

## AUGUST - 2017

### ZION NEWS

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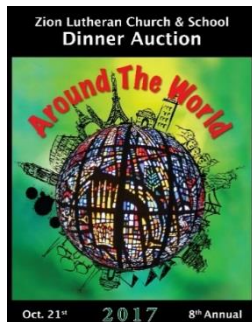
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## DINNER AUCTION – OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2017

“AROUND THE WORLD”

At The Serbian Hall in Lansing

**We are on FACEBOOK!!! Check it out!!!**



Make your plans now to attend our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Zion Lutheran Church and School Dinner Auction. **Tickets will be available beginning Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. All tickets purchased and paid for by October 1<sup>st</sup> will receive a coupon for 1 free drink of your choice. We are very excited about our theme, “Around the World” and have lots of ideas to make this the most exciting auction ever. We are well underway, but more help is**

always needed. Come to the meeting to see how you can be involved. Next Meeting is **Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm.**

# ZION NEWS

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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## AUGUST - 2017

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

*The following story is one that I mentioned a few years ago.*



As you know, Holy Week is the busiest week in the church year. There are many extra worship services to put together along with additional sermons to write. Meanwhile the normal parish activity continues on – classes, hospital and homebound member calls, home visits, phone calls, etc. This “busy-ness” of the season can

cause pastor and family to have very little time together.

When I had been a pastor for only a few years, one evening right after the Maundy Thursday service I was in my study. I was debating with myself whether to sit down at my desk and work for an hour, or to call it a day and go home. As I was debating this in my mind, I glanced at my computer screen and noticed something.

On a small “Post It” note, one of our children had written a brief message to me. It simply said: **“Dad, Please come home soon! Love, [signature]”**

I’ve kept that note to this day. It’s what parents call “a keeper.” Now, whenever I come across that note, I think of my child who wrote that beautiful, seven word note. My child’s love *for me* caused the note to be written.

In a sense, you could say that God is writing a similar note to those who haven’t been active in worship. His love *for them* causes Him to say: **“Dear Christian, Please come home soon! Love, God.”**

If you haven't been coming "home" (that is, been coming to church) very frequently lately, possibly this letter is another way that **our loving God is calling out to you**. Possibly He's using this note to tenderly invite you to "come home" to hear His precious Gospel message of forgiveness and new life in Jesus and to receive the Lord's Supper once again.

Rest assured, that when you return "home," neither God nor any of your fellow members will ask "Where have you been?" Rather, you'll only hear: "**We're so glad that you're home, with us here!**"

And, if you're one who *has* been regular in attendance, perhaps this letter is a way for God to prompt you to seek out others and kindly invite them to worship with us once again! Our love of God and thankful response to His message of eternal life compels us to boldly do this.

God says to all His children: "**Dear Christian, Please come home soon! Love, God**"

See you soon at "home" in the house of our heavenly Father,

Pastor Rock

**PS** – By the way, regarding my child's note to me. I immediately went home that night. My work waited until the next day and we got through Holy Week *just fine!*

#### **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 communications. However, 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](mailto:zionbeecher@comcast.net) Thank you!

## **SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RETURNS SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Following a summer hiatus, Christian Education will resume on Rally Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

A new beginning time for both our Sunday School and Adult Bible Class will be observed this fall. Due to our time change for Sunday Worship (9 AM) our Christian Education Hour needed to change.

After much discussion at both the Boards of Parish Education and Elders (and also receiving input from those who volunteer to teach Sunday School) it was determined that the best start time for our Sunday Christian Education classes will be 8 AM.

**So, beginning Sun., Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, our Sunday morning schedule will be:**

- ✓ **8:00**      **Sunday School and Adult Bible Class**
- ✓ **9:00**      **Divine Worship**
- ✓ **10:15**     **Fellowship Hour**



### **EMPLOYMENT OPENING IN CHURCH OFFICE**

Our long-time church office secretary, Janice Brands, has announced her plans to retire. Depending on our success in finding her replacement, she hopes to be finished *no later than* September 30<sup>th</sup>. Because of that, the Board of Elders is asking those who are interested to make application for this position as soon as possible.

The position is for part-time employment. It includes a very diverse range of duties utilizing general office skills. Knowledge of Microsoft Word (or an equivalent software product such as OpenOffice) is necessary. Communication skills are also required using the telephone and email. If interested, please provide a resume to Pastor Rock. He, along with a committee from the Board of Elders will consider the applications and conduct personal interviews.

## **PLANS TO ACCOMPLISH THE PRINCIPAL & PASTORAL DUTIES**

As previously announced, Pastor Moldenhauer has agreed to serve Zion as our parochial school's interim Principal. He took over those duties at the end of June and his time will now be consumed in that role. Please pray for him as he takes on this task that was asked of him and to which he graciously agreed.

Pastor Rock is now handling all of the pastoral ministry duties of our congregation. He will preach each week – with the exception of once each month when Pastor Moldenhauer will preach. Pastor Rock will also handle all of Zion's homebound and hospitalized member visits along with any weddings or funerals that arise.

Because of the large number of homebound members that we presently have, Pastor Rock is unable to see each homebound member each month. (In the past, using two pastors we were able to provide monthly pastoral visits to our homebound members.) Now, with Pastor Moldenhauer committed to other areas of service, it is no longer feasible to provide such monthly pastoral visits.

Instead, Pastor Rock plans to see each homebound member at least *every other month*. In between his visits, our Elders will make calls on those homebound members who desire a visit from an Elder. The Elders will take communion elements to the homes of those members directly from our altar following the conclusion of our Divine Services. They will lead a brief liturgy with the members, have a Bible reading followed by a devotion and then distribute the previously consecrated elements of the Lord's Supper brought to the home by the Elder. (By the way, this practice has precedence in the Early Church. In that era, the practice was begun to have the lay leaders (deacons) do this very thing that we are enacting. The deacons would actually leave the Divine Service with communion elements and go directly to the homebound members to share the holy meal with them.)

We pray that these changes will keep both our church and school strong while still serving all of the members who God has brought to be numbered with us. May the Lord bless our congregation and school – now and into the future!

## From the Principal's Office



Preparations for the 2017-2018 school year are underway at Zion Lutheran School. The new year offers opportunities for our students to grow in mind, in body, and in spirit.

Students will be challenged to develop new skills and improve on those they already have. All the while we build our lives on Christ, the Savior, and walk with him through daily devotions and prayers as well as weekly chapel services.

A highlight of this academic year will be the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg. Zion Lutheran School, with the broader world, is planning to observe this anniversary. For us, the Reformation marks a key moment in God's preservation of his church, and we rejoice at the clear proclamation of Christ Jesus that flows out of Reformation theology.

Our faculty and staff look forward to another year of proclaiming Christ to the children in our school and their families. We pray that with us, you too may rejoice at the anniversary of the Reformation, and thank the Lord for his ongoing preservation of his church.

### Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, August 20	Opening Service (1pm)
Monday, August 21	First day of school (K-8)
Wednesday, August 23	First day of school (4-yr old Pre-K)
Thursday, August 24	First day of school (3-yr old Preschool)

## ATTENTION COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

As you prepare to leave for college, please put on your "To Do" list the task of contacting Zion's church office in order to provide your email address to us. Using your email address, your church can easily keep in touch with you. The weekly sermons can be sent directly to you along with an electronic edition of our monthly newsletter.

## RALLY SUNDAY PICNIC AT FIREMEN'S PARK!!



Our annual Rally Sunday, which signals our formal "back-to-Christian-education" effort each fall will be held on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

At the July meeting of Zion's Voters Assembly, it was recommended and approved that we hold our Rally Sunday picnic and related events in conjunction

with two of our sister congregations. Since nearly all Lutheran churches hold their Rally Sunday on the same day (the Sunday after Labor Day Weekend) it was decided to go together with St. Paul and St. John Lutheran Churches of Beecher and share a picnic and related activities together.

The festivities will be held at Firemen's Park in Beecher. As of the time of printing of this newsletter, the time and other specifics of the day remained to be completely worked out. Please watch for Sunday worship bulletin announcements and the September edition of this newsletter to provide additional details.

This outing promises to hold a lot of fun for members of all three congregations. ALSO, please invite your friends and neighbors to attend this picnic and the other activities with us. Let's use this as an opportunity to get to know more of our community members, *and, for them to get to know us!*



## DO YOU NEED TO 'DISCONNECT'??

**Note:** This article was first printed in a newsletter from *New Leaf Resources* received in the church office.

What did we do before the age of smart phones? Email, photos, games, apps... it's all good IF used in moderation. But, cell phones can create barriers to human interaction or, honestly, can even be dangerous! Consider the following statistics:

- ✓ **95%** – The number of Americans who now own a cell phone. 77% of Americans own a smart phone, which is up from 35% in 2011.
- ✓ **85,000** – The number of times we check our cell phones every year. (Yikes!)
- ✓ **67%** – This is the percentage of Americans who use their phone to share pictures, videos, or commentary about events happening in their community. (35% do this frequently)
- ✓ **23 Times** – We are 23 times more likely to have a car accident if we are texting and driving.
- ✓ **Almost 1 in 5 Children** have reported seeing something on their electronic device that has upset them.
- ✓ **Weaken Eyesight & Affected Brain Development** – Research shows that excessive use of smart phones negatively impacts children during their critical years of growth in body and mind.



Experts also warn about the negative impact smart phones make on our relationships. Loss of community, mindfulness, stress, and even cell phone “separation anxiety” are real issues for many Americans. Try putting your phone away from time to time and treasure the special moments and people right in front of you!



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**BEECHER LION'S CLUB "SUMMERFEST"**  
**BEEF ROAST, CRAFT SHOW, CAR SHOW**  
**AUGUST 5, 2017**  
**12 NOON TO 5PM**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP AT THE BINGO STAND.**  
**PLEASE CALL MARGIE COOK TO VOLUNTEER**  
**708 – 805 – 1440**

**WILL COUNTY FAIR**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 - NOON TO 10PM**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 - NOON TO 10PM**  
**HELP IS NEEDED TO 'MAN' THE AIR CONDITIONED TICKET BOOTHS**  
**CONTACT GINA GIORDANO TO VOLUNTEER**  
**708 – 516 – 6820**

## ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS



### **Enhance the beauty of our house of worship!**

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, in thanksgiving for a special way that God has blessed you, or in other ways. To

do this requires only two simple steps: (1.) Identify the week for which you will obtain flowers. There is a large signup chart for this. It 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!

## **JUST A REMINDER...**

If you have an item of importance to tell someone on the church or school staff and you wish to convey that information while at church, please write it down. In the blur of activity and the **multitude** of 30 second conversations that occur on Sunday morning, **your message can easily be forgotten within the crush of "information overload"** that occurs. If you forgot to write a note, please telephone the office or send an email the next day to ensure that your message gets to the right person. Thank you.

## ZION @ THE FOURTH



Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help our church and school be seen and involved in our community at the annual Beecher Fourth of July Celebration. So many gave of their talents ***and time*** to give Zion a very visible presence all five days of the event! The PTL and Zion Senior Youth food booths were once again manned and operated with efficiency. Also, many helped make Zion's offer to take responsibility of the bingo tent to be a rousing success! *The "take" at the bingo tent was the only one of the commission run events that exceeded last year's sales!* (This was in spite the fact that it rained three (3) days out of the five!) And, thanks to a handful of folks, Zion once again entered a float in the parade. Then, quite a number of families (with their children!!) walked in the parade alongside the float. Fortunately, the floats were judged BEFORE the rain storm hit and we were given the THIRD PLACE PRIZE out of all of the parade entries!! From Margie Cook, one of our chief organizers for our involvement at the Fourth: "[All of this] along with our float winning a prize, really put us out there in the community!" Thank you to all for your help and support!

### **SPECIAL MONTHLY WORSHIP & LUNCHEON (11:00am)**

**Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month.



Please join us at 11:00am for a time of worship and fellowship.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

## DID YOU MISS A SERMON?



Sometimes God's people must miss worship on a given weekend because of illness, work, or due to travel for vacation or to see family. Should such things keep you away from worship, you still have options open to you to catch the sermon preached the previous week if not the entire service. [Here are those options:](#)

1. If you subscribe to the Comcast Cable TV service and live in Beecher, Peotone, or Monee, you may watch the previous week's service on your television in its entirety. Tune in to Channel 4 (WPAL) at either 6 PM on Sunday or 6 AM on Thursday each week.
2. You may have a copy of the sermon emailed to you each week. Simply send a note to [zionbeecher@comcast.net](mailto:zionbeecher@comcast.net) and request that your name be added to our list of sermon recipients.
3. You may also go to Zion's web site: [zionbeecher.net](http://zionbeecher.net). There you will also be able to read the sermon of the previous week. Once on our web site, simply "mouse over" to "Zion Lutheran Church." A drop down menu will automatically appear. Select "Read the Most Recent Sermon." Click on that.
4. Also, from Zion's web site [zionbeecher.net](http://zionbeecher.net) you may access Zion's video YouTube channel. Following the same procedure as in #3 above, simply select "View Past Sermons." A new screen will appear that will allow you to watch sermons previously delivered at Zion. Some of those sermons date back to 2013!
5. You may "subscribe" to Zion's YouTube channel so that you are automatically notified by them when a new sermon is available. On the YouTube page noted in #4 above, simply click on the "Subscribe" button toward the right side of the screen. You will then be notified whenever a new sermon video is available for viewing.
6. Finally, if you are a *Twitter* user, you may "follow" our church by using @ZionBeecher. When new videos are uploaded to YouTube, you will automatically receive notice of that fact through your *Twitter* app.

Several members have commented that they are able to listen to Zion sermons while commuting in their car. They use their Smart Phone to accomplish that. If you have such technology available to you, give that a try!

Finally, because of current laws, we are unable to put entire worship services on the internet. This is due to the copyright infringement policies of the publishers of the music and liturgies that are part of our worship services. We wish it were different, but it is the law!

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS...add up!  
CHECK YOUR ACCOUNT – YOU MAY BE SURPRISED!!!**



So far this year our congregation has received \$2,199 from Thrivent Financial! It comes to us as a benefit earned by the financial instruments owned by our members who utilize that organization. It absolutely

does *NOT* come out of the funds of Thrivent members. Also, this is a “use it or lose it” benefit. If you are uncertain how to direct this benefit to Zion that’s under your control, kindly contact your agent. It’s an “easy-peasy” effort on your part and directly helps our beloved Church and School!

**LARGER PRINT HYMNS AVAILABLE**



We have the hymns for our services in larger print. They are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher for help if you need it. These hymns are available to anyone who would benefit.

**NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH??**



The Stewardship/Outreach Committee would like to provide rides to church for those that can't or don't drive. If that is you (or someone you know), please contact Margie Cook at 708-805-1440.

Depending how many requests we get, we may have to reach out to other members to provide rides. If you would like to be a part of that, also contact Margie.