



May 2015

# Pastor's Page



Zion Lutheran Church

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Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

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## “I don’t like or agree with the Church’s Position on \_\_\_\_\_.”

A phrase, or variations of it, that has caught my attention lately is, “I don’t like or agree with the church’s position on (insert topic here).” “I don’t agree with the church’s position (or, pastor’s position) on abortion and euthanasia.” “The LCMS needs to change its position on homosexuality like the Pope and other churches have.” “If the church doesn’t change its position on not doing weddings for couples living together to fit with the times, it is going to die.” “What is the church’s position on divorce?” What is the church’s position on women pastors and the roles of men and women in home, church, and state?” “Is the church’s position still teaching a literal 6 day creation?” “What is the church’s current position on worshipping or who may commune?”

The major assumption or accusation behind phrasing the questions this way is that Christ’s Church is a human and fallible institution that teaches the opinions and positions of man. Certainly, this is true when a church body takes a position that contradicts or goes beyond the Word of God. But, the true Church is not a human institution. It is a divine institution that preaches God’s position not its own. The true Church, the body of Christ, is created by the Word of God and is charged to preach faithfully that Word of God. When I preach that abortion is a sin—Christ died for all sin and sinners—and all who repent and believe will go to heaven—this is not first my position or the church’s position. This is God’s position. The Church, publicly through her Called ministers, preaches God’s position and by grace it is our position too—we believe, teach and confess it. But, again, first and foremost it is God’s position, I am just the messenger.

When people say they don’t agree with the Church’s position on something like a literal 6 day creation, they are really denying the inspiration of Holy Scripture. They are putting themselves above the Word of God, denying the Word of God, and reducing the Church to the place where men preach opinions and not the place where God speaks His ‘opinions’ to us. Pastors and local churches change, but the message remains the same and Christ’s Church (believers) will endure to the end of time.

Martin Luther in his *Church Postil of 1522*, insisted on calling the church a ‘mouth house.’ God’s Word is meant to be preached in and by the Church. It is God’s mouth, His Word, His position. We are to listen to God’s Word preached into our ears and not follow the opinions and myths of men. My sermons are not what I say or what the church says, but thus sayeth the Lord.

I leave you with the Holy Spirit’s Word via St. Paul to Pastor Timothy and to all true Christian preachers: [2Ti 4:1-5 ESV] **1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

God’s mouth to you,  
Pastor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL  
THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE  
MAY BIRTHDAYS!!

Blayde Bowe	5/1
Larry Gale, Jr.	5/1
Linda Murillo	5/1
Phyllis Pangborn	5/3
Doreen Szedlak	5/4
Joe Hakes	5/5
Greg Welke	5/10
Clark Benson	5/15
Robert Jacobson	5/15
Rev. Erno Szedlak	5/16
Robbie Sahr	5/22
Jeff Arndt	5/27
Regina Arndt	5/27
Jim LaNou	5/28
Reagan Myers	5/30

♥ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: ♥

Ralph & Vicki Bellore	5/17/1969
Verlyn & JoAnn Ehlers	5/19/1951
Joe & Barb Calkins	5/22/1976
Matt & Barb Milkert	5/16/1992
Bryan & Becky Myers	5/3/2008

### **WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS**

Women's Society met on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> to do cleaning of the chairs and also the pews in the church.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Servers will be Diane Gettler and Arlene Hakes.

All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

### **ZION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome by rite of confirmation Christa Taylor and Kevin and Stephanie  
Taylor  
and  
Congratulations to Kevin and Stephanie Taylor who welcomed baby Lydia into  
the world on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **WE ASK YOU TO REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THE HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:**

Robert Jacobson

John Emanuel

## **TABLE OF DUTIES MONTHLY REVIEW: TO WIVES**

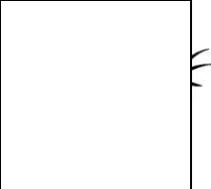
Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **Eph. 5:22** They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. **1 Peter 3:5-6**

**HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH FUND:** *Gal 6:10 ESV 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.* This fund is for members with emergency financial needs. If you have a need, you may speak with pastor confidentially. The funds are overseen by the Church Council. To donate to this fund, please mark it, "Household of Faith Fund."

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** *will be held from Sun. July 26 thru Thurs. July 30 in the evenings. Our theme will be on the Lord's Prayer. We will be purchasing our curriculum thru "Higher Things" again this year. As time gets closer prayerfully consider how you may help in our efforts to teach the children of Zion and of Chippewa. Our annual Worship in the Park and Potluck Picnic will follow on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

**A MESSAGE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP BOARD:** It has been a very busy time for us, but the Lenten Season and Easter have once again passed. Thanks to all who volunteered their assistance during that special time. All of these fellowship opportunities would not be possible without the congregation's participation. Also during this time our reception was held for the youth that were confirmed and again later for the adult confirmands. The next event to put on your calendar will be the Annual Pizza Supper prior to the Ascension Day service on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Serving will be from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a freewill offering taken. The church service will follow at 6:30 p.m. We hope you will be able to join us for Brian's homemade pizza and to hear God's Word. Also keep in mind our Annual Worship in the Park Service and Potluck Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Zion's Women's Society is planning to host another salad luncheon on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. All of Zion's ladies are invited to attend. We will also be



inviting several other LCMS church ladies. Please mark this date on your calendar. More information will be in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.

## **LWML NEWS**

Carol Gale, Dianne Schroeder, and Dottie Neumann will be among those attending The 36<sup>th</sup> Biennial National LWML Convention to be held in Des Moines, IA June 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

They will be taking “Gifts from the Heart” with them – sharing God’s mercy with many others thru Luther Care Services, Lutherans for Life, and Orphan Grain Train. If you would like to assist in giving support feel free to bring you items to donate and they will get everything to the convention. (See lists of what is needed in attached article or on LWML board).

These ladies will also be going on the “Mission Walk” if you’d like to make a donation to support this mite walk, which provide money for the Mission Grants.