



Messenger

May 2024



Pastoral Ponderings

From Pastor Phil.....

We are all moving into the summer months. We are trying to figure out our vacation plans, how to make money stretch, and at the same time, the church regularly has a comment made about how we are short of making ends meet. At the last Voter's Assembly, Mr. Miller reminded Zion that the health insurance has not been paid yet.

At the same time, we live in a world that is governed by statistics. These statistics help us to understand the nature of the world we live in as we look at how we can make the gift of our money do what we need it to do. At the time of writing, the Fed has released that interest rates will remain uncut because the inflation report has remained. This means that your money just isn't going as far. At the time of writing, the stated interest rate was 3.48%, up from last month's 3.15%, but down from last year's 4.98%. The Fed has stated that they want to be around 2%, but we are not near that. At the same time, the one that seems to rob the pocketbook blind at the register, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) says that we are at 3.5% inflation. This is the inflation not on the economy as a whole (The inflation rate), but the actual rate of inflation for the prices of goods... the stuff you buy. There's no way to get around it, our money just doesn't go that far. We are having to figure out all kinds of things to do to improve the situation of our families. This is seen in the prices of things such as milk that have gone up so much over the last several years.

The hard part for the Christian, is where does this leave us? We are told to tithe a certain percent, and then the church asks for more, but with things as they are; maybe you're giving less, but it's all you have to give. Yet you still need to pay the rent/mortgage, the insurance, car payment, utilities, and the list goes on. What is the believer to do?

First, we understand that we do what we must. Luther in the Large Catechism explains, "If, therefore, you send away someone who is naked when you could clothe him, you have caused him to freeze to death. If you see someone suffer hunger and do not give him food, you have caused him to starve..."

Important Dates:

*Confirmation
Examination*

*April 27 at 5:00
Examination to occur
during worship.*

*Confirmation Sunday
May 5th at 10:30*

Ascension Day

May 4,5

Pentecost

May 18, 19

Join Us!

For you have withheld your love from him and deprived him of the benefit by which his life would have been saved" (*Luther's Large Catechism*, 2022, p. 133). In Mark 12, the wise young man tells Jesus that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves, being the second most significant commandment, on the heels of the first. 1 John 3 tells that we love as Christ loved us. So, what do we do in today's world? In today's economy when all seems to be doom and gloom?

There are a few things that we can do. First, we can remember that we live in a tragically fallen world that is incredibly corrupted by sin. All things have been touched by this rotting hand, and as a consequence its leprosy causes everything to rot and come to ruin. We can see this and acknowledge it. As we acknowledge it, we can also live in hope. While sin most certainly creates problems we must deal with, we serve a God who has overcome sin, death, and the Devil. Jesus has destroyed their power completely, and we no longer are subject to them. No longer being subject to them our fear becomes concern. Our depression becomes a cautious outlook. In Christ, we don't ignore the reality of what is going on, but we realize *fully* what is going on.

As we do this, we begin to consider our responsibilities under the fourth commandment. Under this commandment, we are to teach our children what following Jesus looks like in fat times and in thin. I would much rather do this in fat times, because it's much easier, but what good is faith if it can't walk through the thin ones? As we do this, we talk to our children about what Corban is (Mark 7) and come to understand that our works giving for the care of each other can be given as offering to God (*Mishnah* Nedarim 9.1). Now keep in mind, this is a statement of extremes. If putting money in the offering plate would result in not putting food in the stomach of your child, Korban. The money that goes to IGA is given in service to God. That's your responsibility. If you're having that dilemma but have a motorcycle, 2 cars, a fishing boat, and a camper, maybe it's time to sell something. Give 10% as an offering to God and use the rest to buy groceries.

When we move through these tough times, following that 4th commandment, what we do becomes incredibly important. Our children are watching us to see what matters. They are paying attention to what we do and how we do it. When we think about what we are doing for the care of others (5th commandment) and we see what God calls us to do loving our neighbor... how well are we doing it? How well are we loving our neighbor next door? How is Zion loving the community it has been placed in? Ultimately, many parts of worship can be placed nearly anywhere, but what can't be replaced is what happens at home. How are Dad and Mom leading in godliness?

To strike a balance, my family is going on vacation this year. We are looking forward to the time, but we are also looking for ways to love those around us, and trying to figure out how to do more.

I pray your summer leaves you rested and rejuvenated.

Pastor Phil

Important Dates in the Life of the Church:

Confirmation Examination – Saturday, April 27 at the 5:00 p.m. service.
(Examination to occur during worship)

Confirmation Sunday – Sunday, May 5th at the 10:30 a.m. service.
Ascension Day – May 4,5
Pentecost – May 18, 19

Confirmation

Congratulations to Zion's 2024 Confirmation Class!

Drayvin Lee Michael Bartony

Lily Roseanne Girardin

Mattie Charmaine Marburger

Brent Darian Ruehrup

Molly Marie Schulmeister

Jace Charles Sharp

Addison Michelle Woolsey

First Communion is Sunday,

May 5, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m



Congratulations to those who are graduating from Junior High, High School, College,
and beyond!

Please feel free to submit names and their plans for after graduation. We will recognize them in the bulletin
announcements during the month of May.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Your Mite Offerings Make an Impact!

Here are some examples of how your mite offerings work within our church, our community and our world. The following are examples of good stewardship.

Mission Moment - In the National LWML

A Healing Space for At-Risk Children - Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND-\$100,000

The Christ-centered, healing ministry of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch creates an eternal, lifegiving impact in the lives of children, age 10 to 18, who have faced unimaginable trauma. A gap in spiritual care on the ranch's Bismarck campus has been a chapel facility, specifically designed to be a healing space for traumatized boys and girls. This grant will help meet the construction costs of the Chapel.

Feeding Haitian Children through Gospel and Meals - Trinity HOPE-\$58,082

Haitian children attending school have trouble learning with empty stomachs. Trinity HOPE daily feeds and shares the Gospel with children, teachers, and cooks in Christian schools throughout the country. This grant will feed approximately 538 people each day for two academic years at Paul et Isabel Lutheran School in Hinche, Haiti.

Nurturing Faith for the Aging - Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew) - \$100,000

Lutheran Ministries Media (DBA Worship Anew) is well known in the Lutheran community. It reaches thousands of people throughout the U.S. with its 30 minute worship broadcasts and Hope-Full Living daily devotionals. It takes God's Word to a growing population of aging, unchurched, and those in desperate need of hearing the Gospel. This grant will help develop and continue to provide Gospel centered resources to our aging population and many others.

Thank you for generous support of these mission grants and many more. In our last mite ingathering on the April 6th weekend, we were able to collect \$489.60 for LWML mission grants, including a gift in memory of Barbara Quade ! That is fantastic! Thank you again and keep up the good work. Our next ingathering of mites will be in the fall.

-submitted by Sue Miller, LWML

YOUTH NEWS

May 5: Middle school youth 3 - 5 p.m./High school youth 4 - 6 p.m.

Summer: We will have pop-up summer events. You will receive 24-48 hour notice of the activity. You MUST have Team Snap to be notified of these events.

July 16-18: Middle School Youth Retreat

Rustic Acres Youth Retreat

Middle school youth (entering 7-9th grades in the fall) are invited to Rustic Acres Campground as our high school leadership team leads a retreat centered around the topic of our identity in Christ. The retreat is July 16-18. Youth will participate in devotion writing, Bible study sessions, servant event, prayer service, worship service, community building and free time activities at the campground. Registration due by June 16. Spaces are limited. Registration forms will be accepted on a first come first served basis. Registration forms are set out on the glass case in the narthex. You may put your complete registration form and your check (no cash) in the "blue paper pocket" on the bulletin board in the church's narthex. Contact Kristi Cook with any questions you may have.

2nd Annual Youth Retreat

Chosen

When:
JULY 16TH AT 5PM
THROUGH
JULY 18TH AT
NOON

Where:
Rustic Acres
Jellystone Park
12246 Binney Rd
New Douglas, IL 62074

Who:
Youth
entering
7th-9th grade
in the fall

\$60
per person

Join us for a 2 night retreat at Rustic Acres! Our Youthlead team will be leading Bible study sessions, fun team building activities, servant event, and some time to relax at the pool and by the bonfire. Space is limited! Registration will be first come first serve.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN UNTIL JUNE 16

Is your youth considering attending the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans? If so, please fill out the linked form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrL5g_K6bhFNTgoarmt2WGtH4mOO2coN3u2eiUbQAQ-SAorg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

May 2024

Zion Lutheran Church



Congratulations! And Welcome! To Zion's 2024 Confirmed students.

God's Blessings to you and your families.
Welcome as members of Zion Church! ☺



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Parent-Teacher 1	Conferences 2	No School Today 3	4
			8:30 Chapel 9 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 5:30 PubSchConfi	8:30 Bible Study 10-12 Pr. Phil@His Service Station 6:30 Trustees 7:30 Men's Club		
Confirmation Day 5	6	7	8	8 th Grade Graduation 9	10	11
8&10:30 Worship/Comm Confirmation @ 10:30 9:30 Sunday School 3-5 Youth Group (gr 6-12 th gr.)	Noon-2 Pastor Phil @HisServiceStation	6:30 Elders' Mtg.	8:30 Chapel 9 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood El Indio F.R.	8:30 Bible Study 10-12 Pr. Phil@His Service Station		
12	13	14	15	Last Day of School 16	17	18
8&10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 Sunday School	Noon-2 Pastor Phil @HisServiceStation 6:30 School Board	8:30 Circuit Pastors' Meeting @Nokomis 7pm PreK&Kinder Grad	8:30 Chapel 9 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 2:30 Heritage	8:30 Bible Study 10-12 Pr. Phil@His Service Station 10 Alumni&Friends 6p Parish Ed.		
19	20	21	Lisa Returns 22	23	24	25
8&10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 Sunday School 1-2p Youth Grp. (3-5 th gr.)	Noon-2 Pastor Phil @HisServiceStation 6pm Evangelism		8:30 Chapel 9 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood	8:30 Bible Study 10-12 Pr. Phil@His Service Station		
26	Memorial Day 27	28	29	30	31	
8&10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 Sunday School 2-3p Youth Grp. (3-5 th gr.)	Church Office is Closed Today	4:30 Stewardship 6:30 Admin. Council	8:30 Chapel 9 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood	8:30 Bible Study 10-12 Pr. Phil@His Service Station		

Lisa will be gone Thursday May 9th for vacation.

She will be back on Wednesday May 22nd.

May 23rd is the last day to email the church office with meeting minutes.

May 30 is the release date of the June Messenger.