



Zion Lutheran Monthly

September 2021

Pastor's Corner



Return to the Lord

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

Summer is soon coming to an end. Time to close the pools, stop the vacations, and say goodbye to the sunshine. The month of September often means a “return” to many things. Children return to school. Parents return to a regular routine. The church is no different. With the start of September, the church returns for Sunday School, for festivities, for midweek Advent services, and just around the corner – Lenten dinners. For some, the month of September is also a return to church.

During the Summer, our schedules are often more flexible. We take time off to enjoy vacations and other activities. Nothing wrong with this, it’s fun to do. Often, a casualty of Summer, though, is church attendance. Unfortunately, we may think, and even speak, of taking a “break” from Church during the Summer months. It is sad, but this is often the case. Good for us, though, is this fact – God does not take a break from you!

The prophet Joel once spoke to the people and reminded them who God is. God is “merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

These are truly some of the most wonderful qualities of our God. We especially see these qualities fully displayed in the life of Christ, who suffered, died, and rose again from the dead all for us. Because our God is merciful, the prophet Joel encourages us to return to Him. Because our God is slow to anger, we should return to Him knowing He will never turn His back on us. Because our God is abounding in steadfast love, even when we return to Him at our very lowest, He will still receive us; that is just who our God is!

September is a time of year to return. We return to more regular schedules. We return to school. And because of the nature of our God (merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love) we can also return to Him, not just in September, but in every moment of every day to receive forgiveness, life and salvation.



The Lord be with you,
Pastor Grimenstein

Chairman's Report

God's "Fields" and His "Buildings"!!!

Hopefully you are all having a nice summer and for those of you with children you're looking forward to the school year which has already begun. At Zion our Preschool will be up and running by September 8th and our Sunday School will be in session again on the 12th — Rally Day. Going to Sunday School wasn't an option for my brothers and me; I still have my 9-year perfect-attendance pin from Zion's Sunday School to prove it! Those were the days!

Our church is like a small business in many ways. It's an organization that requires a steady stream of people who are willing to step up to the plate and give some time and talent to keeping the ship on a steady course. Your church needs you.

A task-group headed by Bob Schmidt will be introducing a Volunteer Awareness Program called **"Where do you fit?"** to help our members understand what various facets the leadership team manages and also to hopefully encourage members to realize how they can fit into the puzzle by volunteering to serve at Zion (see announcement on the opposite page). Please consider doing so. This is a Christian community and your help is important to building God's kingdom in this place.

On October 24th we're having our Quarterly Voter's Assembly and at that meeting we need to elect people to various positions to help serve the ministries at your church. Prayerfully consider being on the ballot. We need Sunday School help and some important positions filled, one of which is the Congregation President. You can do it. Your church needs your help.

1 Corinthians, Chapter 3 is a short read. Please take the time to read it. St. Paul speaks about the relationship to the Lord that we all could and should have in building His kingdom. In verse 9 he writes, "For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building." It's about ministry building, laying a solid foundation in the "temples" that are in fact, your children, in whom the Holy Spirit resides. It's about helping ministry and the Holy Spirit find places in people's hearts. While we're justified through faith and not works, the things we do to help the Lord's ministry on earth are important because they please the Lord, and we also feel wonderful when we can help do God's work, even if in a small way!!! Give thanks, and praise the Lord our God.



— Paul Klemash



During October, we will introduce a campaign to grow our volunteer base at Zion. It begins with strengthening membership on Boards and Committees at our church. In the coming weeks you'll hear a series of brief talks before Sunday services about the many volunteer opportunities that you can be a part of at Zion.

Please consider and pray about how you can "find your fit" by using your skills and talents in service to Christ and His church.

Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The September collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, September 12th. The "items of the month" are PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS. Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack.

You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church (contact Barb Oechslein for more information). Many families in our area are in need due to the financial downturn. Please continue to support the Food Bank with your donations and volunteer service!



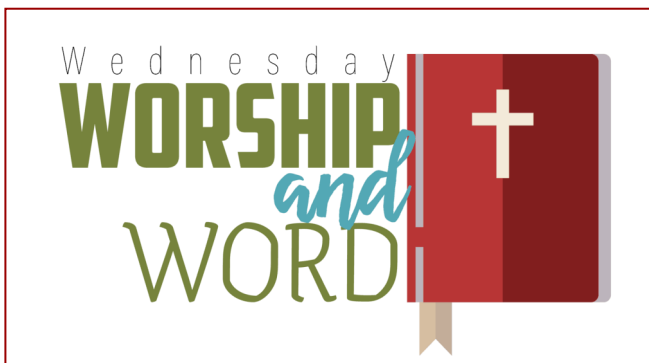
Sunday School

Children's Sunday School resumes Rally Day -- Sept 12th! Kids will meet at 9:15 am in the preschool lobby for a brief welcome and goodie bag, then split into their respective classes. All children ages 3 to 6th grade are cordially invited!



If your child is new to our Sunday School program, please send an email to sundayschool@zlcg.org to register.

New Wednesday Afternoon Worship Service & Bible Study



Starting Sept 15th, each Wednesday we will have a 2 pm Worship Service (30 min) followed by a Bible study on one of Paul's epistles (30 min).

In addition, we'll continue with our 7 pm service/Bible study on Wednesday evenings.

Mid-week services and studies are a great opportunity for those unable to attend on Sunday, or anyone wanting to recharge through Word & Sacrament!



Lutherans
For Life

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

*By: Lynette Auch, President of National Lutherans for Life
— Excerpted from LifeDate, Summer 2021*



NOISE! It is deafening and scary! If one gives even a little attention to anything going on in America and in the world today, it is quite evident that the noise is the age-old spiritual battle of good versus evil.

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

The fight for the sanctity of life has always been a spiritual battle, but it seems the evil forces have “upped the ante” over the last year. Or maybe not. Perhaps our spiritual eyes are being opened wider to see the evil more clearly. Either way, fear seems to be the result. Fear is a powerful motivator, as we have all witnessed. (Fear, uncertainty, and doubt, wrought by Satan, have caused havoc of disastrous proportions worldwide.)

F.E.A.R. (False Evidence Appearing Real). It seems to be an appropriate acronym, fitting right in line with the “father of lies” (Satan). The “father of lies” is very clever and has been weaving his lies for centuries and accusing God’s children, trying to make us more fearful. The more “NOISE” and “False Evidence” Satan makes and tells, the more fearful we become.

As a nurse, much of my job includes educating the people that I care for. That education may relate to a procedure, medication, proper care and nutrition for the body, or even the process of labor and delivery of a newborn baby. Fear often comes from the unknown. Therefore, education and knowledge are power to help overcome feelings of fear and suffering.

It is no different for the Christian. Our Heavenly Father knows this and sent the Holy Spirit to comfort us in our fears and enlighten us in the truths of God’s Holy Word, which includes donning the whole armor of God to stand as sentries.

“[B]e strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil ... Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm ... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:10-18).

“Tune out the NOISE of the lies, bury yourself deep into God’s Word of truth, and go forth with the life-affirming message, donned in Christ’s priestly armor and standing as sentry in prayer!

Zion Youth News and Events

Sunday, Sept 19th @ 9am — The youth will host a biscuits and gravy fundraiser in the fellowship hall before Adult/Teen Bible Study. Come feed your body with a delicious breakfast; stay to feed your soul with God's Word.



Saturday, Sept 25th from noon to 3:00 — All high-school aged youth are invited to a Back to School Bash at Zion. Games include pumpkin chunking, egg toss and pie frisbee. Lunch will be provided.



We've all witnessed the news recently regarding the swift collapse of the democratic government in Afghanistan. Many people there are living in fear as they attempt to flee their homes, or in many cases the country, to escape the escalating violence. And many Christians, though fearful, have chosen to boldly stand unwavering in their faith despite the obvious consequences.



You can serve as a lifeline for these isolated individuals by helping us raise \$50,000 to bring hope to the lives of these hurting people.

Over the past three years, Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has partnered with SAT-7 PARS to bring the love of Christ to the region through its support of two programs for children and youth. Now, LHM is supporting new programming geared for a time when hurting people need the hope of the Gospel more than ever. SAT-7 PARS' live satellite television broadcasts in Farsi — understood by most Afghans — and the local Dari language can reach homes across the entire country uncensored, delivering the only source of hope for thousands of isolated Afghan Christians living in unsettling circumstances.

SAT-7 PARS is responding to this crisis by producing a live weekly social media program and a live satellite broadcast from Cyprus with guests including well known Afghan and Iranian pastors, Afghan refugees, and psychologists. Other activities include expanded social media posts, tweets, and RSS feeds (crawl messages) on screen asking for prayers. There has been a huge surge in the number of Afghans posting messages and calling the ministry's viewer counseling line, desperate for encouragement and hope. The channel expects a 50% increase in contacts this year. Click below to learn more and donate, or go to www.lhm.org/give.

[Share God's Love in Afghanistan](#)



A New Beginning!
August 28, 2021

The Friends of Pioneer Board is excited to announce that the sale of the Pioneer land is finally complete and **Concordia Lutheran Ministries** is now the new owner of the property! **Pioneer on the Lake** is the new name for the camp and retreat center which will be dedicated to continuing the Pioneer tradition and 75+ year legacy of Christian camping and programming. In partnership with Concordia, **The Friends of Pioneer, Inc.** will be the organization responsible for raising funds, developing programs, and managing and restarting operations.

Purpose and Programming: This is a time of "rebirth" for Pioneer. Our primary purpose is to provide an experience of Christian community and renewal in an outdoor setting for families and groups based on a plan to build "A Firm Foundation" for the future (Matt. 7:24). We are refocusing our efforts and vision on offering camp and retreat programs for families and church groups and providing more exciting camping opportunities in the future. To support our mission, we will also host and partner with families and other Christian organizations to utilize the facilities for their own independently staffed programs and events. At this time, we are working with a camp ministry planning organization to create an operating plan, raise funds, hire staff, and develop camp programming.

We need your support in these 3 critical areas:

1. Prayer: The board of the Friends of Pioneer has sensed your prayers for us along this journey. Please continue to pray for unity, wisdom, and guidance as we move into the future, navigating operations and ministry.

2. Charitable Contributions: Our immediate need is for funding to support operating costs, hire staff, and update facilities in order to restart camp and retreat ministries, and serve a new generation of families and children. Please join us in sending your generous contributions to support your camp and become a part of this exciting rebirth by building a firm foundation for the future.

Donations: Please send donations in the name of "Friends of Pioneer" at

<https://www.friendsofpioneer.org/give>

3. Referrals: Please refer new ministry partners to Pioneer on the Lake for Christian-based outdoor programming. We are organizing our scheduling and are in the process of booking inquiries for late fall 2021 and 2022.

Contact: Erika Schroth-Gajdos, Administrative Manager, at office@pioneeronthelake.com

Serving together as we carry camp into a bright future!

Because of Him,

~ The Friends of Pioneer and Concordia Lutheran Ministries ~



What About...

Pastors

Why does God give us pastors?

When we look at our lives and measure them according to the holiness and righteousness of the Lord God Almighty we are moved to say, "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner." We receive forgiveness of sins, and become righteous before God, by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ lived, suffered, died and rose again for us, and that for His sake our sins are forgiven, and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. But how do we receive this faith? In order to obtain such faith, God instituted the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments. It is through the Word and Sacraments that the Holy Spirit produces faith, where and when it pleases Him, in those who hear the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. Pastors accompany us on our earthly pilgrimage. They serve us with Christ's Word and Sacraments. Therefore, we believe, teach and confess that "when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command ...this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself" (Small Catechism).

How does God give us pastors?

The pastoral office is a gift that God has given to the church, as Paul says, "When he ascended on high he gave gifts to men" (Eph.4:8,11-12). Paul enumerates pastors and teachers among the gifts belonging to the church, and he adds that they are given for the work of ministry and for building up the body of Christ. Therefore, the right of electing and ordaining ministers is a responsibility of the church. Through a congregation's call, God places a man to be the shepherd of that congregation. "Our churches teach that nobody shall publicly preach or teach or administer the sacraments without a regular call" (Augsburg Confession, XIV). Only those who are called and ordained to the pastoral office may exercise it publicly. Although the Holy Scriptures make it clear that all the baptized are priests, called to offer God sacrifices of thanks and praise (1 Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10), it also teaches that in the church there is an office to teach, feed, guide and rule, which Christians, by virtue of their general calling as Christians, do not possess (1 Cor. 12:29;

Rom. 10:15; 1 Tim. 5:17; James 3:1). While all Christians through Baptism are made part of God's royal priesthood, not all Christians are ministers. When a man receives and accepts his first call to serve as a pastor, he is then ordained. Ordination is a confirmation of a man's call into the ministry of the church and is the historic and apostolic rite by which a man is set apart for service to Christ and His church as a pastor. During his ordination, he is also installed into the pastoral office of the congregation that calls him. In the future, if he accepts other calls to serve, he will be installed, but not ordained again.

How are pastors described?

The word "pastor" comes from the Latin word for "shepherd." Shepherding is a predominant picture in the Bible for both the work of Christ and the work of our pastors (cf. Ps.23; Ezek.34; Eph.4:11; 1 Peter 5:2-3). The Scriptures indicate that the Holy Spirit appoints men to shepherd God's people (Acts 20:28). Pastors are also referred to frequently in the Bible as "ministers," a word that literally means "slave" (Acts 26:16; Rom. 15:16; Eph.3:7; 1 Tim.4:6). In 2 Cor.4:5 Paul describes pastors this way: "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your slaves, for Jesus' sake." Pastors model their ministry on the life and work of the Lord who did not come to be served, but to serve. The pastoral office is an office of loving service to the people of God. "Oversight" is another less frequently used term that describes the pastor's work. Pastoral oversight is the spiritual duty of rebuking and warning Christ's people when they fall into sin, feeding and caring for them with the Gospel, and guarding and defending them from false teachings. Pastoral oversight is not to be confused with institutional management or leadership, like a CEO. Our Lutheran Confessions refer to the pastoral office as the "Preaching Office," to which men are called and ordained. We also speak of the office of the holy ministry. The ministry is holy not because of the men who are in it, but because of the One who established it. It is holy because of what the Lord is doing for His people through the work of His pastors.



What About...

Pastors

What does God expect of pastors?

Pastors do not “represent their own persons but the person of Christ, because of the Church’s call, as Christ testifies (Luke 10:16) ‘He who hears you, hears me.’ When they offer the Word of Christ or the sacraments, they do so in Christ’s place and stead” (Apology VII/VIII.28). The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Tim.3:2-4 that a pastor is to be “above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.” In 1 Tim.3:6 we read that a pastor is not to be “a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.” Although some Protestant churches ordain women, this is a 20th-century innovation. For more than 1,900 years, there has been nearly unanimous faithfulness to the Word of God, given through the Apostle Paul, that women are not to serve as pastors (see 1 Cor. 14:33-35, 37; 1 Tim.2:11-12; 1 Tim.3:1-2 and Titus 1:5-6). Because it is God who places men into the pastoral office, through the congregation, only God, through the congregation, can properly remove a man from the pastoral office. Pastors are forgiven sinners, as are all baptized children of God. Thus, we do not expect perfection of our pastors, any more than pastors would expect congregations to be perfect. A “hire and fire” attitude toward our pastors must not enter into our thinking. Removing a man from the office must be based only on clear, Biblical, criteria: persistent adherence to false doctrine, a scandalous life, or willful neglect of duty.

What are the duties and commitments of pastors?

Our pastors preach, catechize, administer the Sacraments, hear confession from penitent sinners, and comfort the sick. The church knows that even the most faithful pastor can never do enough of these things, but the church also knows these are the precious duties our pastors are given to do. We must never allow other things to take priority over these key pastoral duties and activities. With the help of God, our pastors have the responsibility to speak the truth in love, but this duty must be understood correctly. Our pastors are not “people pleasers,” watering down the truths of God’s Word. Pastors pledge themselves

unconditionally, and without qualification, to the Lutheran Confessions as contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, as a true and faithful exposition of the Word of God. This strong doctrinal commitment safeguards the teaching of the truth of the Word of God in the congregation. Also, it protects the pastor from unjust criticism when he stands up for the truths of God’s Word.

How do we support our pastors?

The most important way we support our pastors is through our prayers, asking the Lord of the Church to give our pastors wisdom, strength, courage and peace, asking Him to bless our pastors’ ministry among us and to work powerfully through their proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments. Our children should be taught each night to remember their pastor in their prayers. The members of our congregations assist their pastor as they encourage and support him in the ministry entrusted to him. They volunteer their time, by serving in a variety of ways in the parish, and give of their treasures. The pastor is not a “hired hand,” who is to do all the work of the congregation. Telling the good news of the forgiveness of sins in Jesus, in many different situations and opportunities in life, is a task and duty given to all Christians, not only pastors (Matt.28:19- 20; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Peter 3:15). God’s Word also has these things to say about how we are to support our pastors. 1 Cor.9:14: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” Gal.6:6-7: “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Heb. 13:17: “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” What a blessing pastors have been to God’s people down through the ages! May God continue to bless the church mightily through His gift of pastors.

-Dr. A. L. Barry
Past President, The LCMS

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES 2021 FASHION LUNCHEON

Pearls and Lace

Save the New Date!

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Butler Country Club, 10 a.m.

Join a group of our Zion ladies at this luncheon to support the mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, our local, Lutheran senior care provider. For details and ticket information, please contact Zion member Janet Zreliak at zreliak@aol.com or 412-921-1668.

Luther says . . .



If the heart of a believer in Christ accuses him and reprimands him and witnesses against him that he has done evil, he will immediately turn away from evil and will take his refuge in Christ and say,

“Christ has done enough for me. He is just. He is my defense. He has died for me. He has made His righteousness my righteousness, and my sin His sin. If He has made my sin to be His sin, then I do not have it, and I am free. If He has made His righteousness my righteousness, then I am righteous now with the same righteousness as He. My sin cannot devour Him, but it is engulfed in the unfathomable depths of His righteousness, for He himself is God, who is blessed forever.”

September Service Participants

	Acolytes	Time
Sept 5	Elder Kate Lemonovich	8:00 10:30
Sept 12	Sam Bishop Christian Bonacci	8:00 10:30
Sept 19	Decklan Pasquini Claire Lemonovich	8:00 10:30
Sept 26	Will Schrag Sam Bishop	8:00 10:30

	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Sept	John Gielarowski, Bill Bishop	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Kathleen Conn, Janet & Larry Zreliak, Joshua Grimenstein	Ross Chilcott, Bob Bonacci, Bill Koester, Chuck LaJeunesse
Oct	Bill Bishop, Brian Pasquini	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Dale Miller	Dan & Tracey Harris, Luke Lemonovich, Sam Bishop

Altar Guild Members Needed



Can you join us? Our altar guild prepares the elements of the Lord's Supper prior to each Worship service in the sacristy (behind our altar), and takes care of communion linens and vessels. This is wonderful way to demonstrate love and respect for the Sacrament while serving the members of Zion. Guild members serve on a monthly basis in teams of 3 or 4 members, and the schedule is very flexible! Please contact Janet Oelschlager at 412-221-3093 to learn more.

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

3 Rita Balach
3 Leah Quinlan
4 Jean Blanco
4 Judy Bridges
4 Charles Kacvinsky
5 Connie Canale
6 Rex Carter
7 Judy Dames
10 Wayne Conn
10 Matt Oelschlager
10 Ken Schrag
11 Jon Canale
11 Jim Eckels
11 Wren Wilson
13 Carl Bauer
14 Nancy Klemash
18 Nancy Koester


To everything
there is a *season*,
a time for every purpose
under *heaven*.
ECCLESIASTES 3:1


18 Jim Neill
18 Larry Zreliak
19 Max Gresh
21 Olivia Bonacci
22 Gene Koop
23 Emmett Chilcott
23 Esther Ma
25 Bernice DeBoe
27 Marianne Miller



SEPTEMBER

Anniversaries

5 John & Connie Canale
13 Tim & Rita Balach
17 Lee & Megan Glasser

18 Bob & Jennifer Liberatore
26 Tom & Kim Erbrecht



September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 pm Events Cmte Meeting 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study	2 7:00 pm Elders' Meeting	3	4
			5 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	6 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:00 pm Trustees 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir	7 7:00 pm Board of Education Meeting	8 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study
12 8:00 am Worship RALLY DAY 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship FOOD BANK COLLECTION	13 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir	14	15 2:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study	16 17 18 		
19 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Youth Biscuits & Gravy Fundraiser 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	20 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir	21	22 2:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study	23	24	25 12:00 pm Youth Group Back to School Bash
26 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27 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	28	29 2:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study	30		