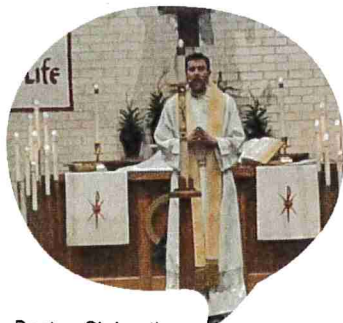


Zion Lutheran Church

Newsletter

July 2023



Pastor Siebert's Message

Greetings and peace to you in Christ!

In his farewell address to the pastors of the Church of Ephesus Paul declared that he **did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.** (Acts 20:27) We see this shown forth in all of his letters and he proclaims the Good News (Gospel) of Christ crucified and risen from the dead as well as God's word of law (that which we should and should not do): he taught and proclaimed what our Lord has revealed. But the Law and the Gospel need to be understood rightly in order to understand Scripture.

In 1884 C.F.W Walther (the first president of our Missouri Synod; first president of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis; and, all at the same time; pastor of 5 congregations in the St. Louis area) began a series of lectures on Friday evenings for the men studying for the Office of the Ministry. These would eventually be compiled into a book called the Proper Distinction between Law and Gospel. It is a brilliant exposition of the teaching of Scripture and a correct understanding of the doctrines confessed by the Church. In this work we can see the Word of God as the light it brings (Psalm 119:105) and at the same time addresses some of the errors that had crept in at various times that rob comfort from those who believe.

Without an understanding of purpose and use of Law and Gospel, Walther says that Scripture is a closed book, that is that it cannot be

understood. Thankfully, the Word of God itself, explains how these words of God are applied to fallen man.

We sing a hymn, *The Law of God Is Good and Wise*, and so it is. (Romans 3:31) It reveals God's good will that He intends for us to walk in, but we are not and cannot be saved by the Law. The chief function of the Law is to show us our sin and need for salvation. It acts as a mirror revealing our fallen state and work penitence. (Romans 3:20)

As opposed to the Law which makes demands, the Gospel makes none, but only freely offers what Christ has accomplished. He came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it for us. (Matthew 5:17-18 and Galatians 3:13). As Paul wrote to the congregations in Ephesus he emphasizes this evangelical (Gospel) message so clearly: **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that on one may boast.** (Ephesians 2:8-9) That is to say, that the grace (favor of God), the salvation, and the faith worked by the Spirit through the Word are all a gift of God. The Gospel is Christ for you.

The Law of God still remains and is to be upheld, but offers nothing toward your salvation. We are to strive to keep it as we live out our salvation. We live lives of repentance, but no matter how good you get at drowning your Old Adam you remain saved by Christ, He has left nothing undone for you.

This is the light that Scripture reveals to us and why the Gospel predominates in all our teaching. Bask in this light and take comfort and the peace that surpasses understanding. Jesus saves sinners without any hoops to jump through and it's all yours for free.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Siebert

Roof Repair

Following a recent rain storm, a leak was discovered along the east wall of the sanctuary. Tillotson Roofing came out and identified the problem, which will require some repairs. The cost of these repairs is just under \$6,900.00. We are prayerfully asking for donations above your regular giving, to make these needed repairs before the new flooring is installed. Gifts should be designated for "Roof Repair" on your check or envelope. Thank you for your prayerful considerations regarding this request.
Board of Trustees

Food, Fun and Fellowship will be on Saturday, July 22, 2023 at 7:00 following the worship service. A meal of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Below are a few pictures of the Food, Fun, and Fellowship held on June 3.



Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin-style Fish Feed



Zion Lutheran Laymans League Zone 8 held its annual fish feed on Friday, June 16. They would like to thank all who assisted in any way.



Zion was privileged to have **Pastor Artis Eglitis** be our guest preacher on Sunday, June 25. He is visiting Nebraska from Latvia. Karen Reehl Tiedeman shared pictures of her most recent trip to Russia to visit some of the orphanages.

July Birthdays



Butch Lyons	July 2
Emily Hinrichs	July 3
Audrey Douglas	July 4
Stanley J. Halbmaier	July 4
Marge Peterson	July 5
Dave Peterson	July 6
Pinky Joynt (1928)	July 6
Anna Lyons	July 6
Margaret Bourland	July 7
Matthew Lee	July 7
Molly Lee	July 7
Penny Pratt	July 8
Caden Reents	July 8
Joyce Halbmaier	July 9
RoGene Eickmeier	July 10
Alexis George	July 12
Gabe Gentert	July 13
Madison Thiessen	July 14
Gayle Mankin	July 16
Harold Kelley	July 18
Rayker Cookson	July 19
Edith Meyer (1930)	July 20
Martina Duncan	July 20
Lori Niederklein	July 21
Jessica Beatty	July 23
Karla Armstrong	July 25
Robert Meyer	July 26
Alayna Bogan	July 29
Angela Eckhardt	July 29
Meg Woita	July 29
Joshua Rooker	July 30

July Baptism Birthdays



Laurie George	July 4
Ezekiel Strong	July 8
Eva R. Strong	July 8
Sage Dasher	July 8
Victoria L. Halloran	July 11
Travis Kelley	July 11
Brandon Kelley	July 13
Kandace White	July 15
Brian Hueftle	July 16
Joyce Halbmaier	July 19
Wyatt Riales	July 22
Stanley J. Halbmaier	July 23
Nicholas Montague	July 23
June Peters	July 25
Trevor Woita	July 25
Brian Buss	July 26
Madison Guinan	July 29
Mallory Guinan	July 29
David O. Peterson	July
Jane Sorgenfrei	July

Wedding Anniversaries



Stanley & Joyce Halbmaier	July 6, 1965
Butch & Jarilyn Lyons	July 6, 1968
Jeffrey & Karla Armstrong	July 9, 1988
Jeff & Tamara Halloran	July 11, 1992
Kevin & Audrey Douglas	July 25, 1987
Tim & Gwen Davidson	July 31, 1976

July 2023

Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion
2 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Adult Bible Class	3 PASTOR'S VACATION	4 VACATION	5 9:30 AM Bible-Hymn Study JULY 3-9	6	7	8 6:00 PM Worship Service
9 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Bible Class	10 10:00 to 3:00 Quilt Tying at Zion Lutheran Church	11 7:00 PM Elders Meeting	12 9:30 AM Bible-Hymn Study	13	14	15 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion
16 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Adult Bible Class	17	18 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting	19 9:30 AM Bible-Hymn Study	20	21	22 6:00 PM Worship Service 7:00 PM Family, Fun and Fellowship
23 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Adult Bible Class	24	25	26 9:30 AM Bible-Hymn Study	27	28	29 6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion
30 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Adult Bible Class			LCMS Synodical Convention July 29 to August 3			