



## Zion Lutheran Church

110 East Grand Avenue  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

# Pastor's Page

June 2012



Edited for website

### **Learning About You & Learning in Our Newsletter**

Greetings, in the Name of Our Lord!

It is hard for me to believe that next month will be a year since I was installed as your pastor. It has been a fast and busy year, but a very enjoyable year for my family and me. **Learning About You:** I know it takes time to get to know a new pastor and vice versa, but I would like to help that process along if you so desire. If you haven't initiated a time outside of the busy Sunday morning interaction to sit down with me individually or with your family, like many have, and would like to, please sign-up on the sheet on my office door (I'll leave it up through the summer). The more a pastor knows about the unique situations and history of his sheep, the better he can care for them. I don't expect these general introductory visits to last more than an hour as they are not a social visit, but a time for me to learn about you, much like when establishing care with a new doctor. This will also give you an opportunity to ask me about my pastoral approaches and practices. I extend this invitation to you in the spirit of the Gospel and not the Law. If you don't want to sit down with me at this time, I won't think any more or less of you; I am here if you ever change your mind. Again, it has been enjoyable serving here this first year; thank you for your prayers and support.

**Learning in Our Newsletter:** In addition to worship and Bible class attendance, it is important that we all read the newsletter to learn not just about what is going at Zion, but about Scripture. With this understanding, I am going to expand the Biblical teaching in our newsletters by, in addition to my *Pastor's Page*, running some articles that I come across from time to time. I know that there is always a tension between keeping newsletters short enough so that people will read them and serving a full meal and not just a light appetizer. I am going to err on the side of giving too much meat and potatoes so that those who desire more may be edified.

This month I have included an excerpt of an article written by an LCMS pastor in Texas that I entitled, "**Pastor, You Should Give So and So a Call.**" I also am going to run a short series beginning this month entitled, "**The Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day,**" from the website of *Gloria Christi Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Greeley, Colorado*. I have also included a modified version of my Maundy Thursday sermon this past Holy Week. I pray that you find these and future resources to come to be a satisfying meal.

Next month I plan to start a series for my *Pastor's Page* entitled, "**As Long as They're Christian.**"

In Christ,  
Pastor

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

This month we welcome Richard Hanson and Krysta Martinek, who transferred from Christ Lutheran, Chippewa Falls. Please introduce yourself to them.

### **BIBLE CLASSES**

Sunday: We are studying "The Liturgy and Worship." It is never too late to join the Bible classes on Sunday mornings. It is open to jr. and sr. youth!

### **MIDWEEK SUMMER BIBLE STUDY**

I am planning to teach a weekly study for anyone interested. The day and time will depend on those who sign-up. Please sign-up on the sheet on my study door by June 1st. Thank you, Pastor

### **MISS A BIBLE CLASS OR SERMON?**

Audio of the most recent Bible classes and sermons are on our website. Click the "Education" tab for Bible class or the tab for "Sermons."

### **CD'S OF SERMONS & BIBLE STUDIES**

CD's of Sermons and Bible Studies will be made available for those who request them. Contact Brian Schweisthal with any requests. Brian's cell phone is 715-529-8342 and his e-mail address is brians8881@gmail.com.

### **NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT CONFERENCE JUNE 10-11**

I will be attending my first District Convention in the North Wisconsin District of the LCMS this month. Our lay delegate

or I will try to give you a synopsis of the conference next month.

### **SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Parents and others who are willing to teach a lesson or two during the summer months grab your spot now! \*\*A sign up sheet is posted outside of the office on the bulletin board. It has the lessons and Bible references for each week listed. Lessons and materials will be provided for the casual classes. Thank you.

### **Zion's Women's Society News**

The Women's Society met on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Twelve members, two guests and Pastor were in attendance. Rosa Blake was hostess and served a choice of two delicious desserts.

Pastor led us in devotions based on the Chief Articles of Faith of the Augsburg Confession. Article I: of God, Article II: of Original Sin, Article III: of the Son of God, Article IV: of Justification, Article V: of the ministry, and Article VI: of New Obedience. After a brief business meeting, we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

We will meet on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, for lunch at the at the Fill-Inn Restaurant at 12:30 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are most welcome to join us there. Please call Rosa Blake by noon on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, if you plan to attend.

### **RADIO & FLOWERS:**

If you would like to furnish altar flowers or sponsor a radio broadcast for a special occasion, please call the office.

Altar flowers are \$30.00. There is a flower chart on the left of the door as you enter from the education wing. Sign your name by the date you would like to furnish flowers. The radio broadcast is \$76.00. Call the office if you would like to furnish a broadcast or have any questions about flowers or the broadcast.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

If you would like a prayer on Sunday morning, please contact one of the secretaries during the week. If it is a last minute, you can also catch pastor before service.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE FELLOWSHIP BOARD**

Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, was Ascension Day. This was the first time that we served supper before the worship service. Thanks to Brian and Laurie Schweisthal and Ralph and Vickie Bellore we were treated to a special meal. Brian showed us his culinary skills by serving his extremely tasty homemade pizzas. There were so many different ones to choose from and all of them equally delicious. We hope you were among those seated at our tables. Everyone there was truly impressed and are looking forward to be treated like that sometime again. We thank the Schweisthal's and the Bellore's for making it a great time for members to gather together in fellowship before the Ascension Worship service. We especially thank Brian for his hard work and for sharing his talent with us. We truly enjoyed the fruits of his labor.

### **EVANGELISM & MISSIONS BOARD**

Zion's Evangelism Committee continues to work on a new church brochure. Brian Schweizthal has been working on this for the committee. A Fall Mission Festival is being planned, the mission emphasis will be announced later this summer. The committee will be asking the congregation to consider setting a Missions Goal for 2013 at the fall semi-annual Voters' meeting.

### **"IN OUR PRAYERS"**

We ask you to remember in our prayers the homebound members:

Mavis Berry                      Emma Bollom  
Loretta Erickson                Lorraine  
Heidtke  
Helen Hempleman

### **CAMP LUTHER**

There are many activities planned for the summer and fall at Camp Luther.

Visit [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com) today to learn of the many activities available.

You can also call 1-877-264-2267 or write to Camp Luther, 1889 Koubenec Rd., Three Lakes, WI 54562

For more information contact:

Gary Vought  
1889 Koubenec Rd.  
Three Lakes, WI 54562  
[woody@campluther.com](mailto:woody@campluther.com)  
877-364-CAMP



## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Several members from Zion will be attending the LWML District Convention in Appleton, WI, June 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

"Gifts from the Heart" items will be collected at the convention.

Needed: Diapers, diaper wipes, baby monitors, bottle brushes, new bottle nipples, baby pain relievers, diaper rash cream, new pacifiers, new breast pumps, baby spoons, sippy cups, infant towels and washcloths, baby gates, grooming items and car seats. These items will be given to the Waupaca Pregnancy Center.



## YOUTH SPONSORS NEEDED

Two of our teen members, Kyril Kiutukcief and Robbie Sahr, are attending the Higher Things Conference with Pastor Stark in Missouri July 3-6, 2012.

Items needed for the Homeless Veterans are: personal hygiene items. Phone calling cards, laundry soap, dish washing soap, twin sheet sets, bath & hand towels, men's socks, 1<sup>st</sup> class postage stamps, or donations made out to LWML Wings at King.

Also being collected are eyeglasses for the Eyeglass Clinic mission trip to Nicaragua in November. The goal is 3000 pair of glasses.

Don't throw away any good Christian tracts, magazines, books, Bibles, videos, cassettes, records and daily devotional material. These will also be collected and given to the Eagles Nest LOVE.

All items will be taken to the Convention by our LWML members who are attending the convention. Please bring your items any time from now until June 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a box in the back entrance. If you have any questions, please speak with Carol Gale. Thank you!

In an effort to help them raise money to attend the conference and all their travel expenses, the Zion Youth Group is asking for your donation as a sponsorship for their trip. In return for your donation, the teens will provide a presentation later this summer to share the highlights of the conference and talk about their experiences meeting other teens from all over the United States.

We hope that you will consider sponsoring Kyril and Robbie. Please direct your donation or questions about the trip to Beth Welke at 726-2536 or Carol Gale at 723-8048.

We appreciate your consideration.

Zion Lutheran Church Board of Education



### **NOAH'S ARK - MONDAY JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>**

We will meet at church at 8am. Have your breakfast already. Lunch is free with admission.

Bring sunscreen, swimsuit, dry clothes, water shoes (optional), and money for fast food supper.

We will buy supper at a fast food stop on the way home.

Plan to be back by 7:30 pm, possibly earlier if people have evening plans such as ball games.

Any children under the age of 7 need an adult family member along.

### **Pastor, You Should Give So and So a Call.**

(Below is an excerpt from a fellow pastor in the LCMS. To see his full article visit <http://blog.trinityaustin.com/2012/04/23/in-a-heap-of-trouble/#more-589> I will add a few of my comments at the end of the excerpt.)

“...When a member comes to you with the information that they believe someone else is in need of pastoral care, a number of things are going on. First, they are inducing you to break the first rule of pastoral care: You are not talking about the person’s spiritual well being who is before you but about some absent party. Second, they are engaging in behavior not acceptable even among plumbers and electricians. If I were to call up either of these tradesman and say, “My neighbor has a stopped up

toilet or a shorted out lamp; you should call on them.” After laughing himself silly, he would hang up on me...

If you do call, you will hear things like this: “It wasn’t a big deal.” “We didn’t want to bother you.” “We would call if we needed you.” If you don’t call, you don’t care about your flock in the eyes of the busybody, and since he probably has told the person whom he has brought before you that he is going to call you, that person too can feel that way. In any case pastoral care suffers. In my letter to the parents whose children will be attending confirmation class, I tell them that what I am doing is as important as brain surgery. If a brain surgeon will not tolerate interruption or interference when he’s performing delicate brain surgery, I shouldn’t be expected to tolerate children who interfere with my delicate caring of souls.

That’s what the busybody has done. He, ..., has put you in the position of being a telephone caller who treats the person they called as if *they* were the ones who called you. The person you’re calling is the one who needs pastoral care (and this might actually be the case), but since they have said no such thing to you, you have to find a way to get that out of them. But what you’re doing is forcing a rose bud to blossom, or force-feeding a sheep, or at worse casting your pearls before swine. You’re a plumber or electrician trying to fix what a person doesn’t think broken.

Oh how wonderfully it works when the person calls who has the clogged drain, shorted circuit, or troubled soul. Then the *Seelsorge*, which is a German word meaning the care of souls, goes exactly as it should. The pastor sees where the rose blossom needs tending, what food the sheep needs, and he can cast those pearls of grace with abandon...”

**My comments:** This historic Lutheran understanding of pastoral care, which predates the LCMS, is how I try to function as well. I can only really care for the souls that desire it and communicate that to me personally. This is done by coming to church and/or talking directly with me. This is why I spend so much time preparing for teaching and preaching—so that I can care for those who want it, inside and outside worship and Bible Classes. This is why I, like generations past, make Word and Sacrament visits to the shut-ins (See Note Below) and hospitalized (basically, anytime pastoral care is needed) to those who ask me personally to (of course if a member is unconscious in the ER, I would make an exception and visit through second hand information). **If you need pastoral care, please call me directly if you can** on my cell phone, which is printed in the bulletin and on the church’s answering machine. This is what I am here for. Please don’t make the mistake of thinking it is up to me to read your mind or find out through hearsay. Just like with ‘members’ that I have never met who are waiting for me to call them before they come back to church, don’t be misled by this errant understanding of pastor and sheep duties. - Pastor

*How do you know if you are a shut-in? If you can drive or get a ride to a doctor’s office, sit in the waiting room, and receive physical care, then you probably are not a shut-in. If you can’t, then you probably are. We are blessed with curb side parking and an elevator that can take you to worship, Bible class, and the bathroom without stairs.*

***The Lord’s Supper on the Lord’s Day***  
**<http://www.gloriachristi.org/id41.html>**

*Q: Why would the church desire to have celebrate the Lord's Supper in the Divine Service each Sunday?*

A: Since in the Lord's Supper we receive our Lord Jesus' very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins it is a great gift to us and is central to the Divine Service. The holy Christian church throughout the ages has identified the Lord's Day (Sunday) with the Lord's Supper. As such the Lord's Supper was never viewed as an occasional extra or as somehow not as important as the other means of grace (Word, Absolution, Holy Baptism). In the Supper the Church, the Bride of Christ, sees herself clearly as the Body of Christ, being "one flesh" with Christ Jesus -- a great mystery indeed (Ephesians 5). The Supper is our Lord's last will and testament where we receive His life-giving mercy.

Also, since each day and each week we are in need of the Lord's forgiveness and strength, we are therefore in need of the Lord's Supper much in every way. Today, our increasingly less and less Christianly influenced culture threatens our faith daily, along with the help of Satan and our own sinful desires (old Adam). In the Christian Questions and Answers in the Small Catechism Luther writes the following, admonishing us to frequently receive the gift of Communion:

"What should admonish and incite a Christian to receive the sacrament frequently? In respect to God, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord should move him, and in respect to himself, the trouble that lies heavy on him, on account of which such command, encouragement, and promise are given."

*Q: As Lutherans, what do we officially teach in our confessional writings regarding the frequency of the Lord's Supper's celebration?*

A: For example, in the Apology [Defense] of the Augsburg Confession (Article XXIV,1), it is said of the Mass, meaning the Divine Service of Holy Communion:

"In the beginning we must make the preliminary statement that we do not abolish the Mass, but religiously maintain and defend it. For among us masses are performed every Lord's Day and on the other festivals, in which the sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. And the usual public ceremonies are observed, such as the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other like things."

*Q: As specifically Missouri Synod Lutherans, has anything been said addressing this subject?*

A: Yes, the 1995 Convention of the LCMS passed the following resolution:

To Encourage Every Sunday Communion

RESOLUTION 2-08A

Overture 2-51 (CW, pp.149-150)

Whereas, the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day was a reality cherished by Luther and set forth clearly with high esteem by our Lutheran Confessions (Article XXIV of the Augsburg Confession and of the Apology); and

Whereas, our synod's 1983 CTCR document on the Lord's Supper (p.28) and our Synod's 1986 [1991] translation of Luther's Catechism both remind us that the Scriptures place the Lord's Supper at the center of worship ([Acts 2:42](#); [20:7](#); [1 Cor. 11:20,23](#)), and not as an appendage or an occasional extra; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in convention encourage its pastors and congregations to study the scriptural, confessional, and historical witness to every Sunday communion

with a view toward recovering the opportunity for receiving the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day.  
Action: Adopted.

## Receiving Christ's Body and Blood Worthily

**I Cor. 11:23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. (ESV)**

As we see in First Corinthians, the Sacrament of the Altar *is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.*<sup>1</sup> Whether or not people believe that they are receiving the actual body and blood of Christ at His Table, doesn't change the reality that they are. A person's faith never determines what the Lord's Supper is, Christ's Word does. He says, "This is my body." Because Christ is always really present in, with, and under bread and wine, the giving and receiving of the *Sacrament of the Altar* has been and always will be a very serious meal.

While a person's faith doesn't determine the reality of the Supper, a person's faith is very important in receiving the body and blood of our Lord worthily. Scripture gives some stern warnings about communing unworthily. Those who communed unworthily in Corinth experienced weakness, illness, and some even death. Therefore, distributing Jesus' body and blood to people is a very serious responsibility for pastors, who Scripture calls the stewards of the mysteries (sacraments) of God. And, eating the bread and drinking the cup is a serious matter for all who do.

Notice that on Maundy Thursday that Jesus only invited His disciples to commune, whom He had instructed for 3 years. He didn't, for example, invite the 5,000 whom He had fed perishable food earlier in His ministry. The early Church continued this loving practice and would ask those not yet instructed in the faith to actually leave after the sermon and before the *Service of the Sacrament*. After the hearers left, the Church would then close the doors so that the doors were closed, hence the phrase *Closed Communion*. The preached Gospel is for everyone, the *Sacrament of the Altar* is not. Like the pharmacist who keeps powerful drugs under lock and key so someone doesn't overdose, pastors and congregations protect our children not yet confirmed, friends, and strangers from receiving the Supper unworthily and to their harm. Christ took catechesis and examination seriously, so did St. Paul, the early Church, and the Church today.

So, who is unworthy to commune? Obviously, rank unbelievers are not worthy and inviting them would be casting pearls before swine. Those who have not been instructed in the faith and who do not discern the body of Christ also shouldn't commune. Those who have been instructed, but who

---

<sup>1</sup> Luther's *Small Catechism*

persist in open and unrepentant sin shouldn't commune as long as they do no repent. This includes those living in sin, be it despising God's Word by not coming often to the Divine Service, refusing to forgive someone, greed, sexual immorality, or drunkenness. This also includes the sin of false doctrine. Those who deny the real presence, infant baptism, and the list goes on, are asked not to commune so they do not eat and drink to their judgment.

We have identified some who are obviously unworthy of receiving Christ body and blood, but what about us? Are you worthy to commune? I think it is at this point that there is confusion, even within Lutheran congregations. I think some think that they can prepare themselves well enough for communion some days, but not well enough others. This is also why some object to weekly communion, because they don't think they can truly have enough time to prepare so often. Yet, can anyone of us really say that we think we are worthy to approach Holy God on any day? Just look back at your life yesterday, today, or any day? Have you entertained evil thoughts? Have you hurt someone with your mouth? Have your hands done things they shouldn't and left undone what they should? Of course! We are 100% saint and 100% sinner until the day we die. This is why even as you walk up and kneel at the rail for communion your mind wanders. There isn't one minute of our life or a breath that we take that we can say we are worthy. We are never worthy and nothing we do could ever make us worthy. Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training, but they don't make us worthy. We constantly rely on Christ's mercy.

Jesus doesn't make you worthy – He declares that you are worthy for His sake. For a man to be worthy to approach Holy God, He must too be holy - without sin. That means for you to approach God worthily your sins must be taken away completely and you must keep the 10 Commandments perfectly. *Christ was born of Mary and our sins and sorrows did carry*<sup>2</sup>. He carried all of your sins to the cross and paid for them all by His innocent suffering and death. Christ was covered with your unworthiness, your breaking of the Law, your evil thoughts, words, and deeds, all the while living a sinless worthy life for you. His thoughts were always pure. He was never drunk. His body and hands were always pure in your stead. *Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven. No greater love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there of remind us. O Lords, have mercy. Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made; O Lord, have mercy.*<sup>3</sup> It is Jesus Who covers you in baptism and declares you forgiven, righteous, and worthy. It is Jesus' life and death that reestablishes peace between you and God. This exact same body and blood that was given and shed for you on the cross is given to you to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of all your sins. **For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.** *“Why should we remember and proclaim His death? First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.”*<sup>4</sup>

*“So, who receives the Sacrament worthily? That person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.”*<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)*, Hymn 617.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Luther's, "Christian Questions with Their Answers" appearing in the *Small Catechism* in 1551. (LSB p.329)

<sup>5</sup> Luther's *Small Catechism*

<sup>6</sup> Luther's, "Christian Questions with Their Answers" appearing in the *Small Catechism* in 1551. (LSB p.329)

*“What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently? First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament? To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15-16 and in 1 John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.”<sup>6</sup>*

Apart from Christ we can do nothing, we are vulnerable, and we will wither up and die. Connected to the vine you are fine. Covered with Christ in Baptism and breaded to Him often in Communion you have nothing to fear. In Christ you are always worthy, your sins, the world, and devil can never change that.

I encourage you that when we are blessed to have the Lord’s Supper in worship that you find comfort in the “Christian Questions with Their Answers” on p. 329 in our hymnal.

Worthy IN Christ,

Pastor

---