



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

May 2021

## Pastor's Corner

### Bad Habits are Good to Break

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:25*

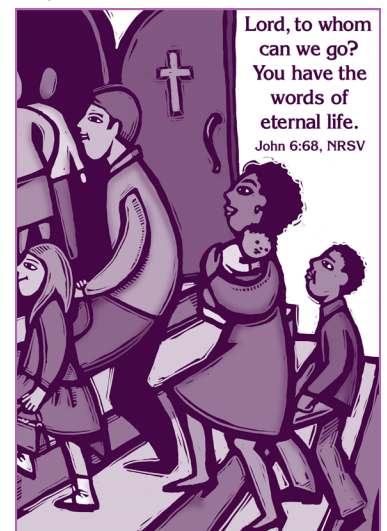
"Pastor, I couldn't believe how easy it was to stay home on Sunday morning. All of a sudden it became a very bad habit I just had to break!" A parishioner said this to me in one of my former congregations. He had gone on vacation for two weeks and was away from church. He then came home, became sick, and was away from church another two weeks. But then something interesting happened . . . he continued to stay away from church! This was not a normal habit for him. He was active in the church attending faithfully every week. Now, a new habit started: staying away from church. This new habit was also a very easy habit to start.

We are now one full year after the start of the pandemic. I realize many stayed away at the beginning of the pandemic for health concerns. Many members at Zion have serious medical conditions and were concerned about being exposed to Covid. Now, a year later, many of us have been vaccinated, and many more still need to be vaccinated, but we are still missing many of our members. Only you can determine for yourself whether you are staying away from church because of a medical concern, or if you are staying away from church simply because staying away has become a bad habit. If it is a bad habit, may I suggest to you, that would be an excellent habit to break!

We have a great reason to make a habit of being in church. When we are in church, Jesus Christ has a habit of doing wonderful things for us. For example, Jesus is in a good habit of forgiving your sins whenever you need them forgiven. Jesus is in a good habit of speaking to you through His Word whenever you need to hear it. Jesus is in a good habit of coming to you physically in the Lord's Supper every single week because He wants to be near you. It is a good habit for us to see Christ every week in Word and Sacrament. It is a good habit for us to stay among the company of saints here on earth, and to rejoice in song and praise with all the saints in heaven!

We realize during this past year a lot can happen. If you are having difficulty coming to church for health reasons and would like me to bring you communion at home, feel free to reach out to the church office and I would be honored to serve you. Otherwise, we hope coming to church becomes a "habit" for all of us. Being together in church is truly a good habit I hope none of us break!

- Pastor Grimenstein



**Mission Moment:**  
**Promoting Zion's Internal, Local, and International  
Missionary Efforts**

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

Blessed Eastertide!

As mentioned in my last report, Holy Week observances came out as planned, if not even better. The students got a lot from the “hands on deck” study (participation) of the liturgies and most of them greatly appreciated it. Hopefully, it will help them in their future ministries. It all culminated on Easter Monday with the installation of four of the new Master of Sacred Theology (STM) graduates from Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne as faculty members, and two others (the former rector and an older former instructor.) The increased number of staff should have relieved me from the number of courses I normally teach, but due to the pandemic travel restrictions, which has stopped our regular visiting professors from coming, I am still forced to cover the gap and have seven courses to teach.

We had a large shipment of books and catechetical materials arrive from Concordia Catechetical Academy (CCA) in April for the seminary students. We praise God for this provision!

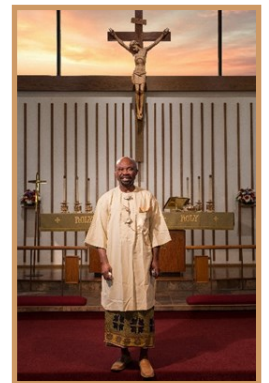
The annual National Women's Rally took place after Easter. It worked out this year that the students were on Easter break. The new dorms meant for the students, the old dorms, and some of the classrooms, were able to be used by the women. I was the major Essayist, presenting for three hours with a translator, the Rev. David Ukpong, Dean of Student Affairs. My presentation was popular until I addressed the inappropriate use of some of the traditional African religious dances during worship.

School resumed on April 19, directly after the National Women's Rally concluded. The wedding of Rev. Kufre-Abasi Etim Ekanem, one of our five recently graduated STM students, took place the weekend after the resumption of school on April 25. The wedding took place in another state from the seminary, a treacherous road journey of about 5 hours one way. I did the preaching and presiding at the wedding service. The road was so treacherous that my vehicle sustained some damage with parts falling off on the way back.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- Join me in thanking the Lord for the successful National Women's Rally, and for journey mercies granted to the students to and from Easter break, and to and from the wedding.
- May our Risen Lord, who commissioned the disciples to go into the whole creation spreading the Gospel, continue to give you strength, and above all keep you healthy in your day-to-day activity, and as you embark on our continued mission in Africa. Amen!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Wokoma  
1 Tim 1:15



# Chairman's Report

## Spirit of the Church

Thanks to all who attended the Quarterly Voter's Meeting on April 25th. If you weren't able to attend you missed a tasty light luncheon and a lot of helpful information about Zion. Hopefully the world will be coming out of the covid cloud and by summer Zion will be returning to a more normal state of affairs! This summer promises to be quite busy with numerous remodeling projects happening both inside and outside of the facilities.

However, as we approach Pentecost this month, let's take a moment to appreciate the importance of nurturing the Church at Zion and remembering that we're all "the Church" having been baptized as Christians. One of our ministries each year is Vacation Bible School which serves both Zion members and non-members. We need several more adults to help as Crew Leaders to guide students to the various VBS stations; there's no advance work required, the VBS staff does all the preparation for you! Please talk to Katie or Susie at the church office for more information. (VBS is June 21-25)

Let me say an emphatic **"Thank You"** to everyone who has supported the Forward in Faith Kitchen Fundraiser which has raised over \$49,000 of our goal of \$100K. The kitchen construction will begin June 28th; please continue to support this fundraising effort.



Our attendance has been getting better lately. The sound of singing voices is becoming more full and joyous. We're going to enjoy being Christians at Zion regardless of the obstacles we have to overcome. We're the Church, filled with the Spirit and marching as to war with the Word as our armor. The bricks and mortar at Zion are mere "tools" we use in which to congregate and worship.

Pray that the Holy Spirit is introduced to as many people on this planet as possible. Pray for our LCMS missions. Pray for the Christian Church on earth and for our Synod, District and your church here at Zion. Keep faith strong in your hearts and know that your Baptism has made possible the gift of the Holy Spirit which is meant to be shared with whomever would hear and believe. Rejoice in that first Pentecost! Let's spread the Word. Amen.

— Paul Klemash



Lutherans  
For Life

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

888.364.LIFE

*Lutherans for Life witnesses to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. It serves through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities. It educates and encourages through conferences and workshops, printed resources and newsletters, Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula, video, and through the website [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

**by Pastor Michael Salemink , Executive Director of Mission and Ministry**

The United States observes May as National Foster Care Month. President Ronald Reagan first designated it so in 1988. It calls attention and appreciation to the blessings and necessities of children.

Foster families provide safe and caring temporary homes for children whose birth parents cannot currently care for them. Foster parents receive state certification before beginning their service and government funding to support the arrangement. Courts retain legal responsibility for the children and supervise their foster residency.

Foster care operates best as a short-term situation while pursuing permanent placement. It has as its objective the healthy reconciliation and safe return of children to their biological families of origin. When this cannot happen, extended family represents the preferred choice for adoption. Kinship care, where relatives foster the children, accounts for a substantial and increasing proportion of foster homes. About half of foster children reunite with their family of origin, and about a quarter get adopted.



Nearly 700,000 children receive foster care nationwide in any given year. About a 125,000 of these are awaiting adoption. And, of course, adoption must proceed cautiously in the interest of protecting the children. The median age of children receiving foster care is 7.7 years old. A quarter are two years old or under, and about a third are teenagers. The median duration of foster care is 13.3 months—a quarter only require less than six months, and only a further quarter require more than two years.

Studies show children benefit most from living with both married biological parents. Separation from this context causes significant trauma, in addition to the trauma that causes the separation itself. The majority of children beginning foster care have experienced neglect, and seventeen percent have suffered physical or sexual abuse. Naturally, research indicates that foster children have higher rates of behavioral disorders, depression, anxiety, PTSD, ADHD, homelessness, incarceration, and suicide.

A common claim maintains that the foster care “system” is “broken.” Abortion advocates especially lament how foster care failures result from “unwanted” children. Extreme examples of abuse occurring in foster homes or shuffling from one placement to another certainly ought to cause us concern and grief. However, these tragedies also take place in biological and adoptive families. Most homicides of young children are committed by family members

through beatings or suffocation. Many, many little ones—and the vast majority of foster children—have stable homes and loving families because of foster parents' sacrificial compassion. And the available anecdotes and testimonies of children whom foster care has rescued and raised into well-adjusted adults immensely outnumber reports to the contrary.

**No child goes unwanted. The Christian Church sees to that with the Gospel.**

**“But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God’”** (Mark 10:14).

**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”** (Matthew 23:37).

Foster care actually indicates how our culture and government cherishes children. And foster care failures tell us more about the shortcomings of grown-ups than about the deficiencies of kids.

Of course, if even a single foster home fails one child, we must advocate and act for improvement. But killing the children will not solve the problems. In fact, reported cases of child abuse have increased—dramatically—in the years since *Roe v Wade* made abortion access mandatory. While this may result from greater accounting of child abuse, we definitely cannot conclude—as abortion supporters do—that making abortion more available reduces the incidence of child abuse, especially since the overall birthrate has declined across our country during the same time period. Actually, we ought to oppose abortion for the same reason we oppose child abuse: it inflicts violence upon the most vulnerable among us. Should we not expect that the same cultural attitudes that allow (and even applaud!) harm to children before birth might very well expose them to it after birth also?

Fostering and adopting undoubtedly deserves greater public funding. We can begin by asking the children and their parents what they need, instead of imposing what celebrities and activists want. Let's also recruit, instruct, and support more couples and families toward opening their homes to serve children in need. Multitudes—majorities, even—of foster families and adoptive parents confess Christ and consider themselves for-life. More foster parents—not fewer children—seems the most praiseworthy solution to foster care failures. And those who can recognize those failures just may make the most excellent candidates for the vocation!

### LFL's First Walk for Life

Join the Movement! ... learn more at

[Lutheransforlife.org/event/step-up-4-life](http://Lutheransforlife.org/event/step-up-4-life)







*Original drawing by Kristen Neill*

## Bridgeville Area Food Bank

This month's collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, May 9th. The "items of the month" are condiments.

You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and 12:00 pm at Bethany Presbyterian Church. As more families are struggling with the ongoing effects of the pandemic, please continue to support the Food Bank with your donations and volunteer service!



# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Beginning Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Sunday school is starting a new curriculum from Concordia Publishing House called Enduring Faith. Our first lesson begins with Creation – a great place to start!!

Virtual Sunday School Classes are no longer offered. However, Covid safety practices will remain in effect. We encourage all children to join us for in-person Sunday school classes.

Sunday school check-in will continue between 9:20-9:30 am. Classes begin at 9:30 am. See the checklist below for what you need to know before, upon arrival, and leaving Sunday school.

Apologetics classes are finished for the school year. All confirmed students are encouraged to attend the adult Bible study in the fellowship hall with Pastor Grimenstein.

## May Lessons & Teachers

Dates	Lessons	Pre - K Rm 205	1 - 2 Rm 208	3 - 4 Rm 207	5 - 6 Rm 206
May 2	A Mighty Wonder - Creation	Barb Oechslein	Carrie Lemonovich	Andy Weldon	Susie Bishop
May 9	The Fall and a Promise – Fall into Sin	Megan Glasser	Carrie Lemonovich	Linda Kroeger	Susie Bishop
May 16	A New Beginning - Noah	Megan Glasser	Megan Meyer	Linda Kroeger	Tess Carter
May 23	A Call to Action – Abram	Megan Glasser	Megan Migyanko	Andy Weldon	Tess Carter
May 30	A Promising Dream - Jacob	Barb Oechslein	Megan Migyanko	Andy Weldon	Tess Carter

## Sunday School COVID Checklist

Below is a quick checklist parents can use before arrival.

- **Face masks** are required. Don't forget to send one with your child.
- All children will **wash or sanitize hands** before entering and upon leaving their classroom.
- **No food or water** will be provided. Water fountains are closed. Parents can send a labeled water bottle, if necessary.

## Vacation Bible School

June 21 – 25 from 9am – noon

Registration Opens ONLINE May 3rd



NEW THIS YEAR — REGISTER ONLINE beginning May 3rd! Registration is quick and easy right from Zion's website under the "VBS" tab.

The VBS team is developing a safe environment for both students and volunteers. Volunteers are still needed in areas such as the nursery and guiding children to VBS stations. If you would like to help or have any questions, you can contact Katie Gielarowski at [sundayschool@zlc.org](mailto:sundayschool@zlc.org), or in person. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can share Christ's love with His children!







## 140 Years of Caring: Concordia's History of Service

Did you know that Concordia was first opened as the Evangelical Lutheran Concordia Orphans and Old Peoples Home in the early 1880s by a group of Lutheran pastors? Located southwest of Pittsburgh in Cabot, PA, Concordia was a farm as well as an orphanage and home for seniors, and in its early days, occupied only a small part of the current [Concordia at Cabot campus](#). In the last several decades, Concordia has grown in leaps and bounds, now boasting a number of senior living facilities, retirement communities and home health care services in Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and Tampa, Florida.

### **Below is a timeline of how Concordia's services have evolved over the years:**

**Orphanage: 1881 - 1958** Over the years, the demand for dedicated orphanages decreased, as well as the number of children coming to Concordia. In the 1950s, Concordia knew that the orphanage would soon be closing and hired a social worker to place the remaining children in private homes. By 1958, the last of the children were placed.

**Operating Farm: 1881 - 1954** The farm operations at Concordia provided for the children and seniors who lived there for over 70 years with plenty of produce and room for livestock. Concordia staff and the older children tended to all the farm chores and made use of every harvest. As the children left and more stringent government regulations were passed, running the farm and using its produce for the remaining seniors who lived at Concordia became increasingly difficult. By 1954, Concordia decided to cease the farm operations, sell the livestock and farm equipment and lease the land to local farmers.

**Chaplaincy Services: 1881 - Present** Pastors have always been an integral part of Concordia Lutheran Ministries – it was, after all, a group of Lutheran pastors who first decided to start a mission for orphans and seniors in Cabot. From the dedication of Oertel Care Center's All Saints Chapel in 1916 to this day, every major residential Concordia building expansion has featured a chapel where residents can gather to express and celebrate their faith. Pastors and church members consistently volunteered at Concordia, with many pastors ministering to the residents on a regular basis. In the 1970s, Concordia's Board of Directors hired Concordia's first dedicated chaplain, Rev. H. Earl Miller. Today, the Chaplaincy Department includes nine full-time and 12 part-time employees who provide spiritual care for Concordia's residents and patients in our





facilities and in their own homes through our [home and community services](#).

**General Care for Seniors: 1908 - Present** While we served the occasional older person prior to 1908, we really started serving seniors with the construction of the Home for the Aged on the Concordia at Cabot campus that year. Concordia cared for seniors who needed various levels of medical assistance throughout the decades. This kind of care would eventually become more regulated by the government and known as [assisted living or personal care](#).



**Skilled Nursing: 1982 - Present** The construction of Markus Hall on the Concordia at Cabot campus was the beginning of our skilled nursing services. Concordia had provided care to those with severe or long-term conditions long before this hall was built, but it was the first building at Concordia that was dedicated to what we know as [skilled nursing care](#).

**Retirement Living: 1990 - Present** The construction of the Concordia at Cabot Haven I Apartment building, was the beginning of Concordia's retirement living offerings in Western PA. Since the development of the Haven Apartments, [Concordia's retirement communities](#) have grown exponentially, and retirement living apartments are available at several Concordia campuses in Western PA, Eastern OH and Tampa, FL.

**Home Health and Home Care: 1997 - Present** In the 1990s, providing care in the home became a fast growing sector of the healthcare industry, due in part to an explosion of Medicare expenditures. In 1997, ConcordiaCare was launched as our first home care service line and offered private duty services. A year later, the agency received its home health licensure and Medicare certification that allowed for medically skilled visits to be made with a physician's order to qualifying patients. In 2003, ConcordiaCare changed its name to [Concordia Visiting Nurses](#) and the service line began experiencing exponential growth.

**Hospice Care: 2004 - Present** Recognizing the need to provide compassionate end-of-life care, Concordia acquired [Good Samaritan Hospice](#) in 2005. Good Samaritan Hospice offers in-home hospice care and three inpatient units throughout western Pennsylvania: one on the Concordia at Cabot campus, one at the Good Samaritan House in Wexford, and one within Heritage Valley Beaver Hospital. A year later, the management company partnered with Washington Health System in Washington, PA to create [Concordia Hospice of Washington](#).

**Medical Equipment: 2008 - Present** Concordia expanded its continuum of care in 2008 with the acquisition of APEX CPAP & Respiratory Services, Inc. Now named Concordia Medical Equipment, this service branch allows Concordia to offer a wide variety of medical equipment, including wheelchairs, hospital beds, CPAP machines and more.

These are only a few of the many senior and healthcare services offered at our campuses. For more information about our [continuum of healthcare services](#) in Western PA, Eastern OH and Tampa, FL. visit the [locations page of our website](#).



# In the Spotlight

## Zion Lutheran Preschool Program

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17**

The butterfly has long been a Christian symbol that reminds us of the new life we have through Christ's death and resurrection. During STEM time, the children have been learning all about the life cycle of a butterfly. Each class received a cup of painted lady caterpillars (larva) to observe. Our little scientists watched them move, eat, and grow. They made daily observations and recorded their growth. The children learned that there are three body parts of an insect: the head, thorax and abdomen.



They even learned a song to remember the body parts sung to the tune of "head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes" but sang "head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen".

They also enjoyed learning some fun facts about the Painted Lady butterfly; she lays up to 500 eggs, lives 2 to 4 weeks, flies up to 1000 miles in her lifetime, and tastes with her feet! To finish the lesson, they acted out the four stages of a butterfly: egg (4 days), caterpillar (7 to 10 days), chrysalis (7 to 10 days), and then a beautiful Painted Lady butterfly.

Here's some photos of the children making their observations.



# Kids' Fishing Days

Saturdays. July 18, 25 & August 1, 2020  
8-10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saxony Farm Lake

Addy Boy Lane, Saxonburg



The rescheduled Kids' Fishing Days will take place on three Saturdays: July 18, 25 and August 1 at Saxony Farm Lake. There will be two sessions for each day: 8-10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Each session is limited to 100 people to ensure proper social distancing and safety of all attending. **Registration is REQUIRED.** Please visit [www.ConcordiaLM.org/events-news/FishingDays2020](http://www.ConcordiaLM.org/events-news/FishingDays2020) to register everyone in your group (parents/guardians included).

Hot dogs and refreshments will be served.

No entry fee • Free Refreshments

Open to all kids 14 and under

Bait provided by Concordia



**Concordia**  
Lutheran Ministries

We put our Faith in Caring



Call Concordia Public Relations for more information at 724-352-1571 ext. 8268.

Register online by visiting the Events & News section of the Concordia website:

[www.concordialm.org/events-news/fishingdays2020](http://www.concordialm.org/events-news/fishingdays2020).







What About...

# Living Together Without Marriage

Increasingly, men and women choose to live as husband and wife without being married. This pamphlet will answer some questions asked about living together.

## **What is marriage?**

We learn from the Word of God that marriage is the lifelong, exclusive union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife. Marriage is a part of God's creation. Thus, we read in God's Word, the Bible: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh"(Gen.2:24;cf.Matt.19:5–6;Eph.5:31). Elsewhere we read, "Since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband"(1 Cor. 7:2). And,"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral (Heb.13:4). Marriage is such a precious blessing that God inspired the Apostle Paul to describe marriage as a picture of Christ's relationship with His bride, the church (Eph.5:22–33).

## **Why is it wrong to live together without marriage?**

Simply stated, a couple that lives together as man and wife without being married is sinning. God's Word is clear: "You must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts....Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more"(Eph.4:17-19). Our Lord Jesus Christ once helped a woman living with a man who was not her husband to recognize that what she was doing was wrong (John 4:16–18). Lutheran Christians believe that the sixth commandment, "You shall not commit adultery," means, "We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do; and husband and wife love and honor

each other" (Luther's Small Catechism ,p.10). All of this is another way of stating the obvious: Men and women are not to live together as husband and wife, unless they actually are husband and wife. This is as true for 80-year-olds as it is for 18-year-olds.

## **Why does the church care about this?**

The church cares because God cares. The Lord's Word is very clear in its condemnation of sexual activity outside of marriage. Consider these passages: "Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers...will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor.6:9-10). "Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people"(Eph.5:3). "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery. ...I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God"(Gal.5:19–21).

## **Why is living together such a serious problem?**

Because God's Word clearly shows that it is sinful for couples to live together without marriage, people who persist in behavior that God rejects and condemns as sin are choosing a course that may lead to eternal punishment. God's Word is clear: "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God. ...The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life"(1 Thess.4:3-7).

## **Isn't the church being 'judgmental'?**

The church is declaring the truth of God's Word. On behalf of Christ and His people, pastors have the responsibility to speak clearly to couples living together and to proclaim the Word of God to them



What About...

## Living Together Without Marriage

both Law and Gospel. It is never easy for a pastor, or a congregation, to deal with couples who are living together without marriage. It is important for both pastors and congregations to deal with these situations pastorally and faithfully, in a caring manner.

### **Shouldn't a couple find out if they are compatible?**

Research has demonstrated that living together without marriage results in a relationship that is less stable and fulfilling than marriage. Furthermore, couples who live together have a much higher risk of divorce when they finally do marry. Living together is a bad idea, even from a purely human perspective. One study notes, "Those who cohabit before marriage have substantially higher divorce rates than those who do not; the recorded differentials range from 50 to 100 percent higher" ("The Relationship Between Cohabitation and Divorce" [1992], *Demography*, 29:357–374). Studies conducted at Yale and Columbia found that "the dissolution rate for women who cohabit premaritally with their future spouse is, on average, nearly 80% higher than the rates of those who do not" ("Commitment & the Modern Union," *American Sociological Review*, [1988], 53:127–138).

### **How does the church deal with these situations?**

The church, and the church's pastors, will inform couples living together without marriage that what they are doing is sinful. These conversations will take place in a loving manner; but in faithfulness to the Word of God, such conversations need to take place. These situations cannot be ignored or overlooked. It may be necessary to place unmarried couples living together under church discipline in order to help them realize the seriousness of the situation. This response may offend people. They may become angry at the church, or the church's pastor. Sometimes an entire family is upset when a situation they have ignored is finally dealt with. The Word of God has a way of cutting through all issues and exposing our sinfulness. That is the work of the Law of God, which shows us our sin. Offending people is certainly not the church's goal, nor is it the church's desire only to have people recognize their sin. The church wants people to

see their sin, so that they may see their Savior. The proclamation of the Gospel is the church's highest priority.

### **How can such a couple resolve the situation?**

A couple living together without marriage needs to take concrete steps to end the situation. They may choose to separate, with no plans for marriage. They may choose to separate until they are married—hopefully soon. It is important that they make a commitment to marriage counseling before their wedding, and perhaps after their wedding. Some couples may choose to be married by an officer of the court. This is a completely valid marriage in the view of the church. Couples choosing this option are encouraged to have their marriage publicly recognized by the church as well. No matter the decision, they will want to seek their pastor's counsel.

### **What is the ultimate solution to this problem?**

There are many solutions we can identify. Christian families need to understand what is right and wrong. Early on, parents need to speak with their children about God's expectations for marriage. Pastors and congregations will want to work patiently and lovingly with couples caught up in this sin. Concerned Christian congregations need to pray that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts and lives of those involved in this lifestyle in order to break down their resistance to God's Word. Christian congregations must not ignore the problem, but must deal with it faithfully. Congregations need to speak about this matter. Couples that recognize their sin need to hear God's comforting word of promise: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness". If they choose to be married, they should do so with joyful confidence in God's forgiveness and His blessing on their marriage.

**Dr. A.L. Barry, Past President**

**The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod**



## Zion's Forward in Faith Kitchen Campaign May Update

Thank you to all who attended our April Voter's Meeting & Luncheon to hear about the recent progress of our Kitchen Campaign. As was announced at the meeting, in April we raised a total of **\$8,043**. This brings us to a grand total of **\$49,244** in our Forward in Faith fund as of 5/1/21.

So, we're just about half way toward our \$100,000 goal for the kitchen upgrade. A big THANK YOU to all of those who have supported the kitchen campaign. May God bless our efforts over the next two months as we work toward a strong finish on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Our plan is to begin the remodeling work on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks again and keep the support coming!



*Dear Zion,*

*Thank you for the beautiful Easter flowers! I took good care of them and they lasted a very long time. Also, I thank everyone who sent me beautiful cards, and took the time to write a nice note also.*

*May God Bless you all.*

*Love,*

*Dottie Heslop*





# May Service Participants

Date	Time	Acolytes
May 2	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Decklan Pasquini Sam Bishop
May 9	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Will Schrag Claire Lemonovich
May 16	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Noah Wallace Christian Bonacci
May 23	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	TBD John Lemonovich
May 30	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	TBD Christian Bonacci

	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
May	Bob Schmidt, Jim Neill	Megan Pasquini, Diana Schmidt, Barb Oechslein	Kathleen Conn, Michael Grimenstein, Janet & Larry Zreliak	Ross Chilcott, Bob Bonacci, Bill Koester, Chuck LaJeunesse
June	Bob Schmidt, John Gielarowski	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Carl Bauer, Lydia Grimenstein, Gene Koop, Ron Meier	Dan & Tracey Harris, Mike Kozak, Ed Malachosky

## Parents ...



A Nursery Room for children 3 and under is now available on Sundays in the lower level near the Fellowship Hall (Room 101). Parent supervision is required as there are no nursery volunteer attendants at this time. In addition, the Family Care Room in the back of the sanctuary is equipped with a nursing chair and changing station items.



# MAY BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> – Madison Killinger

3<sup>rd</sup> – Janet Hickey

9<sup>th</sup> – Rita Sheldon

12<sup>th</sup> – Ross Chilcott

12<sup>th</sup> – Paige Golish

12<sup>th</sup> – Eileen Davis

15<sup>th</sup> – Cody Conner

17<sup>th</sup> – Tim Fitzgerald

17<sup>th</sup> – Kari Gresh

21<sup>st</sup> – Stephanie Eckels

22<sup>nd</sup> – Dan Harris

24<sup>th</sup> – Tyler Goodge

24<sup>th</sup> – Aaron Kozak

24<sup>th</sup> – Ken Wuerthele

25<sup>th</sup> – Nadine Carswell

26<sup>th</sup> – Mary Hutula

30<sup>th</sup> – Christa Coyle

30<sup>th</sup> – Bill Schrag

I TRUST in you  
I say, LORD,  
You ARE my GOD  
My TIMES are in  
Your HANDS  
Psalms 31: 14,15



# MAY ANNIVERSARIES

12<sup>th</sup> – Linda and August Seibel

15<sup>th</sup> – Shane and Sandra Bryant

21<sup>st</sup> – John T. and Stephanie Gielarowski




28<sup>th</sup> – Michael and Deborah Sterba

30<sup>th</sup> – Brad and Jessica Boyle

30<sup>th</sup> – Larry and Janet Zreliak



# May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 3:30 pm Coyle/Blayney Wedding
<b>2</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>3</b> 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  <b>FOOD BANK            COLLECTION</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>17</b> 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>
<b>23 PENTECOST</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Confirmand Questioning & Reception/ Children's Sunday School 10:30 am Worship & Confirmation	<b>24</b> 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Sunday School Mtg.	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>31</b>	