
The Zion Messenger

May 2019

May 1 – Evangelism

May 2 – Trustees

Men's Club

May 4 – Confirmation

Questioning

May 5 – Confirmation

May 9 – Shipmates

May 13 – School Board

Stewardship

May 21 – Elders

8th Grade Graduation

Last Day of School

May 23 – Alumni & Friends

May 27 – Memorial Day

May 28 – Parish Education

*“Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,’ he said. ‘Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.’ Peter and the other apostles replied: **‘We must obey God rather than men!’**”*

Acts 5.27-29

Recently while filling the car a large truck pulled in next to me at the gas station. Up in the cab I could see a small boy sitting in the passenger seat next to the man driving the truck. Reminded me of the story of the father and son who went out one day on an errand. Scrambling up into the front seat, the boy stood next to his dad. “Son, you need to sit down so I can buckle your seatbelt.” “But dad, if I sit down I can’t see anything.” The boy’s father smiled, “I know son. But I love you and want to take care of you. What if we had a wreck? Wearing a seat belt will keep you safe.” Folding his arms across his chest, angry frown on his face the boy replied, “I may be sitting down on the outside, but I’m still standing up on the inside.”

In the early days of the church Jesus sent the apostles on a mission: Go and spread the good news of the Gospel! But when they did, almost immediately the religious leaders became jealous and ordered them to stop. Peter, on behalf of the apostles replied, **“We must obey God rather than men!”** OK, what if it were us? Who would we obey? Someone in authority telling you that what God has said to be true is not true? Someone in authority telling you not to do what God told you to do? While it’s easy to tell Peter and the others to *obey God rather than man* when our turn comes it’s not quite so easy. Take for example just the following in our everyday lives:

- Would you fear, love, and trust in God above all things? Or would you obey sin, the world, and your sinful nature expressed in selfish desires that are contrary to God’s will? Obey whom say you?
- Would you honor God’s name? Or would you use God’s grace (included in His name) to excuse living as though God doesn’t even exist? Would you go for days, weeks, even months without giving a thought to Him who saves us for His own name’s sake? Obey whom say you?
- Will you hold preaching and His word sacred by regular participation in communion? Or will you keep God’s Word and gifts behind other things, including things of recreation or work? To be sure sometimes Christians are scheduled to work on Sunday. Which should be why we have service Saturday and Wednesday – But will you be there?

- Would you obey God and love your neighbor as yourself? Or would you listen to your sinful nature that tells you it's okay to ignore his needs or to be mean to your neighbor? Obey whom say you?
- Would you obey God and abstain from sex outside of marriage? Or would you allow sin, the evil one, and the world to justify all kinds of 'adultery'. Jesus said, *But I tell you that anyone who looks at woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.* What is adultery? Our catechism defines adultery as "lustful desire or activity of any kind, whether heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or otherwise." God's plan and design for sexuality is marriage. *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife."* Ephesians 5.31 Yet more and more today ignore God and instead approve the way of co-habitation! For any who've decided it's ok to live together outside of marriage, the question is, "Where is repentance?" And if it's ok for you in your life, then what of our young people? The bottom line is, *"But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* Obey whom . . . say you?

We could make a long list of *listen to God or listen to sin and the world* things. And right alongside that list we could barely scratch the times when we didn't listen and didn't obey God. Such a list is nothing to take pride in. It doesn't deserve God's praise. It deserves God's punishment. That's what the Law does. It shows us God's Holy will, demands perfection, and on account of our sin condemns us to judgement. Yet the Law does not cause our death, sin does that. So where in all this is obedience?

The obedience that counts is of Christ. Instead of punishing sinners, God chose to send His Son to obey, to keep the law, to humble Himself all the way to the cross. As a result, *"God exalted him (Jesus) to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel."* Acts 5.31 The holy Christian Church is about repentance and forgiveness. Jesus suffered and died for you, in your place, *"It is finished,"* our debt paid in full. The Father accepted his sacrifice and has declared you innocent forever. And so . . . now that you know all that your Savior has done for you, **what does it mean to you?**

PRAYER: Dear Father in heaven, forgive me for the times I've listened to temptation and fallen into sin. Grant me grace and faith to repent, to turn away and stop doing the things you would not have me to do because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Give me the willingness and strength to obey you in all I do. In Jesus name, Amen.

On the LORD'S SUPPER, by Rev. Michael Strong

Barely a month back, April 18 on Maundy Thursday, millions of Christians gathered to celebrate the institution of the Lord's Supper. But what does the Lord's Supper really mean, especially the words "*Take eat, this is my body-Take drink, this is my blood.*"

There's an interesting story about these words of Jesus. The leaders of the Reformation called an important meeting at Marburg, Germany, in 1529, to discuss the meaning of those words. Did "is" mean "truly present" or just "represents" Christ's Body and Blood? It was an important point and still is. Some reformers believed that the word "is" meant "represents." Others, like Martin Luther, believed that Scripture was clear – "is" meant "is". Sadly, the reformers could not agree. Still, to this day Protestantism is divided on this teaching, often times called the "real presence" controversy.

It needs to be understood that the issue is not inconsequential Biblically. St. Paul in I Corinthians 11 warns the Corinthian Christians: "*Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink [this] cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*" In other words, for Paul, it was not an open question whether body and blood of the Lord were truly present. For Paul, to partake of the "bread" and the (contents of) the cup unworthily, one would be "*guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*" Now what "guilty" means is debatable too, but it certainly is a serious word. Who wants to be guilty in matters religious or spiritual?

So, it is important how one approaches the Lord's table. There are only two ways. One, is where Holy Communion, is partaken of in an indifferent manner. "Oh, look! They're having the Lord's Supper! I guess I'll take it." Let me say that is not how you want to approach it.

The second approach is to hang on to the words of our Lord when He instituted it. He said, "*This is my body, ... This is my blood ... poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins*" (Matthew 26:28).

Now, above, I used the phrase "hang on to the words", and I meant that. Hang on to these gracious, hopeful, forgiving words of Jesus. They are exactly what you and I need. In the Holy Supper, God forgives us our sins, and we have the gift of eternal life. Rejoice as you receive Christ's true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and likewise when you hear the joyous words, "He is risen, He is risen, indeed. "*Beloved... it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*" Jude 1.3

I welcome email comments or questions at strong@eosinc.com. Rev. Michael M. Strong is pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Farmersville, IL

I would like to provide the congregation with an update on the call process.

1. I would like to say thank you to all of you who took the time to fill out the survey and also for those that volunteered their time to assemble the data.
2. We will have copies of the condensed survey answers available in the back of church and also available via email. We condensed the data by grouping similar items and choosing one sentence from the group that best described the answers. Copies of the non-consolidated data will be available upon request.
3. By the Monday May 6th, we will have the survey approved by the council members and sent to the district. While we are waiting for the district guidance on call nominees, we will be assembling some questions and answers for the perspective call nominees. Also, during this time, if any member of the congregation has a name to submit for the call process please do so.
4. Once we have received names of call nominees, there will be a message to inform the congregation that we have received the names.
5. Interviews will be conducted. Upon the completion of the interviews, we will provide a summary of the call nominees to the congregation. This process could take some time and we will try to update the congregation as information becomes available.
6. Approximately 2 weeks after the nominee summaries have been released to the congregation, a voter's assembly will be held.

Thank you all for your prayers, patience, and encouraging words during the call process.

God, help our church body to walk in a manner worthy of the calling You have given us. Help us in all our interactions with one another to have humble and gentle hearts. Grant us patience for one another, bearing with one another in love. Grant the Body of Christ unity. May we walk humbly with You, God, allowing You to show us our wrongs. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Joshua Crouch
Congregational president
Zion Lutheran

ZION 8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT

As we near the end of the school year, we invite you to read about some of the accomplishments of our four 2019 graduates. Enjoy!



Braeden Cook – Braeden has attended Zion since 6th grade. His parents are Dawn and JJ and he has an older brother, Austin. Braeden’s favorite subject in school is math. He enjoys volunteering at the Zion Dinner Auctions and with the United Methodist Church in Litchfield. Braeden has helped with their food pantry, trunk or treat, rummage sale, and babysitting. In his free time, Braeden enjoys video games and being outdoors mowing grass, shoveling snow, and any kind of yard work.

Abigail Lesko – Abigail has attended Zion since Kindergarten. Her parents are Kevin and Leslie Ann and she has a younger sister, Sarah, also at Zion and two older brothers, Matt and Dan, and an older sister, Kate, who all graduated from Zion. Abi has participated in volleyball and track during her time at Zion. Her favorite subject in school is art. Abi is a member of the Girl Scouts and Robotics team. Her team has attended state competitions for the past three years. In the past, Abi has traveled to West Virginia and Georgia with the Girl Scouts and she will travel to Washington D.C. with them this summer. She enjoys volunteering at Zion Dinner Auctions, cleaning up Hagerman Park in Mt. Olive, and has earned several awards for her volunteer hours with the Girl Scouts. In her free time, Abi enjoys reading, watching TV, listening to music, playing card and board games, drawing, painting, spending time with friends, and watching volleyball and softball games.



Lexi Pfeiffer – Lexi has attended Zion since Kindergarten. Her parents are Bryan and Amanda and she has a younger brother, Braden, also at Zion. Lexi has participated in track during her time at Zion. Her favorite subject in school is social studies. Outside of Zion, Lexi is an avid soccer player. She enjoys volunteering at the Zion Sausage Supper and Zion Dinner Auctions as well as at the Holy Cross Fish Fry in Livingston. Her soccer team has also volunteered their time at the Staunton Helping Hands Center. In her free time, she enjoys playing soccer, spending time with her family, and creating art.

Taylor Seelbach – Taylor has attended Zion since Preschool. Her parents are Tim and Rachel and she has an older sister, Kaylee, at Staunton High School and a younger brother, Brady, also at Zion. Taylor has participated in volleyball, basketball, and track during her time at Zion. Her favorite subject in school is math. Taylor is a member of the Girl Scouts, plays softball, and hand bells at church. She enjoys volunteering with Vacation Bible School, the Zion Dinner Auctions, and with projects for Girl Scouts. In her free time, Taylor enjoys listening to music, going to Cardinals baseball games, and attending Girl Scout Camps.



We want to honor all those graduating from High School, Technical School, College or receiving an Advanced Degree for 2018-2019 school year. Please contact the church office (635-2880, or zionlutheranstaunton@gmail.com) by May 14, 2019, with the following information: your full name; school graduating from; if you'll continue on to further schooling & where you will go; the degree you'll receive & what are your future plans. All graduates will be recognized on Sunday, May 19, 2019 @ the 10:30 service.

Registration forms for the 2019 Zion Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School are now available. VBS will be held July 22 - 26 from 9:00 – 11:30 am daily and all children 3 years old through those entering 5th grade are invited to attend. Older children are welcome to volunteer and help. Please return registration forms to the church, school, or daycare office or to Mrs. Mitteis. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Mitteis.

May Baptismal Birthdays

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|----|------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Walter Engelke | 17 | Sophia Bond |
| | Janet Mansholt | 18 | Lucas Hemp |
| | Ronald Repp | | Brandon Ziegler |
| | Nolan Sanks | 19 | Sophia Ems |
| 2 | Cale Dugger | | Dylan Ruehrup |
| 4 | Blaine Ray | 20 | Katrice Eaves |
| | Adam Will | | Catherine Embry |
| 5 | Jeanne Cooper | | Danny Scroggins |
| | Diana Yakos | 21 | Susan Cisler |
| 7 | Jacob Foulk | 22 | Melinda Bruhn |
| | Edwin Sievers | 23 | Brianna Henke |
| 8 | Gail Sies | | Julie Orr |
| 9 | Mason Fraser | | Collin Ray |
| 10 | Dallas Foster | 24 | Cassie Ott |
| | Shelby Foster | 25 | Susan Fletcher |
| | Leslie Ann Lesko | | Amber Girardier |
| | Bond Mangum | | Ann Girardier |
| 11 | Laura Isenberg | | Lisa Miersch |
| | Addison Rucker | | Ashley Wicker |
| 13 | Ethan Hainaut | 26 | Thomas Daugherty |
| | Peggy Hefer | | John Pfalzgraf |
| 14 | Logan Ruehrup | | Kristy Pfalzgraf |
| 15 | Michael Coalson | 27 | Joseph Meade |
| | Dawn Gehner | 28 | Richard Pieper, Jr. |
| | Anna Mosser | 30 | Tanya Hill |
| 16 | Donald Brown | | Rachel Hardin |
| | Lee Brown | 31 | Blakely Carlen |
| | William Gehner | | Miles Hainaut |
| | Jacob Mathis | | Vernon Striegel, Jr. |



May

2019

Zion Lutheran Church

Staunton, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 11am Glenwood 6:00pm Evangelism 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament	2 10am Bible Study: Acts 6:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Men's Club	3 10am Heritage Communion	4 5pm Worship w/C 6pm Conf. Questioning
5 Confirmation 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm Griefshare	6 6pm Sing Language Class	7	8 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 11am Glenwood 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament	9 10am Bible Study: Acts 6pm Shipmates	10 10am Heritage Communion	11 5pm Worship w/C
12 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm Griefshare	13 6pm Sing Language Class 6:30pm School Board Stewardship	14 7pm Admin. Council	15 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 11am Glenwood 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament	16 10am Bible Study: Acts	17 10am Heritage Communion	18 5pm Worship w/C
19 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C	20 6pm Sing Language Class	21 9am Chapel 7pm Elders 7pm 8 th Grade Graduation Last Day of School	22 9am Lydia Circle 11am Glenwood 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament	23 10am Bible Study: Acts 7pm Alumni & Friends	24 10am Heritage Communion	25 5pm Worship w/C
26 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm Griefshare	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	28 7pm Parish Education	29 9am Lydia Circle 11am Glenwood 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament	30 10am Bible Study: Acts	31 10am Heritage Communion	

Zion works at His Service Station: May 20-25, 2019