



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER
2019

THIS MONTH AT ZION:

- SEP 2 Labor Day
- SEP 4 Evangelism
- SEP 5 Trustees
Mens' Club
- SEP 8 Fall Festival/Sunday
School Rally Day
- SEP 9 School Board
Stewardship
- SEP 10 Admin. Council
- SEP 12 Shipmates
- SEP 17 Elders
- SEP 24 Parish Education
- SEP 26 Alumni & Friends



PASTOR'S PAGE

Sometimes in life we are brought face to face with a situation that is just too hard to bear. When that happens we may find ourselves asking, "How could this have happened?" More precisely, "How could this happen to me . . . or the one I love?" Depending on the situation, loss of job, relationship, health . . . we may find ourselves addressing the question to God. Who among us has not been tempted to question or even accuse God at such times?

We all know someone who did just that. The man's name was Job. For much of the 42 chapters of the Old Testament book bearing his name, we hear Job's question and challenge God. Finally, after much patient listening God responded. *"Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. 'Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you and you shall answer me. 'Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand.'" God's response to Job puts things into perspective. Not Job, not even Adam was around when God created the world. Therefore, God asks, 'Upon what grounds, right, authority do you question and challenge my ways?*

When things don't go the way you want, questioning and blaming God is not the answer. Fact is, we often get caught up in our own little world; we seek to make life comfy and cozy. All the wants and desires of the heart, even though they offer no lasting benefit, we make them the main thing. When that happens, when we make material things the 'main' thing, those things distract us from hearing and following God's will. Here's the situation: We live in a sin-filled world, we are surrounded by sinful people, and we are sometimes even betrayed by our own sinful nature. Probably only a matter of time before the storm breaks and you find yourself face to face with a 'situation'. In that moment, *'Brace yourself'* . . . it's not time to question or blame, rather repent and trust.

Repentance and Faith, this puts things in perspective. Especially things that come our way because of this sin-broken world. But it needs to be said, it's ok to question God and ask 'why'. It's ok to question God, as long as you do so standing next to the cross. Stand next to the cross in the same moment, asking God, 'Dear Lord, why did you do that to

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PASTOR'S PAGE

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your only Son . . . for me? And there it is, faith puts everything in perspective.

Jesus said, *"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* John 16.33 And we have God's word to the Galatians, *"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."* In the midst of dark, difficult events that come our way in life, faith must kick in! Faith is not expressed with the question 'why' rather faith (trusting God) asks 'what'? What dear Lord are you going to do about this.

What can be said to someone facing a loss? Keep it simple. 'I don't know why all this has happened to you. But I know that God is still with you. And I will be with you too. Now let's pray and wait to see what God will do.' Long ago the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome facing rising persecution: *"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His Own Son but gave Him up for us all; how will He not also, along with Him graciously give us all things?"* (!) In response to "all that" we respond, Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit! Amen.

[...View More Pastors' Pages at zion-luth.org](http://zion-luth.org) ►



Fall Festival & Chili Cook Off September 8th, 2019

Zion's Fall Festival & Chili Cook Off will be on September 8th, following the 10:30 worship service. 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 voicemail 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, and games at the Fall Festival.

Trustees Work Day - 9/14/2019

The Trustees are having a work day on September 14 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the work day is to work on the church and school landscaping.

We need many volunteers to complete these projects and to keep our church nice. If you have any questions, please contact Allen Meyer, 618-223-9252.



From the Desk of the Prinicipal

Preparing today's young learners to be tomorrow's Christian leaders. There you have it. It is our mission statement. Some would argue that the statement is immeasurable. To that argument, I'd say, "You're right, I can't." That doesn't bother me. The mission statement of my undergraduate and graduate college, Concordia University - Texas, was, "Preparing Christian Leaders." They recently changed it to make it measurable and removed "Christian" from the statement altogether. That breaks my heart.

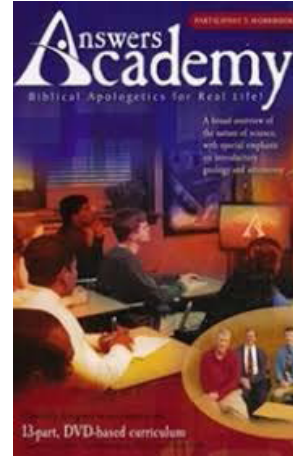
The preschool door has a myriad of informational sheets posted on it throughout the year. One thing that is among those is a copy of the current week's lesson plans. I would venture to say that "learn to reflect Christ's love through your smile," has never been in those plans. As I reflected and listened to the memories shared about the life and ministry of Mrs. Schue, a common theme was how she reflected Christ's love through her caring words and her smile. What a great example of the unwritten curriculum in Lutheran schools and the impact Christian teachers have on the students they encounter.

It is very humbling to know that God has called us here as students, staff members, and parents to share in His love and wisdom.

SDG

In Christ,
Mr. Manning

'Answers Academy' begins September 8th



From the Lutheran Cyclopedia:

Apologetics - I. > A. *Definition.* In the Christian sense an 'apology' (from the Gk. for 'defense') is a defense against an attack on the Bible or on part it, or a vindication of the divine authority of the Christian religion.

Prepare to be challenged. Answers Academy prepares its participants to be defenders of the faith. You have been taught to ever so slightly see the world in a way that creates tension between life and faith.

Prepare to be engaged. Those of you who remember when I led the AiG Foundations course, may remember that the curriculum will produce discussion and keep you engaged. If this doesn't keep you engaged, we may be checking for a pulse and breaking out the AED.

SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>8am Worship w/C 10:30am Worship w/C Guest Pastor: Rev. Kirby</p>	<p>2</p> <p>LABOR DAY SCHOOL & OFFICES CLOSED</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3:30pm Catachism</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am Lydia Circle 10am Heritage 11am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 6pm Evangelism 6:30 Confess./Sacram.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:15am Catachism 10am Bible Study 6:30 Trustees 7:30 Men's Club</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5pm Worship w/C</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C</p> <p>FALL FESTIVAL 11:45 am</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm School Board 6:30pm Stewardship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>3:30pm Catachism 7pm Admin. Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am Lydia Circle 10am Heritage 11am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 6:30 Confess./Sacram.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:15am Catachism 10am Bible Study 6pm Shipmates</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5pm Worship w/C Guest Pastor: Rev. Kirby</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Guest Pastor: Rev. Andrus</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:30pm Catachism 7pm Elders</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9am Lydia Circle 10am Heritage 11am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 6:30 Confess./Sacram.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:15am Catachism 10am Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5pm Worship w/C</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:30pm Catachism 7pm Parish Ed.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9am Lydia Circle 10am Heritage 11am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 6:30 Confess./Sacram.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:15am Catachism 10am Bible Study 7pm Alumni & Friends</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5pm Worship w/C</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5pm Worship w/C</p>

Zion works at HIS Service Station: September 9-14, 2019