet style, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., catered by R&B's

Oral auction begins at 7:15 p.m.

Adults: \$20.00 each; children (grade 8 and under): \$10 each; children 3 and under are free. You Reserve a table of 8 for \$140.

Tickets may be purchased at the church or school office.

Donations: **Join in on the friendly competition on the Men's & Women's tables! Donations of items for men and women are needed.** Tickets are sold for these items with a drawing for the **winner. Please designate if your donation item should be included on the Men's or Women's tables.**

Volunteers: Many helping hands will be needed to put together our dinner auction. Want to **help but just don't know** how? Please consider donating an item (or two) to the silent or oral auction. Volunteers are needed to help with set up at the Crystal Ballroom on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at the auction. Please contact Jamie Crouch or Jessica Meade with questions or if you would be able to help.

Desserts: Pies and cakes are needed for dessert at the dinner auction on November 10. If you are able to donate a pie or cake, please bring it to the Crystal Ballroom between 9am and noon on Saturday, November 10. Thank you in advance for helping to make the auction a success!

# October

# 2018

## Zion Lutheran Church

Staunton, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 3:30pm Catechism 6pm Evangelism 6:30pm Communion 7pm Christ Cares	10am Bible Study: Acts 6:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Men's Club		5pm Worship w/C 9am Catechism
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm <del>GriefShare</del> 6:30pm Christian Basics	7pm School Board	7pm Admin. Council	8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 3:30pm Catechism 6:30pm Communion 7pm Bible Study	10am Bible Study: Acts 6pm Shipmates		5pm Worship w/C 9am Catechism
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm <del>GriefShare</del> 6:30pm Christian Basics		7pm Elders	8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 12:30pm Glenwood 3:30pm Catechism 6:30pm Communion 7pm Christ Cares	10am Bible Study: Acts		5pm Worship w/C 9am Catechism
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm <del>GriefShare</del> 6:30pm Christian Basics		7pm Parish Ed.	8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 2:30pm Heritage Health 3:30pm Catechism 6:30pm Communion 7pm Bible Study	10am Bible Study: Acts 7pm Alumni & Friends		5pm Worship w/C 9am Catechism
28	29	30	31			
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 4-6 Trunk or Treat 5pm <del>GriefShare</del> 6:30pm Christian Basics			8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 3:30pm Catechism 6:30pm Communion 7pm Bible Study			

Zion works at His Service Station October 8-13