



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL LITCHFIELD, IL

*Rev. Fred Kraemer, Pastor*

## JUNE & JULY 2020

*Mr. John Schaff, Principal*

Church 217-324-2033

School 217-324-3166

The season of Pentecost, the season of the church.

On the day of Pentecost as the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples, they then proclaimed the wonderful deeds of God that He had done, especially in Christ, and the church had its birth. What I mean by that is on that day we recognize the message of Christ being proclaimed and people hearing and people coming to faith by the work of the Holy Spirit. It's the birth of the church, all those who believe in Christ. And it began the day of Pentecost as Peter proclaimed the message and thousands came to faith and were baptized. From then on the church grew.

For the past six months the church has been in the season of Christ. We went through Advent and Christmas with the birth of Christ; Epiphany, proclaiming Christ to the nations; Lent, the suffering of Christ and His death; and Easter celebrating the Christ's resurrection and His ascension into heaven.

With Pentecost we now enter the season of the church. Our lessons are going to show us what the church did in response to faith, in response to what God did for us in Christ. We get to see how the Spirit gave life to the church, guided her through God's word, and empowered her for work serving God and others through that same word.

Today we find ourselves at the beginning of a different sort. We are finally worshiping together once more. But we are doing things a little bit differently. We can't all gather in the back of the church for worship anymore! We are spreading ourselves out a little bit more for some safety. We still are going to be having our worship service streamed live and broadcast for those who cannot, or feel they should not, come to worship. We will be able once more to receive holy communion, just with a little different set up, but come we will.

We have some strong tasks ahead of us. We are in the process of finding additional teachers to replace those who have left. We pray the Lord to bring to us those vital ministers of God's word, in teachers strong in academics and even stronger in their commitment to the Lord.

We still have the one and only commission to fulfil, "make disciples of all nations...Baptizing...Teaching.."

As our lives start returning a little bit back to normal, we still have work to do as a church, as the people of God. Continue to pray for God's guidance for us; continue to seek God's gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used in proclaiming the message of Christ; continue to be in God's word to fill you as we serve together.

We are still unsure of a few of the plans as we go forward. However, we know we are continuing in God's hands, therefore we go forward without fear, without worry, and with God's joy, peace, and strength. I look forward to this season of the church, the season of God using us in service to him and in proclaiming his love that others might have life.

Blessings to you, the church!                    Pastor Fred

## ZION DAY SCHOOL NEWS

*"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1*

The Lord blessed our school with a great ending to the 2019-2020 school year. 140 students in the Pre-Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade were able to be taught the truth of God's love for them in Christ. The last quarter was a little challenging with students and teachers learning and teaching from their homes. We pray that the Coronavirus will subside so that we can begin on August 14 with learning in person at school.

We will have Kindergarten graduation in the church on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. with only the immediate families attending. A parade of relatives and friends will follow with a reverse parade. That is when relatives and friends can drive past the kindergarteners and their families to congratulate them. This will take place on the south part of the church and school under the drive through area. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation will be similar with it being held on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. including only immediate family members. A reverse parade will also follow the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. During the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, there will be a service in thankfulness to God. Students will receive their diplomas. Our valedictorian and salutatorian will give their speeches. Please congratulate our valedictorian, Amanda Niemann, and our salutatorian, Sam Spicer. The Lord has graciously given them the gift of knowledge and the abilities to utilize it.

We want to congratulate Mrs. Sharp for 20 years and for my 25 years working at Zion. The years have gone by quickly. The Lord's mercy has been shown on both of us in being able to serve the students and families in so many ways.

Please get the word out that we are looking for two daycare workers. One to work from 6:00 a.m. to noon, and the other to work from noon to 5:30 p.m. We are also continuing to look for Pre-Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers. If you know anyone who enjoys children and loves the Lord, please have them contact me at: [jschaff@zionlutheranlitchfield.com](mailto:jschaff@zionlutheranlitchfield.com).

Right now the first day of school is scheduled for August 14 as a full day. We are praying that the year will start off as normally as possible. The faculty is making plans in regards to procedures and protocols when it comes to handling Covid - 19.

May the Lord bless and keep you in His care. Have a wonderful summer.

In Christ,  
John M. Schaff  
Principal

### CHURCH AND SCHOOL SIGNS

Don't know if you have noticed or not, but the church sign on the front lawn is in bad shape. It has mold growing in it along with a big hole at the top. Through the generous donation of a member of Zion, we are getting bids to replace the current church sign. The sign will combine the church and school signs together to show our unity. We will move to the next level of signs by making it digital. This will make it quick and easy to change so we can update it more often. The digital will not be an obnoxious bright sign, but dimmable. If everything goes well, we will get a new sign this summer. The first message on the sign will be "Jesus Loves You".

## **WORSHIP PARTICIPATION GUILDLINES**

Zion will resume our normal worship schedule beginning June 6 & 7. However, no Bible study or Sunday School classes will begin at this time. We are considering options for resuming these classes. Here are things we are doing differently to help keep some safety measures in place:

Doors will be propped open; individual bulletins available, but not passed out by ushers, nor reused at other services.

Every other pew will be used, zipper effect alternating from side to side. Ushers will seat, beginning at the front, and dismiss starting from the back. Plan on only one family per pew, or maximum of four individuals.

For communion, we will only use individual cups. Elders and I will wash hands, use sanitizer before we distribute communion. People will come forward, one pew at a time. We will not welcome or dismiss individual tables, but have a single welcome before and single dismissal/blessing at the end.

People are encouraged to wear masks if so desired, and to stay home if not feeling well or have personal concerns. Let us continue to support one another in the various forms of precautions used by each other, remembering we are still serving one another, not just our own personal interests.

We will continue to have services streamed live on Facebook and are looking for better recording methods to be used for You Tube or other forms of media.

If you have concerns, suggestions, or questions, feel free to contact Pastor Fred at the church office 217-324-2033 most weekday mornings, or text/call his cell phone 618-960-3328.

**ALL SERVICES WILL AGAIN BE OPEN AT REGULAR TIMES.  
MEETINGS WILL BE ARRANGED AS LEADERS SEE FIT.**

8:00am Sunday worship continues to stream live on the School Facebook page, and be posted on the Church Page.

Daily devotions will stream live on the School Facebook page weekdays at 9:00am, and then will be posted on the Church Facebook page.

Please go to Zion Lutheran School Facebook page, Zion Lutheran Church Facebook page and our Website, [Zionlutheranlitchfield.com](http://Zionlutheranlitchfield.com) for additional information, family worship and devotion opportunities, and continued encouragement.

- † At this time, the office is open from 10am-12pm every weekday so people may access the church or drop off items and offerings. If you wish to come in, and aren't sure if we'll be here, please feel free to call first: 217.324.2033 Messages can be left on our voicemail, or emails sent to:

fkraemer@zionlutheranlitchfield.com

## WORK WEEK

Sometime in July, the property Committee plans to have work week. If you have any questions or know of something that needs to be addressed, please contact David Helgen



## **Landscaping committee has been busy!**

Check it out! The team has been hard at work trying to freshen the grounds around Zion. The volunteers have done weeding, some pruning, and the planting of colorful flowers in new planters. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of the beautification. A portion of Betty Monke's memorial money was used per her request to purchase planters and flowers.



## **DEVOTIONS & CHURCH SERVICES**



Members of Zion's congregation, the church and school families, Facebook friends, strangers and others have been blessed to have Pastor, Keith, Ernie, John and the "choir" keep us all together in devotions and church services. Even though we have not physically been in church, we have been connected through God's Word and in song. Live streaming of the devotions and services have been a daily blessing for many. We appreciate our faithful servants! What they have done to help us get through this difficult time, will never be forgotten.

## **LETTER FROM MR. BRAKENHOFF:**

*To the members of Zion Lutheran Church and School:*

*The past 2019-2020 school year has been very eventful. I pray that the church and school will listen to God's direction and be used mightily in the future. I do not believe that it is God's will that I continue here as part of the future direction Zion Lutheran School.*

*I appreciate and am sincerely grateful for the teaching opportunity at Zion this past year. It has been an honor to be a part of the academic and faith instruction of your youth. I was also humbled by the many who generously gave to my family in our time of need due to our house fire. I pray that God would bless each and every one of you and guide you in His truth*

*In Christ,*

*Ben Brankenhoff.*

## June Anniversaries

June 1	Roger & Brittany Davis	June 10	Joe & Sandy McNeal
June 2	Donald & Pam Volentine	June 14	Dale & Pam Hull
June 3	Mike & Marijane Zimmerman	June 15	Dan & Jean Peters
June 4	Ferrel & Joyce Meinschein	June 16	Adam & Tracy Favre
June 6	Todd & Jane Davidson  Don & Ruth Lang	June 18	Keith & Tina Marburger  Don & Karen Webb
	Larry & Joyce Simmons	June 20	Ron & Barb Gosenheider
June 7	Timothy & Heather Burenga  Mike & Debbie Viseur	June 24	David & Jennifer Helgen
	Chad & Katie Savage		

## July Anniversaries

July 1	Bill & Georgia Hull	July 18	Tom & Beth Cherry
	Michael & Elizabeth Logsdon	July 21	Dacia & Brian Brown
July 3	Dennis & Donna Yokley	July 23	Maegan & Brian Neese
July 7	Earl & Barbara Schmidt	July 27	Lloyd & Karen Lueker
July 10	Tyler & Kimberly Helgen	July 28	Abe & Jenny Loveless
July 16	Karol & David DeWerff		

## **TEACHERS NEEDED!**

Zion's Board of Education met and are seeking Lutheran school teachers that would be interested in teaching at Zion Lutheran School in Litchfield. Do you know of anyone? We are currently looking for a principal and teachers for Pre-Kindergarten, grades 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 at this time. That will be subject to change based on the enrollment numbers. Candidate names may be submitted to the school office (217-324-3166) or by contacting the school board chairman, Jay Niemann (217-556-3934) May the Lord continue to bless us at Zion with teachers to instruct our children and share the Gospel with them

## **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ZION'S VOTING MEMBERSHIP**

Due to the mandatory suspension of gathering together in a large group, regular voters' meetings could not be held for a period of time. A small group consisting of Pastor, Mr. Schaff, the congregation Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and chairmen of the Elders, School Board, and Finance committees are meeting (with appropriate social distancing) to conduct necessary church business. This is unprecedented and not in accordance with the church constitution, but there is no other alternative at this time.

If you have thoughts or questions regarding this, contact me. Please continue to keep Zion in your prayers.

Mike Helgen, Chairman of the Congregation 217-246-2142

MAY OFFERINGS:	\$28, 738.00
E-giving	<u>7, 994.65</u>
TOTAL:	\$36,732.65

Debit Reduction \$5,120.00

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AT ZION:**

June 19 - 8th Grade Graduation

July 02 - Elders Meeting

July 09 - Council Meeting

July 18 - Thomack/Clayton Wedding

July 19 - Congregational Meeting @ 11:45 am

Aug. 09 - Confirmation @ 10:30 am

### **ALL CHURCH SERVICES ARE HELD AT REGULAR TIMES EACH WEEKEND.**

Saturday evening worship- 5:30 pm

Sunday morning worship - 8:00 am & 10:30 am

## **LETTER FROM MR. SCHAFF**

June 4, 2020

Dear Family of Zion:

After 25 years of being your teacher and principal, the Lord has shown me that it is time for a change. I will be leaving and pursuing a different line of work. My plan is to take a year and work in a different occupation. If it is the Lord's will, I would like to return to ministry in a Lutheran school.

All of the people at Zion have been a part of our family for most of our lives. Our family has many wonderful memories that have been made here. We have been through many events together that have tested, tried, grown, matured, and strengthened our faith. We remember that the Lord's promises never fail.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Christ is our light, salvation, and stronghold. He has won the victory on the cross and taken away our sins. That is our only hope, as we are on this earth for a short time. Our church and school have been working together as the people of God. We have that joy and hope that only Christ gives. I pray that it continues to remain the focus in the future.

There are many things that I will miss about working at Zion. I will miss greeting the children each morning, talking to them, praying with them, helping them see that they are loved when they don't feel it or when they have sinned, having fun with them at recess, and most of all, training them up in the true Word of God. I will also miss working together with teachers and parents in helping the children develop their God-given talents.

I thank the Lord that he has blessed our family with the love and support of our church and school. Many of you have helped us with words of wisdom, encouragement, and love. Leandra and I will continue to pray for you and that the Word of Christ will continue to stay central in the ministry here.

Love in Christ,

John M. Schaff

## LADIES AID NEWS...

*We are still “on hold” for meetings and the rummage sale. Please watch for updates. We will keep you posted about August plans. As of now there will be no June or July regular meeting. Please keep saving your rummage items as you clean closets, basements, garages, etc. We are all anxious to get back together as soon as possible. We hope you are enjoying the correspondence and the goodies from the visiting committees. If you need anything or have any question, please call Shirley Zoellick.*

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

### MOBILE, ALABAMA

Trinity Lutheran School, modeled after the ministry of Rosa J. Young, has remained a stronghold of Christ centered education in a community dealing with inter-generational poverty and the challenges of urban living. Today Trinity serves 200 students from infants through fifth grade, and reaches another 45 students daily from four public schools through its afterschool program and Good News Bible Club. Daily prayer, chapel, and devotions help children, many from unchurched homes, develop spiritually in knowing God loves them. Grant funds are needed to purchase a handicapped accessible church bus for school children, elders, neighbors, and church members to participate in church-school ministries.

The present vans are over 15 years old and difficult for the elderly and children to safely board and ride. A Mission Grant of \$58,000 has been pledged to this school.

**Has your Mite box been neglected lately?** Perhaps it is overflowing, due to no Ladies Aid meetings. Please bring your Mites to church on June 7 or 14th, and deposit in our large Mite box. SID LWML Mites are due by the end of June, to meet fiscal year end giving.

We all have something to be thankful for at this time. Can't get your Mites to church? Just call the office at church and they will pass along the message to someone in Ladies Aid. We can stop by and pick it up.  
**Thank you for your generous giving to the Lord.**

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to my Church family for their prayers, comforting words, and kind acts during Jim's extended illness and his recent passing to our glorious Lord. The many cards received were appreciated. I felt comforted in your love.

Toni Kull and Family

## June Birthdays

If your birthday is not on the list, we apologize. Please let the church office know so we may correct it.

01	June Bierbaum	09	Michelle Ashby-Costello Mason Miller	21	Brian Niehaus Megan Stewart Melissa Vath
02	Kyra Hallemann Lana Hughes Caleb Brakenhoff	11	Michael Justison	22	Paige Lucykow
03	Roger Davis, Jr. Marilyn Niehaus	12	Dean Schmidt Diane Wilson	23	Warren Wolfe
04	Kevin Doss Audrey Orf Perry Barcum	13	Yvette Allen Donald Volentine	24	Brenda Bryant Camryn Dambacher Marylin Harbison Abi Morris
05	Kyle Blum Helen Harbison Carl Niemeyer David Suhrenbrock Hayley Viseur	14	Kyle Harmon	25	Ethan Davis Joel Jubelt Sondra Brakenhoff
06	Tyler Klump Eleanor Maguire	16	Jonah Harkins	26	Mason Steffens
08	Spencer Hughes Bob Reynolds Sydney Neese	17	Nathan Bown Grant Buske Hadley Clementz Sue Miller	27	Kylie Kruse Joe McNeal
		18	David Allen Rodger Best Kim Pence Jamie Wolff	28	Danni Riemann
		19	David Carter James Gordon	29	Carter Casey Nicholas Pastrovich Michelle Wernsing
		20	Roger Davis Sr. Jay Niemann Charles Pezold	30	Jacob Frerichs

## July Birthdays

02	Avery Barcum	11	Susan Gartner Andrea Gordon Doug Martin McKenzie Wessthoff	21	Thomas Brakenhoff Kimberly Monke Jean Salzman
03	Jace Fuchs Brian Niemann Camden Todt Lyndsy Winstead	12	Cheryl Frerichs Kimberly Stinnett Mary Westhoff	22	Rachel Helgen Joyce Williams Barbara Grosenheimer
05	Matthew Rovey	13	Doris Cunningham Leanne Kruse Henry Webb Meg Werten	23	Earl Schmidt Kimberly Severin
07	Timberleigh Everett Robert Hernsmeyer Angela Johnson Edward Purdy	14	Shirley Helgen	24	Kaden Brown Karen Webb Ryder Werten James Wreath
08	Nancy Black Shirley Zoellick	15	Xavier Mueller Karen Presnell Larry Simmons	25	Shelley Bergman
09	Amanda Gerdes Korbin Johnson	17	Ethan Neese	26	Brad Saxby
10	Kenneth Knutson	20	Hope Brakenhoff	27	Jackson Niehaus
				29	Mariana Pence
				30	Jack Butcher
				31	Steven Dougherty
					Piper Logsdon
					Diane Grosenheimer
					Carol Schmidt
					Katherine White

*Zion Lutheran Church & School*  
*1301 N. State Street*

*Litchfield, IL 62056*

Rev. Fred Kraemer, Pastor

Address Service Requested

*June & July, 2020 Newsletter*