

OCTOBER - 2017

ZION NEWS

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Insert – Calendars for October

8TH ANNUAL DINNER AUCTION

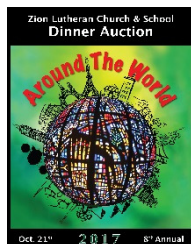
OCTOBER 21ST

“AROUND THE WORLD”

At The Serbian Hall in Lansing

**Tickets available in the narthex or call the Church Office
at 946-2271!!**

**Donation forms for advertising, sponsorship & items are also
in the narthex. Please let us know as soon as possible how
you will support our auction.**



**We are on FACEBOOK!!! Check it out!!!
Auction Items are coming in! This year's
auction will include tickets to a Cubs
Game, baskets from 'around the world'
and lots of other items. We will have
games (including the ever popular "wine
game" and a whole lot of fun and
fellowship.**

**All tickets purchased and paid for (\$50 per ticket) by
OCTOBER 1ST will receive a coupon for your choice of a
free drink.**

Make your plans now to attend.

ZION NEWS

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

540 OAK PARK AVENUE, P. O. BOX 369
BEECHER, IL 60401-0369

CHURCH (708) 946-2271 SCHOOL (708) 946-2272

ZIONBEECHER@COMCAST.NET WWW.ZIONBEECHER.NET

OCTOBER – 2017

NOTE: I had a lot of fun with the following article that I wrote ten (10!) years ago. I repeat it now because of the message that I hope that it conveys to all of us. Also, I have updated some of the “facts” to make it apply to us now in 2017. Here’s the article...

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Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

“Bears Day” coming to Zion on November 5th!



Quite a “coup d’état” was pulled off earlier this year. The following Chicago Bears players Kyle Long, Cody Whitehair, and both Numbers 1 & 2 quarterbacks – Mike Glennon & Mitch Trubisky will be visiting Zion on Sunday, November 5, 2017!

Please re-arrange your calendars NOW!

There’s NO WAY that you will want to miss this opportunity!!

It’s amazing, really. That weekend the Bears have a “bye,” which means that they have no game scheduled. After contacting the Bears front office, we were thrilled to learn that these players are available for a “public relations day.” So, plan right now to be in attendance at Zion on November 5th!

Perhaps you can get an autograph from one or more of these players! Also, a drawing for jerseys worn by each player will be held at the potluck that follows worship that day! **So... see you at “Bears Day” at Zion on November 5th!!!** *More details to come.*

Well... here are the “more details” right now.

The above paragraphs are a hoax. No Bears players are scheduled to come to Zion that day – although even I (a Packers fan!) would welcome them.

Probably many who read those first paragraphs knew that it was “too good to be true” for four Bears players to come to Zion and spend the morning here – worshipping with us and greeting us one on one. Yet, how many readers still held out hope that if... **IF** it were true... *that some Bears players would be at Zion that day...* then they would make every effort to be in attendance!!

After all, the Bears just might have turned things around. And the opportunity to meet these Bears “stars” in mid-season would be a lot of fun, wouldn’t it?

But, I ask you to think about what we’re saying. If each of us was ready to drop everything in our “so busy” schedules so that we could meet these mere mortals, *four men who play a game*, it only stands to reason, doesn’t it, that we would be even more anxious to re-arrange our calendars to *be sure* to be in attendance when God, Himself comes to Zion! The bright Morning Star (Rev. 22:16) in Jesus Christ far surpasses the shine of any earthly “star” whether that star is a professional athlete, a singer, or a movie actor!

Our gracious Lord makes a personal appearance with us every week – not in a “public relations” move, not at all. Public relations efforts are done by humans when they want something from you! Our loving God comes into our presence in order to give Himself to you! That’s a *significant* difference!!

He who created us, redeemed us, and brought us to be one with Him in Baptism comes each week to personally greet us, hear our problems, and reassure us that through repentance and faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection for our sins that heaven is opened to us.

If these players were to come to Zion, they possibly might have bodyguards to keep the fans at a safe distance. Of course, I don’t blame any celebrity for having bodyguards so that they might have some semblance of protection and privacy.

Yet, think about it, God, Himself – the Maker and Ruler of All Things – comes to us and He wants to get close to us! He wants to be with us. We don’t have to grovel with His “handlers” and pay

Him an appearance fee to show up at Zion – not at all! He’s the first one to arrive each day and the last one to leave – waiting... *and hoping...* that all His children would come to be in His presence.

He gives his “autograph” on our foreheads in our holy Baptism when the sign of the cross is first made upon us. He serves us the finest of meals in His Supper where His very body and blood are in, with, and under the bread and wine. He has all the time in the world to visit with us, not shooing us out of his sight when our time with him is “up.” In His Word He declares to us His *promise* that our sins are forgiven. And no, we don’t have to scramble for a ticket to the drawing where only one of us gets His gifts (such as a drawing for a sweat-stained jersey). He freely gives to everyone all that they need for their earthly bodies and eternal souls!

So... what WILL you be doing on November 5th? For that matter, what will you be doing every Sunday (or Saturday evening) in the future? It won’t be “Bears Day” at Zion, but every week we DO have a “Lord’s Day” where He makes a “personal appearance” and brings the richest of gifts – forgiveness of sins and life eternal!

See you in Church on *every* Lord’s Day,

Pastor Rock

PS – Although there will be no “Bears Day” at Zion, I am, however, waiting for the management of one certain pro football team that wears GREEN & GOLD to return my phone call. *More details to come...* ☺

JUST A REMINDER...

For various reasons, many of our members have dropped use of a conventional telephone “land line” over the past few years. They now use only a cell phone for all of their telephone communication. If you have done that, please remember to contact our church office to inform us of your new cellular number. When requested, we will not publish your phone number. For pastoral necessities, it is prudent and wise for the church office to have your contact number. You may call the church office (708.946.2271) or send it by email to: zionbeecher@comcast.net

Thank you!

VOTERS ASSEMBLY APPROVES COVERED WALKWAY PROJECT!

On Sunday, Sept. 10th, Zion's Voters Assembly met immediately following our morning Divine Service. The only topic on the meeting agenda was to consider approval of the long-discussed project to build a covered walkway leading into our church from the west parking lot. Blueprints along with an artist's conception of the completed project were projected onto a screen for all to see one final time. Following a few minutes of questions and ensuing discussion, it was motioned by the Building Committee that Zion proceed with the project. A vote was conducted using written ballots. The results showed that the motion was approved by a unanimous vote!

Weather and contractors' schedules permitting, it is hoped that the project will be completed yet this fall. The Building Committee will do all that it can do to facilitate that goal; however, many things will be out of the Committee's control. Please pray that the project can be completed quickly and that those working on our project will be safe as they work.

Finally, let it be noted once again that all of the funding for this project has come from members or families of members in memorials to loved ones who now are with the Lord. This means that NO funding is coming from general offerings and contributions. And, of course, each Christian is free to give his/her offerings to the work of the Lord as He leads them. We thank God for those who contributed to this project so that many people, for many years to come, may more easily enter the Lord's house for worship!

CIRCUIT REFORMATION SERVICE

This year is the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Please consider joining with members of our area sister LCMS congregations to celebrate this incredible milestone! This year's service will be hosted by Zion Lutheran Church of rural Grant Park. It will be held on **Sunday, October 29th at 5 P.M.** The Rev. Ralph Tausz of Apostles Lutheran Church, Melrose Park, IL will be the guest preacher. Light dessert refreshments will be served after the service. Zion is at 11456 N 11000E Rd, Grant Park. Plan now to come worship our Savior with your fellow Lutheran Christians in our area!

NEW CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

Our long-time church office secretary, Janice Brands, is formally retiring from her service to Zion. A number of people inquired about the position. Interviews were conducted in late August by members of the Board of Elders and Pastor Rock.

One of our members, Terri Woods, kindly accepted our offer of employment. She began working on Sept. 11th. Presently she is working alongside Janice for two weeks to begin learning the duties and nuances of the position.

This is a part-time position. The hours when Terri will be in the office still remain to be fully established. Her office hours will be determined in the coming weeks as she acquiesces to the position and becomes more familiar with the duties and routine. Any change to the office hours will be made known to our members should that occur.

A MAN NAMED MARTIN...

This is the name of the study that our Sunday Adult Bible Class began on Sept. 10th. It is quite fitting that we study the life of Dr. Martin Luther and the Reformation of the Christian Church that his efforts began. This is because this year is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!

In this Reformation milestone anniversary year, we are examining the life (as well as the time in human history) of Luther and how God used the man, Luther, and that moment in time to begin a movement to bring about a correction to the tainted teachings that had infected the Church over a period of time. Our studies will consider Luther's humble beginnings up to and through his dauntless work to understand Scripture and then share the truth of God's Word with others. We'll also see and study the enemies and obstacles that opposed him and which sought to stop him in his tracks.

The three parts of the study are:

1. Part 1: *The Man*
2. Part 2: *The Moment*
3. Part 3: *The Movement*

Please consider taking part in this study. This is a great way for us all to become more aware of our “roots” – the “why’s,” the “where’s,” and the “how’s” of the Reformation. We meet Sunday mornings at 8 AM for 45 minute sessions in the Conference Room.

LUTHERAN MUSIC AVAILABLE TO YOU



Last month an article was included in our newsletter that described Luther’s strong advice to “oppose Satan and sadness with music.” If you missed that article, it is worth your time to find and read it. (You may ask Pr. Rock for a copy.)

In our church library (found in the Conference Room) a set of musical CDs is waiting for you to check out. The set is entitled *Celebrating the Musical Heritage of the Lutheran Church*. The set includes 5 CDs – one each for the 16th through the 20th centuries. You may play these CDs on any CD player including using your computer’s CD drive.

This set also includes an “interactive CD-Rom” that will guide the user through a series of interactive descriptions of Lutheran music composers over the years. (This particular CD, by the way, must be accessed using a computer – *not* a simple CD player.)

Finally, if you have internet access, you may go to this web site: <http://www.lutheran-hymnal.com> to locate hymns that you like. Once there, click on the “Online Hymnals” button in the upper left hand corner to simply select the hymn of your choice. The system will then play the melody while you follow along in your hymnal at home reading (or singing!) the hymn. I have personally done this on any number of occasions to my great joy. I commend these resources to you. Pastor Rock

FALL & HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE SET

Zion's Board of Elders met on September 11th. Among their board discussion and actions was the setting of the worship schedule for this fall through the upcoming holiday season. Here is a summary of the special services, days, and times:

- Sat., Oct. 21st No Worship (evening of the Annual Dinner Auction)
- Sun., Oct. 29th Joint Reformation Celebration Service (Held at Zion, Grant Park)
- Wed. Nov. 22nd Thanksgiving Eve Worship
- Wednesdays Dec. 6, 13, 20 Midweek Advent Worship (2 & 7 PM)
- Sat., Dec. 9th Special Service of Remembrance (7 PM)
- Sun., Dec. 24th Observing the 4th Sunday in Advent (9 AM)
- Sun., Dec. 24th Observing Christmas Eve (5:30 & 8:00 PM)
- Mon., Dec. 25th Christmas Day (10 AM)
- Sun., Dec. 31st Observing the First Sun. after Christmas (9 AM)
- Sun., Dec. 31st Observing New Year's Eve (6 PM)

Also, please note that there will be NO SAT. 5 PM WORSHIP services on Dec. 23rd and 30th.





ANGEL TREE – NAMES NEEDED BY NOVEMBER 5TH

Zion's Christian Growth Committee will again sponsor the "Angel Tree" for those who have some kind of "connection" to Zion. You, as a member or friend of Zion, can sponsor any child or family that could use some help at Christmas and we will do exactly the same thing as we have done in the past, giving our members the opportunity to share the Joy of Christmas with those in need. We will not be sending out letters inviting participation, but we still want to make sure that all our children have a happy Christmas.

If you have sponsored a family in the past, or know of someone who needs some help, please do not hesitate to let us know. Of course, you can protect their privacy, we do not need names, just fill out the form that tells us basic information and some gift suggestions for each child.

This year, Christian Growth and the Dorcas Society, will again be supporting the **Lutheran Child & Family Services Foster Care Christmas Program.**

You can fulfill a Christmas wish by donating:

1. **Books** – From nursery rhymes to teen books, a child in our care will enjoy the gift of reading.
2. **Board games** – Fun to play, they're often educational and teach children valuable lessons like learning to take turns.
3. **Gift cards** – \$25 gift cards are great gifts for teenagers, who are excited to make their own special purchases.
4. **Toys** – A special gift to open on Christmas morning.
5. **Financial gifts** – Enables LCFS to fill in gaps and purchase items for the children.

GROCERY GIFT CARDS AND, OF COURSE, MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ANOTHER WAY TO JOIN IN THIS EFFORT.

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE NEEDED BY DECEMBER 3RD.



Zion Lutheran School NEWS!



Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten: We have been busy getting used to the idea of school. Preschool has been practicing their manners and learning new routines. We enjoy playing with new friends and toys, singing songs about Jesus, crafts and many more fun activities. Pre-Kindergarten got to go to County Line Apple Orchard on a field trip. We rode on a bus and got to pick our own apples to bring home and eat. We are learning our letters and doing fun activities with them. We started learning the Lord's Prayer in September and are able to say it with the rest of the school during chapel.

In 5/6th grade we just visited the Museum of Science and Industry to complete a Learning Lab where we virtually traveled to Mars as part of our study of the Universe. We are also studying Egypt and are creating portfolios (including making clay tablets with their own hieroglyphic alphabets) to display all of the information we gather throughout this unit.

School Wide: On October 25th Phil's Friends will be visiting with all of our students after our Chapel service. They are a ministry who serves cancer patients across our country with God's Word, care packages and cards. Our students will be doing a service project with Phil's friends throughout the school year--with events in November, January and February/March. We are excited to serve God's people through making cards, decorating boxes, completing an item drive, assembling the packages and praying over the packages before mailing them to God's children.

Music Notes: At the beginning of the school year in Chapel we focused on The Apostles' Creed and meanings and sang "We All Believe in One True God." We are now focusing on Baptism in the Small Catechism and singing "God's Own Child I Gladly Say It" as our hymn of the month. We are also singing the Matins liturgy during Chapel.

Different choirs will be singing or ringing in Chapel throughout the school year. The two bell choirs are rehearsing music to play during Chapels in October and November. The Third and Fourth graders are also learning a hymn to sing during Chapel in October.

All choirs will begin rehearsals for the Christmas Program and Lessons and Carols in October.

The Pre-Kindergarten and Preschool classes come to the music room once a week. In September we sang songs about our friends, the colors we were wearing, used our high and low voices, and sang songs about Jesus, our Savior.

Students in first through eighth grades have the opportunity to take piano lessons during the school day. Piano lessons started with many students continuing from last year and with many new students beginning this year.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NOTES



The kickoff event for this year's high school youth group will be on Sunday, Oct. 1st. We will meet at the church at 1:30 PM and drive to the *Shrine of Christ's Passion* in St. John, Indiana in order to tour it as a group. Following the tour we'll go out to eat pizza before returning to Zion at 4:30 PM.

Please contact either Barb Harvey (708.567.6834) or Pastor Rock (708.363.9863) with any questions.

PS – In case you were wondering... Neither the PACKERS nor the Bears play that afternoon. By then, they would have played each other the previous Thursday night! 😊

ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS



Parents of college students... Please provide to Zion's church office the email address of your children who are in college. We will use that to email a copy of the weekly sermon to your children as well as a copy of the monthly newsletter.

DORCAS MEETING OCTOBER 12TH

All women of the congregation are invited to attend. Dorcas Meeting begins at 1PM with a dessert luncheon.

Hostesses are Bev Wehling & Sharyn Pequette. Please join us for an afternoon of Christian Fellowship, Lutheran World Relief, Quilt Tying & Assembling Health Kits.



SPECIAL MONTHLY WORSHIP & LUNCHEON (11:00am)

Thursday, October 19th

**Attention all seniors, retirees or anyone available on the third
Thursday of the month!!**



You are encouraged to attend this monthly Worship services, no matter what your age. We are encouraging everyone who is available to come to this special worship service and luncheon. Following the communion service, you will be served a luncheon which is sponsored by private donations of individual members of Zion and served by some of our members. This event is held on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Please join us at 11:00am for a time of worship and fellowship.

Luther's Teaching on Christ and Why It Matters



On Sunday, October 15 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Steger, Pr. Aaron Moldenhauer of Zion, Beecher will present "Luther's Teaching on Christ and Why It Matters." Pr. Moldenhauer is nearing the completion of his Ph.D. dissertation on Luther at Northwestern University while serving as Associate Pastor and interim Principal at Zion Lutheran Church and School. He's also the Senior Editor of *Logia – a Journal of Lutheran Theology*. Evening Prayer is at 4pm with dinner and Pr. Moldenhauer's presentation to follow. Please RSVP for dinner purposes by Sunday 10/8/17.

**JOIN CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO IN A
CELEBRATION OF THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION**

“Enduring Faith, Abiding Grace, Abounding Love”

Concordia-Chicago is excited to mark this anniversary with a series of engaging events that explore the Reformation and its impact on theology, education, art, history, vocation, the Church, culture, society and the future of global Christianity.

Featured Events:

- Johann Sebastian Bach’s Clavierübung, Part III Performances **March–October, 2017**
- Let the Books Tell the Story: J.S. Bach’s Bible and Reformation Treasures **October 2017 Exhibition Opening: October 8**
- Reformation 500 Celebration Day- A family event for the Northern Illinois District and area congregations. **October 28, 2017 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN - Reserve Your Spot Now**
- The Reformation at 500: An Interdenominational Conversation - Key leaders of major church bodies discuss points of divergence and convergence among the three historic branches emerging from the Reformation controversies **October 30, 2017 REGISTRATION REQUIRED - Reserve Your Seat Today (only 100 seats still available as of Sept. 11th.)**

Consider taking advantage of Concordia University’s offerings in order to mark the seminal event of our Church and one of the most important movements in human history.

You may also learn more about the Reformation, its history and influence, as well as upcoming events in the LCMS at the official Reformation website for the LCMS www.lutheranreformation.org Access a wide variety of educational and media resources including an educational blog, children’s materials, Bibles studies and more.



WHO DIVIDED THE BIBLE INTO CHAPTERS AND VERSES?



Mark Woods CHRISTIAN TODAY CONTRIBUTING EDITOR January 5, 2017



Anyone who knows about Magna Carta and King John has probably heard of Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury who brokered peace between the king and his rebellious barons and made the Great Charter possible.

But Stephen Langton has a far greater claim to fame. We take advantage of his deep biblical learning every time we open our Bibles, because he was the one who came up with the chapter divisions we take for granted.

Before Langton (1150-1228), several people had tried to divide the longer books of the Bible into more manageable chunks. But his version was the one that stuck and is the basis of the chapters we use today.

The advantages of chapters are obvious. Apart from making it easier for students, they help us find our way through the text by identifying the different sections of a narrative and telling us where stories and themes begin and end. Not all Langton's chapter divisions work, which is why some Bibles lay out the text in a way that crosses the chapter heading. But what's surprising is that 800 years after he did his work, so many of them do.

What about the verse divisions? They came a lot later. Italian Dominican scholar Santi Pagnini (1470–1541) divided the New Testament into verses, but they were a lot longer than the ones we have today and didn't catch on. The credit for our system today goes to a French scholar, Robert Estienne (1503-59), also known as Robertus Stephanus (Estienne or Etienne is French for Stephen). He created a verse numbering system in his 1551 Greek New Testament and in his 1553 French Bible. The numbers were printed in the margins, but in 1555 he produced a Vulgate (in Latin) which integrated them into the text. Estienne was a learned man, but his working conditions were sometimes not ideal: on one occasion he divided the New Testament into verses as he rode from Paris to Lyons to meet a printer's deadline – in the rain.

The first English Bible to use chapters and verses as we have them today was the Geneva Bible in 1560. Almost all Bibles use them because of their convenience (though the popular translation *The Message* only has chapters.).

However, it's worth saying that no matter how useful they are, they can be misleading. They are human interpretations of the sacred text, and humans can get things wrong. One example is the story of Jesus meeting Nicodemus in John 3. The story actually begins in John 2:23-25, and ignoring this means we don't understand it as well as we should. Wise readers will be careful to pay attention not just to chapters and verses but what the text is actually saying.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS



Individuals or families may donate flowers to be placed on the altar in honor of certain occasions, such as a birthday or wedding anniversary, in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for a special way that God has blessed you. There are two simple steps: (1.) Identify the week There is a large sign-up chart for this, is conveniently located on the bulletin board just inside the church office. (2.) Contact your florist of choice to order flowers for “your” week. (Note: Beecher Florists has a key to our building and can easily make delivery.) Thank you for considering making such a worthy donation to beautify our church!

A FARMER LEADS A PRAYER...

Perspective is *Everything!*

A minister was attending a men's breakfast. He asked one of the older farmers in attendance to say the prayer that morning. The farmer agreed and began, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor raised his head slightly and opened one eye and wondered to himself where *this* was going. Then the farmer said "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the pastor was worried. But the farmer prayed on "And Lord, You know I don't care much for raw flour."

As the pastor was about to stop everything the farmer continued "But Lord, when You mix 'em all together and bakes 'em up, I do love me those fresh biscuits! So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what You are saying to us, we just need to relax and wait 'til You are done fixin' and probably it will be something even better than biscuits!"

And with that said, the preacher led everyone in saying a loud and robust "Amen!"

MARINES, FORMER MARINES, OR THOSE WHO LOVE THEM...



...please check this out!

The Veterans Administration has announced that Marine veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune during the period between 1953 and 1987 may have been exposed to chemicals and other cancer-causing agents.

Besides liver and kidney cancer, many other diseases such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, multiple myeloma, Parkinson's Disease, etc. are believed to have been caused by contact with contaminated water. For more information, simply do a web search that contains the words "contaminated water Camp Lejeune." Many results will appear for you to investigate. You may also speak to one of our Elders, Mark Svenningsen (himself a former Marine) who has researched this issue.