

# 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

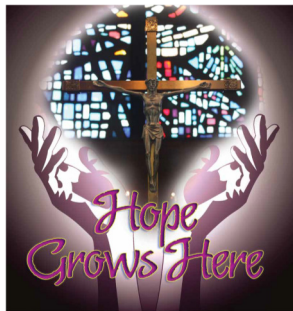
[ZIONBEECHER@COMCAST.NET](mailto:ZIONBEECHER@COMCAST.NET) [WWW.ZIONBEECHER.NET](http://WWW.ZIONBEECHER.NET)

## JUNE/JULY 2018

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Insert – Calendars for June & July



Save the Date - **Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

**ZION'S 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER**

**AUCTION: "HOPE GROWS HERE"**

New location: Glenwoodie Golf Club

19301 S State St, Glenwood

Catered by Scrementi's

**Next Committee meetings-**

**June 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> @5:30pm**



**June/July 2018**

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

Shown below is a poem that *very* loosely sounds like Psalm 23. Please read it and I'll join you on the other side of the poem.

**A PSALM OF SUMMER**

Recreation is my shepherd, I shall not stay home;

It maketh me to lie down in a sleeping bag.

It leadeth me down the Interstate each weekend;

It restoreth my suntan.

It leadeth me to State Parks for my comfort's sake.

Even though I stray on the Lord's Day I will fear no  
reprimand, for I am relaxed;

My rod and my reel, they comfort me.

I anointest my skin with oil, my gas tank runneth dry.

Surely my trailer will follow me all the weekends of the  
summer,

and I shall return to the House of the Lord in the Fall.

But, by then, it will be hunting season – *and that's another  
psalm!*

I've seen this *Psalm of Summer* a number of times over the years in various other church newsletters. And... I've also seen this play out a number of times over the years when "summer hits" the church!

Certainly, summer is great for all of us! We enjoy it! We thank God for not only giving us fair weather in the summer months, but also the means to enjoy it.

But, just as it is with all of God's gifts to us, we can abuse the gift of summer as well. We can easily allow "enjoying summer" to be a lame

excuse to ignore and remain away from receiving God's greatest gifts of His Word and Sacraments. When that happens, we've then become a worshipper of *creation* rather than the *Creator!* In other words, we've made a real, *bona fide* idol out of a season of the year!

Please DO enjoy the summer! Please DO take time away from work and actually get away for a while. A bit of rest and relaxation is truly good for us; yet, to do it *every* week and consistently miss worship of our Lord in the process is not and cannot be pleasing to our God. To NEVER worship the Lord in His house and to NEVER gather with fellow Christians to hear His Word of life is *faaaaaar* from what God has in mind when He gives us gifts of this world!

May God allow us to have a wonderful summer filled with fun times and relaxing moments. May He, by His Spirit, also help us to keep perspective about our recreational activities so that we keep "the main thing" in our lives to be Him who IS the "Main Thing" – our Lord Jesus who died and rose so that we might be His very own here on earth, and there in heaven!

See you in church (*almost every week!* ☺ )

Yours in Christ Jesus, our Savior,

Pastor Rock



### **LOOKING FOR OLD PICTURES...**

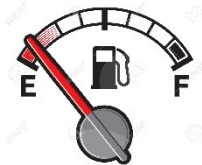
Recently a few old photographs were shown to me of our original church building on Indiana Avenue. I was greatly intrigued by the pictures and thought that perhaps others of our congregation would likewise be so interested and intrigued by seeing them. If you have any photographs (particularly of the interior) of Zion's first facilities, would you please bring them to the church so that I might look at them? We will scan them in the office and immediately return them to you. If enough pictures can be found, I was thinking of having a portion of our web site to be dedicated to displaying these pictures. Perhaps many (young and older members!) would benefit from seeing pictures of the original church and school building. Thank you! (Now... have fun digging into those old, musty boxes of photos!!! ☺ ) Pastor Rock



## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NOTES

Our Zion youth are excited about their *nearly*-annual trip to the Higher Things Youth Conference! This year's conference will be held at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS from July 24-27. Thirteen high school aged youth and three adult chaperones will be leaving early (very!) on July 24<sup>th</sup> to attend the conference.

To help fund their trip, the youth will be diligently "**peddling pizza**" at the **Beecher 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival food court!** Please plan to stop by their booth at least once during the course of the festival and purchase several slices of their pizza as a way to support their trip. Thank you!



Also, in past years, many of our members have graciously given gifts of cash (or prepaid debit cards) to the group to use to pay for traveling expenses – mainly gasoline. With the significantly higher gas prices that are predicted, our youth could *really* use your

generous support for their trip!

**So, please consider helping our youth by purchasing pizza at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July food court and/or giving a gift card to them.** (You may give the gift to Barb Harvey, our youth leader or Pr. Rock.) Thank you for your support and encouragement to our youth!



## LOOK FOR ZION IN THE BEECHER 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PARADE!

Once again this year, we are planning to have an entry in the Beecher 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade! Please look for

members of our church and school marching in the parade. And... if you wish to be a part of our parade entry, please call the church office (708.946.2271) for details on how you can participate!

## “2 TRUISMS”

From our member, Paul Teske:



- ✓ Some Folks, Like Blisters, Show Up After the Work is Done!
- ✓ One of the nicest things about gardening is that if you put it off long enough, eventually it is too late!

## A LONG-FORGOTTEN POEM

Dear friends, I was digging through the deepest recesses of my computer’s memory files and found the below shown poem. It was sent to me by a man named Mike Bunn who was a member of a former congregation that I served. He was a “man’s man” and, frankly, it rather surprised me when Mike sent *any* sort of poem to me! Mike came to Zion to worship with us a few times over the years, but now, by God’s grace, he worships eternally with our dear Lord in heaven. I look forward to someday meeting up with Mike again. And... I commit to introduce you to him as well! Yours in Christ Jesus, Pastor Rock

### OUR DEPENDABLE GOD!

When I fall, He lifts me up!  
When I fail, He forgives!  
When I am weak, He is strong!  
When I am lost, He is the way!  
When I am afraid, He is my courage!  
When I stumble, He steadies me!  
When I am hurt, He heals me!  
When I am broken, He mends me!  
When I am blind, He leads me!  
When I am hungry, He feeds me!  
When I face trials, He is with me!  
When I face persecution, He shields me!  
When I face problems, He comforts me!  
When I face loss, He provides for me!  
When I face Death, He carries me Home!





### **UPDATE ON COVERED WALKWAY PROJECT!**

As of the date when this newsletter was printed, a date to break ground on our Covered Walkway Project was not yet established. Once that date is known, it will be announced in the news portion of our weekend service bulletins. Our

intention is to have a formal groundbreaking ceremony after the conclusion of a Sunday morning worship service. These are very exciting times for us! Please stay tuned!



### **THE FOLLOWING JUNIOR YOUTH WERE CONFIRMED IN THEIR BAPTISMAL FAITH HERE AT ZION ON MAY 6, 2018**

#### **STEVEN WALKER RAGGETT ADAM**

Confirmation Verse:

***As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. (2 Samuel 22:31; NIV)***



#### **JAIDEN TIFFANY BUSS**

Confirmation Verse:

***Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1 Timothy 6:12, NIV)***



#### **ALYSSA VIOLET COLLINS**

Confirmation Verse:

***Jesus said: "I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (Revelation 3:11, NIV)***



**PAUL WILLI MUEHLBERG**

Confirmation Verse:

***At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11, NIV)***



**CHARLISE PIPER PETERSON**

Confirmation Verse:

***Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9, ESV)***



**CHEYANNA MICHELE STLUKA**

Confirmation Verse:

***[Jesus said:] "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10, ESV)***



**IAN JAMES WRIGHTSMAN**

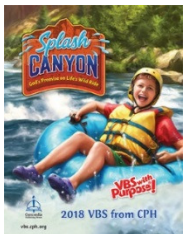
Confirmation Verse:

***In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. (Psalm 5:3, NIV)***



**Special Monthly Worship & Luncheon  
(11:00am)  
Thursdays, June 21<sup>st</sup> & July 19<sup>th</sup>  
Attention all seniors, retirees or anyone  
available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. Please join us at 11:00am for a time of worship and fellowship. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SET FOR JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>-29<sup>TH</sup>

The theme for our annual Vacation Bible School this year is *Splash Canyon*. Day by day the children will explore God's promises on life's wild ride!

The selected Bible stories will help us to remember that:

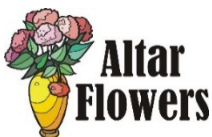
- **God is with us (God is with baby Moses in the River)**
- **God gives us life (God's people enter the promised land)**
- **God is faithful (God heals Naaman in the Jordan River)**
- **God gives us hope (God saved Paul from the sea)**
- **Jesus is our Savior (God's yes is found in Jesus; Jesus is baptized).**

As they learn and remember God's promises, the students will see that they will ***always*** find God's peace in His promise found in 2 Corinthians 1:20 – ***For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him.***

VBS will take place June 25-29, from 9–11:30 a.m. Children from Preschool through those who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> Grade may attend. And, of course... ALL CHILDREN are invited to participate, including: members, friends, cousins, neighbors, *everyone!*

There is no cost to attend; however, a daily offering will be received. The money collected will go toward an outreach effort intended to bring the promises of God to other children!

Please register in advance if at all possible. However, we WILL take children even if they have not been pre-registered. (Registration in advance significantly helps our volunteers make their plans! Thank you!)



### ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

You are welcomed and encouraged to arrange for flowers to be put on the Altar in memory of loved ones, in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, or any special occasion you choose. You may order the arrangement from the florist of your choice or Beecher Florist (708-946-2541). Please make delivery arrangements with your florist. There is a calendar in the church office for you to choose your special day in 2018.





## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AT BEECHER JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> FESTIVITIES

Here are several opportunities to get involved as a Zion member during this coming summer's Beecher July 4<sup>th</sup> activities:

- **Bingo Tent** Zion will again manage the Bingo Tent this summer. Please consider volunteering to help with this effort. It's really a lot of fun to work with fellow members and get to see many from the community at the same time! *To volunteer or learn more about this, please contact Margie Cook 708-805-1440.*
- **PTL Walking Taco Stand** Sign up for a shift serving walking tacos at our school's PTL food stand. It's simple work and you get to see and visit with people from throughout our community! *To volunteer or learn more about this, please contact Rhonda Stadt 708-946-9017.*
- **Zion H.S. Youth Group Pizza Stand** Here's another opportunity to provide service to Zion and the community. This, too, is easy work and while performing it, you can visit with others from our church and those of the community who stop by the food stand. *To volunteer or learn more about this, please contact Barb Harvey 708-567-6834.*



**Please consider helping with one (or more!) of these efforts. By doing so, you will enjoy yourself and, at the same time, represent our wonderful congregation to our community! Thank you!**



### SAVE THE DATE!

Our Board of Elders has accepted an invitation from our two Beecher sister congregations to worship with them on Sunday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. *Yes, all three congregations will worship together at Firemen's Park in Beecher!* Following the worship service, a potluck will be held. Games and activities will then follow for young and old alike! Plans are still being finalized as of the printing of this newsletter. Please watch future bulletins and newsletters for more information. So... please **SAVE THE DATE: Sun., Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>!**

**GROWING *PHYSICALLY?***

**HOW ABOUT**

***SPIRITUALLY??***

**PLEASE CONSIDER...**

**...ZION LUTHERAN**

**SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD!**



Now, more than ever, Zion Lutheran School makes sense for your child. In this world seemingly “anything goes” and, in fact, political expediency *forces* public institutions to tolerate (and even embrace!) worldly values that are contrary to the eternal Word of God. Yet, in the face of that, Zion’s school continues to base its very essence on the Name above all names – Jesus Christ!

Zion Lutheran School is not encumbered by state and federal laws that force families to accept morals and values that are contrary to those values which parents wish to instill in their own children. In fact, Zion’s school is considered by most parents to be an *extension* of those principles that the parents urgently hope that their children embrace in their own adult years!

Zion Lutheran School has continued to excel in all the facets of education that one would expect of a grammar school *and so much more!* Consider the following:

- ✓ Zion Lutheran School graduates consistently and disproportionately place in the upper ranks of class standings during their high school years regardless where they attend high school.
- ✓ While attending Zion, every student has the opportunity to participate in every activity that interests them, thus allowing each student (even “late bloomers”) to participate in activities without the fear of “not being good enough.” Zion graduates may complete grade school with a wide variety of experiences.
- ✓ Christian values are observed throughout the school day. The students are held to be accountable to one another, to those in authority over them, and to God, thus instilling the students with

respect for all people. With such respect, they are better prepared to enter their adult years.

- ✓ Dedicated teachers and staff consider their work with the students to be a “calling” – not merely a “job” – and therefore provide *personal attention to each student*.
- ✓ Low student/teacher ratios allow the above point to be a reality.
- ✓ Over the past few years, Zion students have...
  - ...earned high honors in math and other competitions with much larger schools.
  - ...excelled in fine arts contests.
  - ...been active in an afterschool robotics program.
  - ...won multiple athletic championships.
  - ...participated in choral singing, musicals, & plays.
  - ...had an Illinois State Spelling Bee finalist.
  - ...daily been exposed to the Word of God.
  - ...participated in multiple service projects.
  - ...worshipped together in weekly chapel services.

Prayerfully consider enrolling your child or grandchild in Zion Lutheran School for the upcoming school year. Our teachers and staff stand ready to serve you and your children to the best of our God-given abilities. **Call for more information: 708.946.2272.**



### **YOU'VE GOT MAIL!**

[Note – Correspondence addressed to our congregation-at-large periodically is delivered. Shown below is one such letter that recently arrived.

**From Jonathan Torreson, our “adopted” seminary student**

Dear members of Zion, Greetings from St. Louis! I want to thank you for your continued support of me while at the seminary. As you may have heard by now, I graduated in May and received a Call to serve as Associate Pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Decatur, IL!

I was ordained on May 20<sup>th</sup> in my home church near Grand Rapids, MI. It was a wonderful day to say the least. Taylor and I pray that all is well with you wonderful people at Zion. Again, we wish to thank you for your incredible, generous support of us during these last years while at the seminary with your financial support, encouraging words, and your prayers. We pray that in the future, you will support other students while they attend the seminary and study for the holy ministry as you did for us! Thank you and God's Blessings to you all!

/s/ Jonathan & Taylor Torreson

**From the Northern Illinois District Office**

Dear members of Zion, We have received your generous thank offering to the district as you tithed the offering from the Kampe family given to your congregation. Your partnership in the Gospel is deeply appreciated and vital for our work together – each of us doing all that we can to proclaim the name and saving work of Jesus, our Savior! Thank you for your prayers for us even while we pray for you in your work in the kingdom of our Father in your community.

/s/ Sue Green, Mission Advocate, Northern Illinois District – LCMS

**A note regarding the above referenced Kampe family gift to**

**Zion:**

Late in 2017 and in January of this year, Peggy Kampe and her children put into place the dream that Vern and Peggy had long wished to do. Before Vern departed to his eternal resting place with our Lord Jesus, he and Peggy determined that they wished to give a thank offering to the Lord in gratitude to Him for the material gifts that God had entrusted to them.

The “formula” for their thank offering was rather simple: they would give to Zion \$1,000 for each year of their marriage! Their gift, given in two installments, totaled \$64,000! Again, a thousand dollars for each of 64 years of Christian marriage that God had given to Peggy and Vern!

Perhaps this gift might trigger the thinking of other members of our congregation bringing to mind other ways that they might further the Gospel ministry among us, and from among us, out into the world so desperate to know of the love of God found only in Christ Jesus!