

ONWARD in Faith

Zion Lutheran Church & School

“For it is in giving that we receive”

- Francis of Assisi

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We continue to move “ONWARD IN FAITH” as we enter the “Inspire” phase of our campaign. Excitement is surrounding us during the month of May. Special Bible studies, prayer events, and inspirational sermon messages will fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving. It is during the “Inspire” phase that we ask you to prayerfully consider making a financial commitment.

We are thankful to have expert guidance from LCEF. Our dedicated committee members from Zion who assist us in many ways behind the scenes are a true blessing. This campaign would not be running as smoothly without our amazing team of volunteers. Most of all, we have been truly blessed by God and with His guidance are confident about moving “ONWARD IN FAITH”.

- Susie Gartner and Nancy Hyam, Campaign Directors



Picture of new building addition

Zion Lutheran School is a tremendous educational and cultural asset to the community of Litchfield. I attended Zion Lutheran from Kindergarten through 8th Grade, and each year I grew significantly in my knowledge of both religious and secular subjects. I can confidently state that my spiritual and academic foundation would not be nearly as strong had it not been for the instruction I received during my time at Zion Lutheran. This foundation allowed me to succeed in my scholarly pursuits.

It was my impression during my years in high school that Zion Lutheran consistently graduates students that are better prepared for high school and beyond than its public school counterparts. Its talented teachers strive to tailor their instructional techniques to the needs of each student, and the school has systems in place to ensure that all students are meaningfully challenged, regardless of their academic talent. I believe that this culture of excellence is what has drawn more families to choose Zion Lutheran over the years. Indeed, I find great joy in knowing that more students have access to the same valuable experience that I had at Zion.

- David York, Class of 2010

There are few places that we truly feel at home. I'm proud to call the halls of Zion one of those places. No matter where I've lived or what I've been doing, coming back to Zion always feels familiar and welcoming.

Who I am today was shaped greatly during my time as a student through the influence of Zion's teachers, pastors, staff, and coaches. They taught compassion, pride in your work, and service to God and our fellow man. I aspire today to pass those values on to others.

I'm excited about the capital campaign and the opportunity to be a part of keeping Zion's mission of making disciples strong and growing for students still to come.

How does the old Beach Boys song go! "Rah, rah, rah! Be true to your school?" As a Zion grad, I've found that easy to do! Whether it was as a member of a Zion basketball team, as a high school student, or as a professional, I've always been proud to represent Zion.

- Ben Cordani, Class of 1988

I have been going to Zion Lutheran Church and School for as long as I can remember. It has been a huge blessing to be able to watch this school grow as much as it has over the years. I remember when we had around 100 students, and now we have 163. WOW!

Every teacher at Zion has shaped me in amazing ways. I was truly blessed with each and every one of them. Who could've imagined it? Expanding? It's crazy, awesome, and amazing! I love this church and school of mine so much, and I couldn't imagine a life without it!

- Julia Brandtner, Class of 2016

Commitment Celebration Dinner to be held on Sunday, June 4



You've heard the information. You've seen the plans and you know something big is about to happen. You might be wondering "What's the next step?" On June 4, there will be a commitment celebration dinner at Zion at noon. The catered dinner is open to anyone who is interested in coming and taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in this miraculous project.

Below is a sample copy of the commitment card that will be mailed out prior to the dinner. It allows for many different payment schedules so you can contribute over the three years in the way that best fits you. It is our hope that seeing the card in advance will raise your comfort level in making a prayerful decision to proceed in making your pledge.

There is no charge to attend the celebration dinner however we do need your RSVP to plan the event. Please RSVP by May 26 by emailing Bobbe Albers, balbers@zionlutheranlitchfield.com or calling the church office, 217-324-3166

 <p>MY COMMITMENT</p> <p>As a child of a generous God, I/we commit in His name for the "Onward in Faith" campaign, a three (3) year total of \$_____</p> <p>This total to be given:</p> <p>\$_____ initially or one-time gift</p> <p>\$_____ weekly for 156 weeks</p> <p>\$_____ monthly for 36 months</p> <p>\$_____ annually</p>	 <p>Three (3) Year Total \$ _____</p> <p>This total to be given:</p> <p>\$_____ initially or one-time gift</p> <p>\$_____ weekly for 156 weeks</p> <p>\$_____ monthly for 36 months</p> <p>\$_____ annually for 3 years</p>	<p><i>Commitment Card</i></p> <p>I will step "Onward in Faith". I/we prayerfully commit this amount over and above my/our regular offerings.</p>  <p>NAME(S): _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>SIGNATURE: _____</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; opacity: 0.5; transform: rotate(-15deg); position: absolute; top: 50px; left: 50px;">Sample</p>
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“God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or can imagine”

Ephesians 3:20-21

What Stewardship Means to Me...

To me, stewardship means not only giving of my treasures, but also giving of my time and talents in service to Him.

Many times throughout my lifetime, I have thought of my Confirmation verse. God certainly had a plan for me as the passage chosen for me was 2 Corinthians 5:15; "He died for all that those who live should not live for themselves, but live for Him who died for them and rose again."

Through the years as doors were opened for Lorman and for me, we were ready to accept the opportunity to serve in our church and community. To God be the glory for all the blessings He gives us!

What a privilege it is, as stewards of His gifts, to walk together as we go "ONWARD IN FAITH" at Zion.

- Dorothy Mansholt

See Who's Moving Onward

Calling All Alumni!

We are still looking for contact information for Zion alumni. If you know any alumni that may not already be on our list, please forward their information to jbergen33@hotmail.com

Thank you!

National Prayer Day—May 4

God invites us through Holy Scripture to "pray without ceasing." (1 Thesalonians 5:17) As we continue in our Onward in Faith campaign, we are gathering prayer requests to be prayed for by those who come to the church on May 4th for the National Day of Prayer. The church will be open for anyone to stop in and spend time in prayer from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., with a special emphasis on prayers for the Onward in Faith work from 3:00-6:00 p.m. May God hear the prayers we lift to Him!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"
1 Peter 4:10



Could you lend a hand?

The RSVP team could use additional support. If you would be willing to help us reach out to others to make sure that everyone is included in campaign events, please let Bobbe Albers know.

balbers@zionlutheranlitchfield.com

Children's Emphasis Team

A fundraiser contest is being planned following Easter break. The goal will be to have the LEAST amount of money in your classroom container. In order to do this, students will put money in other classroom containers to sabotage them! The winning classroom will earn a field trip (details to come)! There is also a fundraising idea in place for the school children in the 2017-2018 year.

Lead Gifts/Initial Commitments/Friends of the Congregation

We are excited and pleased to announce that our committees are planning to begin the pledge process during the first few weeks of May. Our goal is to have some significant initial commitments to encourage all members and friends of the congregation to support the campaign. We look forward to the Commitment Celebration Dinner on Sunday, June 4th at Zion.

For most of us, this is a "once in a lifetime opportunity" to make a sacrificial gift for a project at Zion that will greatly assist us in continuing our mission! Please pray for the success of the ONWARD IN FAITH campaign and building project.

Follow us Online @
ZionLutheranLitchfield.com

[Facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurchLitchfield](https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurchLitchfield)

Principal's Message



Twenty years ago I had no idea what impact Zion Lutheran Church and School would have on my family. Long before the Lord called me to Zion, the members of our church planned for a new school building. My children and hundreds of others, enjoyed, benefited, and were blessed by those plans. Looking back, I praise the Lord for the foresight that he gave the members of Zion to build a new school and gym. "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18. We praise God as we continue to carry out the purpose of our church and school and to teach and preach the truth of God's Word.

As we go ONWARD IN FAITH, we pray that the Lord will lead us to have the foresight to prepare, plan, and be a blessing to the children and parents in the future. The needs of our Early Childhood Center have been increasing over the years. With preschool plus, daycare, and larger classes, we are running out of space to accommodate all of the children. The Early Childhood Center is not handicapped accessible or energy efficient, and it lacks adequate bathroom and classroom space.

"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11. As we plan and pray about this project, please consider supporting the plans for a new addition. The foundation you put down and the impact of that will affect generations of families whose children are not yet born.

- John M. Schaff

Meet the Pastor



Pastor Fred Kraemer

Pastor Fred has served as the pastor for Zion Lutheran Church since January 2015. He came to Zion after serving at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Collinsville, IL.

Pastor Fred was raised on a farm in northern Wisconsin. While serving at Holy Cross, he met his wife Anita and her daughter Erin while making calls on those who visited the church. Ultimately, they were married the day before his birthday in 2001, the best gift he ever got!

Alongside his wife, Pastor loves the outdoors, woods, mountains, and most things near the water. For a long time, Erin thought the only place they could vacation was at Disney, so they have had many happy trips there in the past 15 years.

When they met, Anita and Fred both had a dog so their family has always included furry ones. Erin loved cats, so the family has grown through the years to include 4 cats and three small dogs, all spoiled!

After the next school year, Anita plans to retire from being a school psychologist. In the meantime, they commute between Collinsville and Litchfield, using the parsonage frequently and looking for a permanent home. Erin is living in Florida so when time allows, most trips are down south rather than up north to the snow he loves so much.

Pastor and Anita are glad to see Zion growing and flourishing with God's blessings. The dogs love it here and someday they plan to settle in Litchfield permanently.