



THE MESSENGER

March
2020

THIS MONTH AT ZION:

MAR 5

Trustees
Men's Club

MAR 9

Stewardship

MAR 10

Admin. Council

MAR 12

Shipmates

MAR 17

Elders

MAR 24

Parish Education

MAR 26

Alumni & Friends

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article, March 2020

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article, March 2020 ...Cont.from page 1

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

“But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

March 2020 Guest Pastor Schedule

Sunday, March 1	Pastor Mark Girardin
Saturday, March 14	Pastor Mark Girardin
Sunday, March 15	Seminarian Jess Biermann (No Communion *)

**There will not be communion at the services led by Seminarian Jess Biermann because he is not ordained and will not be able to consecrate and serve communion without a presiding pastor.*

2020 Midweek Lent Worship

**Join us for midweek Lent worship
on Wednesdays at
7:00 p.m. to learn about the
People of Passion:**

February 26, 2020 - Ash Wednesday
The Penitent Thief
Pastor Kelly Mitteis

March 4th, 2020
People of Passion: Peter
Pastor Tim Wilcoxen

March 11th, 2020
People of Passion: Judas
Pastor Darwin Schrader

March 18th, 2020
People of Passion: The Centurion
Pastor Kelly Mitteis

March 25th, 2020
People of Passion: Nicodemus
Pastor Tim Wilcoxen

April 1st, 2020
People of Passion: Barabbas
Pastor Darwin Schrader

Zion Youth to Host Lenten Dinners

The High School Youth Group of Zion Lutheran Church is hosting Lenten dinners on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:45 pm in the school's cafeteria. The following will be served each week:

March 4:	Italian Beef
March 11:	Spaghetti
March 18:	Taco Bar
March 25:	Chili
April 1:	Pulled Pork

Each Wednesday there will also be a peanut butter & jelly sandwich or chicken nugget option, as well as desserts, lemonade, and tea. A free will donation will be taken at the door.

Zion Preschool & Kindergarten Open House

March 10th, 2020 - 7:00 pm

Preschool and Kindergarten Open House will be on Tuesday, March 10, at 7pm. This open house will be for all incoming preschoolers new to the program and all who are interested in Zion's Kindergarten program.

We offer a full day Christ centered Kindergarten program. Children entering Kindergarten must be 5 on or before September 1, 2020.

There are several options for preschool. Our 3-year-old program meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:30pm-3:00pm. Children must be 3 on or before September 1, 2020 to be eligible for the 3-year-old class. The 4-year-old morning class meets Monday through Friday from 8:00am-11:30pm.

The 4-year-old afternoon preschool class meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 12:30pm-3:00pm. Children must be 4 on or before September 1, 2020 to be eligible for our 4-year-old classes.

If you have any questions regarding open house or the programs, please feel free to contact Pam Kleckner at 635-2446 ext. 02.

Kindergarten registration forms will be available at open house.

Registration for new preschool families will be held on Wednesday, April 15. Members of Zion will be able to register from 6:00pm-6:30pm, those planning to use daycare on a full time basis may register from 6:30pm-7:00pm and all others may register from 7:00pm-7:30pm.

Zion Job Openings

Please submit applications and resumes in person at the church or school offices. Applications are available in the church or school offices

- **School Janitor**
(beginning at end of May)
Part-Time with scheduling flexibility. Inquire at the school office for job description and duties.
- **PK3/4 Asst. to Director**
(beginning in August)
Full-Time Position teaching PK3 on two days per week and PK4 on three days per week. These would be ½ day classes. The remainder would be administrative duties to support the PK director. See office for job description and position requirements. Must hold teaching endorsement.
- **School Secretary**
(begin training prior to end of current school year)
Full-Time position for 10 months (School Year) and Part-Time over the summer. Job description available in the school office.
- **Head Cook**
Part-Time Contract Position. Prepares meals and submits paperwork to meet State and Federal standards for school lunches. Oversees the assistant cook. Orders required food products per state and school guidelines. Full job description available in the school office.

Christ-less Christianity?

Rev. Micheal M. Strong
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Farmersville, IL.

What's THAT you ask? Think of Handel's "Messiah" without the Hallelujah Chorus. Think of the St. Louis Arch without the arch. Now think of a worship service in your church where faith in Jesus' suffering and dying on the cross for our sins is not mentioned.

Outrageous! Impossible you say! Maybe so, but consider this. The official Evangelical Lutheran Church in America website recently said: "Because Jesus is the unique and universal savior, there is a large hope for salvation, not only for me ... but for all people ... no matter how religious or irreligious they might have proved to be themselves." In case you don't know it, that is called "Universalism" a teaching that everybody will be saved (go to heaven) regardless of whether they believe in Jesus as Savior or not.

But that's not all! Pope Francis in a recent homily said: "The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! 'Father, the atheists?' Even the atheists. Everyone!" ... 'But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!' But do good: we will meet one another there."

But there's more! In 2010 a survey of 5,000 Presbyterians (PCUSA) revealed "36% of Presbyterians indicated that they did not believe that only Christians would be saved. It's a minority, true. But only three percentage points separate this minority from the plurality of Presbyterians (39%) who hold the more traditional orthodox position. More interestingly, the numbers shifted as you polled Presbyterian pastors, with a significant plurality (45%) of Presbyterian pastors not limiting salvation to Christians."

Now if you are an orthodox Lutheran, or Roman Catholic, or Presbyterian or another brand of Christian and are shocked about these tidbits, good. You should be. Universalism, teaches that all people, regardless of faith or lack of faith in Jesus, will reside in heaven upon death. Universalism teaches this despite Jesus' words in John 3:16 ("For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will be saved.").

Yes, Jesus is the Savior, but faith in Him as Savior is also

necessary. Romans 10:13 says it clearly, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Note: it doesn't say everyone will be saved, but only those who call upon the name of the Lord.

While it is true that He did die for all people, it is also true that faith in Him is necessary. So logically, if faith is absent, as it is in all irreligious and non-Christian people, so is salvation, forgiveness. and heaven.

This is not a small matter, friends. Universalism is a demonic teaching. It denies that we are saved by faith alone, which destroys the Christian faith. Do not tolerate such teachings in your church!

"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).

*Send email comments or questions to strong@eosinc.com.
Rev. Micheal M. Strong is pastor of Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church Farmersville, IL.*

Electronic Giving

Have you been thinking of using electronic giving to make your donations/tithes to the church? Now, with the busy holidays approaching, would be a great time to start!

Benefits of using electronic giving:

1. Reduces check writing and searching for your church envelope box every week.
2. Allows donations to continue uninterrupted during absences.
3. You can use your checking account, credit or debit card.
4. The information will be on your church giving statement.
5. Only you can stop or change your donation information.
6. Allows the church to plan financially.
7. There is no extra cost to you

Zion Has Different Options to Give Electronically

Your Bank:

Many of you pay some of your bills using the internet, through your personal bank, it's convenient, saves time and postage. At Staunton First National Bank you can make a donation to the church in the "bills and payment" section. You can make a one time payment or set up your account to make automatic payments. (annually, every 6, 3, 2 months, monthly, 2 time a month, weekly, every 2 weeks, every 4 weeks). A check will be mailed to the church office.

Auto Play Application:

If you do not have internet access or wish not to use it, you can complete an AUTO-PAY APPLICATION FORM (available on the last page of this messenger) and return it to the church office.

Or you can go to your bank a request an amount be withdrawn from your account and deposited directly into the churches account. (A representative from the church must approve these transactions.)

If you do this, please inform the church office or Ron Williams. (if and when you make changes to direct deposit, please let us know.)

Vanco Payment Solution:

There are two ways to use VANCO,

1. Go to Zion Lutheran Church and School home-page "www.zion-luth.org" and click on the yellow DONATE ONLINE box and follow the instructions.
2. Using your smart device, down load the **GIVEPLUS+ app**. Find your church, ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, STAUNTON, ILLINOIS, and follow the instructions.

Zion uses VANCO Payment Solutions, for our e-giving partner. You can check them out on the web at www.vancopayments.com.

If you have any questions, contact Ron Williams or the Church Office. If you do not have offering envelopes, but would like some, let us know.

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Preacher, M. Girardin	2 6pm Sign Lang. Class	3 3:30pm Catachism	4 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 10am Heritage 11am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 5:15pm Lent Dinner 6:30 Confess./Sacram. 7pm Lent Worship	5 10am Bible Study 6:30 Trustees 7:30 Men's Club	6	7 5pm Worship w/C Preacher, K. Mitteis
8 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Preacher, K. Mitteis	9 6pm Sign Lang. Class 6:30pm Stewardship	10 3:30pm Catachism 7pm Admin. Council	11 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 10am Heritage 11am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 5:15pm Lent Dinner 6:30 Confess./Sacram. 7pm Lent Worship	12 10am Bible Study 6pm Shipmates	13	14 5pm Worship w/C Preacher, M. Girardin
15 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Jess Biermann	16 6pm Sign Lang. Class	17 3:30pm Catachism 7pm Elders	18 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 10am Heritage 11am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 5:15pm Lent Dinner 6:30 Confess./Sacram. 7pm Lent Worship	19 10am Bible Study	20	21 5pm Worship w/C Preacher, M. Girardin
22 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Preacher, M. Girardin	23 6pm Sign Lang. Class	24 3:30pm Catachism 7pm Parish Ed.	25 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 10am Heritage 11am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 5:15pm Lent Dinner 6:30 Confess./Sacram. 7pm Lent Worship	26 10am Bible Study 7pm Alumni & Friends	27	28 5pm Worship w/C Preacher, K. Mitteis
29 8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Preacher, K. Mitteis	30 6pm Sign Lang. Class	31	1 8:30am Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 10am Heritage 11am Glenwood 3:30pm Catachism 5:15pm Lent Dinner 6:30 Confess./Sacram. 7pm Lent Worship	2 10am Bible Study	3	4 5pm Worship w/C

Zion works at HIS Service Station: March 2-7, & 30-31 2020