



Looking Up | Reaching Out

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

# *Harbinger*

**SEPTEMBER 2010**  
**Volume 142 Number 9**

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Zion Lutheran Church  
2122 Bronson Blvd.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
Telephone: 269-382-2360  
Email: [zion@zionkazoo.org](mailto:zion@zionkazoo.org)  
[www.zionkazoo.org](http://www.zionkazoo.org)

### **Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am?**

Lutherans are an interesting breed. We know what we believe, but are often uncomfortable talking about it. Can you imagine how few Christians there would be if early disciples had not simply shared "who" they were, and "why?" (And that was before printed Bibles and Luther's Small Catechisms! And yet, somehow the Church grew!) Just as Jesus' greatest impacts were his "personal touch," so it has always been for the Church. The Gospel is shared as we reach out and "touch" others with His "Good News." It's easy to hide behind 'lack of training' or 'limited experience' but did anyone have to train you how to share the joy of being a parent? Or how to be excited on Christmas morning? We are all great at telling others (through actions, expressions, music and even words.) So, what is there to fear? If Jesus has touched our lives (and He has) are we not called by Him to "touch" other lives? "*God so loved the world that he sent His only Son..*" (you have heard that verse, right?)

Well, his love is so great that now He sends YOU (because you carry the life of His Son in your heart and soul and mind?) *So let the Son SHINE?* In Matthew 28, Jesus' first command to his disciples as he was leaving them on their own was, "GO"! And they did. Some wrote Gospels. Some wrote hymns. Some visited lepers and dying folk. Some built hospitals. Some took kids to Sunday School and invited neighbors who had no church home. Christianity is not a "head" faith (simply knowledge)...it is a heart and soul and spirit faith! It is alive and growing and can't wait to explode with the power of Easter's empty tomb. Remember the angels' first words at the tomb? "Don't be afraid;" So don't! God will help you share! The more you participate in worship, Bible study, and being comfortable in your own "skin of faith," the more natural it will be to "be who you are." Just keep God first, be yourself, and others will be touched by His Light and Love through you!

Blessings! Pastor Tim

## **WELCOME TO ZION CLASS**

**Begins Sunday, September 19 at 9:15am**

The class will run through the end of October. This is an opportunity for visitors and new members to review our faith basics, as well as explore the how and whys of worship, mission, and ministry here at Zion.

This is a wonderful opportunity for neighbors or friends, who have no "church home!" Tell them about this class, invite them to attend and tell them you will come with them! Call the church office or Pastor Seeber if you have any questions or need more information.

## **ADULT FAITH and LIFE**

**Begins Sunday, September 12**

**Meets in Blends on Sundays at 9:15am**

A variety of classes will be offered for adults, with an emphasis on fellowship, discussion and growing in our daily faith. Join us!

## **FOR PARENTS ONLY (and especially!)**

**Weekly Sunday Parent Support**

**Begins Sunday, September 19**

**9:15am in the Gathering Space**

A reminder that this class is for parents of infants through high school age children. It meets during the Sunday School hour in the Gathering Place by the sanctuary.

## **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS**

**Begins Tuesday, September 14 at 10am**

Pastor Brelje leads this class and it will continue where last year's class left off. This is a time of fellowship and great Bible study every week. This is a great place for those free at this time of the day to come and gather around God's Word. We meet for an hour, beginning with some song, a lot of laughs, and interesting discussions.

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

**Begins September 8 at 6:15pm.**

**"The Gospel of Matthew"** (Wed. at 6:15pm) will be led by Pastor Seeber. Beginning in Advent, all of our Sunday Gospel readings will be from the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew is the Gospel written primarily to a Jewish audience and has many of the same parables and stories as Luke, but with a slightly different perspective, because he was thinking of a different audience. For instance, where Mary was the main character of Luke's Christmas announcement, Joseph is the main character in Matthew.

This is a great time to dig deeper into the Good News as told through the eyes of Matthew. Join us!

## **MENS SATURDAY SMALL GROUP**

**Begins Saturday, September 11 at 8am**

A first reaction to coming to Zion at 8am on Saturdays might not involve a pleasant response, BUT the guys who have made this part of their routine would beg to differ.

Each week we use a question or thought from the Epistle reading for that week as a starting point, and the conversation goes from there. This has been a very special time of figuring out how faith does or doesn't impact daily living, and doing so in a very supportive and encouraging environment. We meet for one hour and this gives you a great start to your weekend.

Hope to see you this fall. Please call Pastor Tim if you have any questions about this class.



Please reserve  
Sunday morning,  
September 12th  
for our kickoff to  
our educational  
programs for  
all ages!

## Thank you, God!

Dear Zion Family:

Many thanks for your caring thoughts and prayers after Jim's accident and during his recovery. The comfort and strength of your prayers has been a great blessing. I am reminded of Dueteronomy 33:24, "The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Jim and Lynn Roe

## Marriage Enrichment

Begin planning now for an autumn retreat with your spouse at the Bethel Park Retreat Center in Bridgman, Michigan! Our southwest Michigan Marriage Encounter Community will be hosting an Encounter Weekend from October 15-17, 2010 at this beautiful Lake Michigan facility. Please check out their website at [BPrettreat.org](http://BPrettreat.org) for their mission story and more information about the camp. If you love the great outdoors you will love Bethel Park for its' rustic yet fully-equipped lodgings. We encourage you to take this opportunity to grow closer to your spouse and enrich your relationship. We suggest you book early as rooms are not guaranteed unless registration is received four weeks in advance of the weekend date. For questions call Pete and Chris Wilkins 381-6324 or e-mail at [alGal369@aol.com](mailto:alGal369@aol.com). To register contact Fred & Barb Roush, 517-852-0119 or e-mail them at [barb426.rousch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barb426.rousch@sbcglobal.net).

## You are Needed!!!

Do you know that YOU made the great success of Zion's first Grateful Hearts, Thankful Hands Bazaar last year possible? And we need YOU to make this year's even better! What can you do to contribute? Any of the following – all are important tasks:

### 1) Contribute your time:

If you haven't started making items, now is the time to start and let us know what you are making. If you need help with the cost of materials we have funds available..

Volunteer to work during the Bazaar on Nov 13.

Watch for sign-up sheets, but save the date now so you'll be available. Men are also needed as are older teens.

Bake, bake and bake! Food items sold well last year so we need plenty available this year.

### 2) Donate materials and supplies, the following are still needed:

Wide-mouth canning jars: pint and quart sizes.

Canning lids.

Glass pie plates, loaf pans, plates of any size

Glass serving platters

Nice cloth napkins

Christmas lights

American Girl Doll books (like new)

Baby rattles or Crib toys in excellent condition

Children's books, toys and puzzles in excellent condition

Small buttons, any color

Scrabble Tiles or old Typewriter Keys

Silver Forks and Spoons

Silk Scarves

Wine Corks

Attic Treasures, especially those NOT related to Christmas

### 3) Pray for the success of the Bazaar:

The Grateful Hands Thankful Hearts Bazaar is an outreach ministry. It's goal is to reach out and enfold all members of Zion (young and old) and provide another way to encourage people within the community to come to Zion. The financial gain from this Bazaar will be split in the following manner: 15% of the profit to Zion's Brail Ministry; 15% to Kalamazoo's Ministry with Community; and the remaining 70% will be given to the LURO campaign to help reduce the debt remaining on our recent building expansion/renovation.

## Faith and Life: PRAYER

When do you pray? Why do you pray? How do you pray? Is prayer easy or difficult? Are you comfortable in prayer or does it feel forced and stiff? Do you always pray the same prayer or is prayer more spontaneous and relaxed? How does prayer work for you?



Last week I saw a sign in front of a church that said: "Pray Until Something Happens." Now that could mean a lot of things, but I hope people don't think prayer is a time to manipulate God and if we get what we want, then we can stop. On the contrary, prayer is all about being IN a relationship with God. It is talking AND listening. *We pray not to get God's attention but so God has ours!* We pray because something has happened, that started at creation, was highlighted on Easter, and will happen for an eternity.

*What prayer changes is that it moves the focus away from me and celebrates God's grace, even for me!* When Jesus taught his disciples HOW to pray he said begin with this word, "Father!" (In Aramaic the word means "daddy.") How powerful to go to God as a child goes to a loving parent. From the beginning, Jesus taught that prayer is a loving relationship with a God who has created, who cares, who embraces, who listens, and who responds out of his mercy and grace.

Prayer is our link to God. It is our way of sharing and being shared with. It is our way of knowing that we are heard and taking time to remember to listen. Prayer breaks our normal routine and rhythms and brings us into a new place where there is a presence different than anywhere else in our lives.

*Prayer is not magic words, that guarantee any gift we want. Instead prayer is about "relationship" words that remind us God gives more than we need or deserve. God is present, and so we listen! Prayer is all about*

a relationship of love, and so the exact words and format aren't as important as the love that keeps us one with a loving God.

In a powerful book on prayer, Richard Foster wrote, "*Satan's greatest efforts to derail our communication with God are noise, hurry, and crowds.*" (Think about that.) Living is full of distraction and distortion. Like the "bait and switch" advertising ploys, Satan loves to surround us with stuff that seeks to separate us from God. (No different than the forbidden fruit in the garden that Satan made look so tasty!) Prayer breaks us out of Satan's playground and carries us across that fence into God's garden of faith, hope, and love.

Because God is always in relationship with us, we should be anxious and willing to embrace and remember that presence and power! What better way than prayer? The words aren't as important as the willingness to listen. The time and place aren't as important as the Spirit's blessing of this special time.

In prayer we are connected with the same love and filled with the same power that rolled Easter's stone from the tomb. When Jesus said, "Ask! Seek! Knock!" He was reminding us that in prayer we are going to the right place, that God has all the answers, and that prayer opens doors that we (not God) have closed. Prayer isn't a magic wand or a winning lottery ticket that insures we can have anything we want but reminds us that God has already given us everything we need! With forgiveness, faith and eternal life in our pocket, it certainly helps with every other question, concern, and need!

And so prayer is about changing our attitude. It is less about talking, and more about listening. It brings us face to face with the power of creation and the love of an empty tomb. When you don't know what else to do — pray. And when you do know what to do — pray. It is all about remembering "whose" you are and embracing the love that will never let you go!

Pastor Seeber

## Hilltop Preschool

We will be getting back in the groove of things when school starts the day after Labor Day when we will welcome new and returning students. We are also happy to welcome aboard two new staff members: Gail Lager, our new director and Young 5s teacher, and Dawn Fierke, our new teacher aide.

Gail has been married to her husband Matt for 17 years and has two daughters – Maggie, age 11, and Bella, age 8. She and her family live in the Westnedge Hill neighborhood in Kalamazoo. She has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with emphasis in creative arts and science. She has worked with children for the past 15 years in many different capacities: teaching English in Japan, as a preschool director/teacher, a reading paraprofessional for elementary children, a before and after school program supervisor, summer camp director/counselor and as a mother of her own daughters. Gail is an active member at Trinity Lutheran downtown.

Dawn Fierke is recently married to Charles Fierke and are both members of Zion. They currently live in Portage with their three children: Allison 13, David 11, and Drew 7. Dawn attended Concordia University where she received her Lutheran Elementary degree. After graduation, she taught second and third grades for four years at River Roads Lutheran School in St Louis. She returned to Zion in 2006.

We had a great turn out at the Bug Blastoff at the end of August. It was a great opportunity for staff and Hilltop families to enjoy a grilled hot dog meal and let students explore the preschool and get to know their teachers and classmates. You are probably not aware of this, but even before the Bug Blastoff preschool teachers go the extra mile each summer by visiting the homes of students in order to get acquainted with them and their families. This is the first step in creating a family atmosphere at the preschool.

It's not too late to sign up for preschool. If you have family or friends who may be interested, pass along our phone number and website: [www.hilltoppreschool.org](http://www.hilltoppreschool.org).

April Alexopoulos, Administrative Assistant

preschool registration



## If You Wish to Help...

Marti Nuyen's brother, Brian Metcalf, is part of a U.S. Military detachment in Afghanistan. He would appreciate Care Packages for the troops in his unit. The following items would be helpful (or you might be creative):

baby/foot powder	deodorant
toothpaste	tooth brush
dental floss	white tube socks
chapstick	mouthwash
body wash	hard candy
sunflower seeds	breakfast bars
trail mix	beef jerky
frisbees	ball glove
Christmas ornaments	

The church office has a more extensive list of acceptable items should you wish further ideas. ALL toiletries MUST be unscented! ALL food items MUST be individually wrapped in plastic containers or cans that cannot be crushed. The post office has special "one price" boxes for military APO addresses. The following is Brian's address for shipments:

LTG Brian Metcalf  
46 Military Police Command  
TF Peacekeeper  
Bagram Airfield  
APO AE 09354

If anyone is interested, Brian's unit also has a need for larger items like blankets and sheets, but these would require larger boxes and cost more to ship parcel post. You may visit the United States Post Office website at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) for more information on shipping packages to the military. If you have questions, call the church office.

### The Work of His Hands

Every view from the window of the Space Station contains countless vivid lessons about the meticulous goodness of divine providence, God's care for His creation, and His wisdom in ordering the universe. Colonel Jeffrey N. Williams has had the privilege of studying earth from heaven's perspective. If you would like to order this book, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. If we get at least 5 orders the price will be \$17.39, if not it will be \$19.99, plus shipping.



### **Zion's Annual Golf Outing**

Is on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 2pm at Eastern Hills Golf Course. It will be a nine hole scramble with pizza and beverages afterward. Please find more information on the sign-up sheet in the hall outside of the church office.

### **Endowment Ministry**

The following grant applications have been endorsed by the Board of Directors for payment: Capital Campaign 10% First Fruits Pledge \$16,400; Christian Estate Planning Luncheon and Seminar \$500; LWR Maintenance & Supplies #3 \$290 for a total \$17,190. Additional budget of over \$35,000 is available for outreach ministries, church worker and music scholarships, church music concerts and recitals, and new ministries that have no budget support. Grant applications are available from the church office.

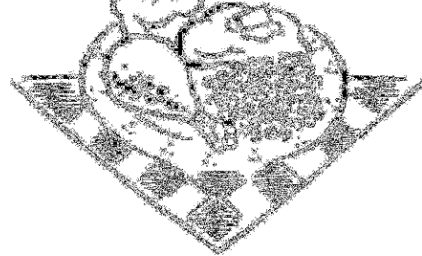
### **CEF Luncheon/Seminar**

Between 70 and 80 percent of Americans who die every year have not prepared a valid Last Will and Testament. This statistic is especially astounding since state and federal laws provide significant incentives for the preparation of a will. Incentives that are designed to make it easy for personal wishes to be known that deal with child custody, property distribution, and a legacy of values. A carefully planned will can minimize costs related to the settling of an estate.

Join Bill Burmeister, Michigan District Gift Planning Counselor, on Sunday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> after the late service for a luncheon/seminar. He will discuss the importance of writing a will and how to get started. Learn how to witness through your own Last Will and Testament, so your children and grandchildren will inherit the blessings of your good judgment.

Babysitting will be available for families. For more information, contact Rollie Preuss at 269-553-3385.

### **Mid Week Dinners**



**Begin again on  
Wednesday, September 8**

**Serving starts at 5:15 pm**

**See you in the Gathering Place!**

### **Funeral Lunches**

This is a special ministry that has been carried out faithfully for many years to help with food and fellowship immediately after a funeral at Zion. If the family wishes to have a luncheon, the Pastor or church office notifies us of the day and time of the funeral. We then talk to the family and explain our services, procedures and the menu.

The family is responsible for the cost of any food purchased and may also make a donation to World Relief Sewing in appreciation of this service. We have a calling committee and call a list of people willing to donate food or to help with preparing the lunch. We set up, prepare the lunch, serve and clean up afterward. We try to make it as pleasant and reaching fellowship as possible.

We welcome anyone interested in becoming involved in the Funeral Luncheon Ministry. If you would like to be called to help serve or donate food occasionally, please leave your name with the church office. Please contact Leona Van Antwerp at 327-1798 if you have any questions.

### **Changes**

If you have address and/or telephone changes, please let the church office know so we can update our records. Thank you.

## **Worship Help for Parents and Children**

(It is OK for everyone else to read too!)

### **“The Lessons and the Sermon”**

#### For Dads and Moms and Other Adults:

The Bible is a book, full of words. And those words are God's way of talking with us about how He created, how He loves, and how He seeks to bring us into a daily and eternal relationship with him. Now, words are easier for some than others, but God's Words for us are the most detailed way he has given to give us a starting place.

When we talk about the Bible being “The Word” we must be careful. For the Bible proclaims the living Word which is Christ Jesus, but the Bible is not God. We must always be clear that we worship the God of the Bible, not the book we call the Bible. We believe the Bible contains God's Word as He inspired holy people to put stories, teachings, and remembrances into writing. And so it is those words that become so important in our life of worship and faith.

The use of Holy Scripture is rooted in our Jewish roots. In Jesus' day a reading from the Law or Prophets, was followed by explanation of that text by rabbi (or “teacher”). This pattern continues in the Christian Church. In the proclamation of the “Word” we are touched by God just as surely as in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This is a cornerstone of our worship.

Each week we read from the Old Testament, an Epistle, and the Gospel. Until 1973 we used a 1 year lectionary. There is now a 3 year series of readings for Sundays & festivals designated as “A,B,C.” Series A Gospels from Matthew, B from Mark, and C from Luke, John is included within each series. This year we are using Series C. The three readings are chosen to reflect the same theme. They are based on the season of the church year, and speak to needs of all times. The Sermon is usually based on the readings of the day. In the sermon, the Preacher is challenged with

the task of seeking to help the listeners to see the relevance and practical use of God's teachings and love in our daily lives. It seeks to help “open the text” so that it is relevant and useful for us in our lives of faith. Whether we read the scriptures or talk about them in a sermon, our prayer is that the one proclaiming God's Word will be open to the Holy Spirit's guidance (just as those who listen, should have the same prayer).

#### For Parents with Younger Children

Too many words can confuse. And attention spans can be short (for children too)! Just as adults do better reading and hearing when they have some familiarity with the text (i.e. Bible study)! so children do better with words they understand and questions they want to ask. Our children's bulletins seek to help the children find a theme or two that the readings might convey. They might not seem to be listening, but the bulletin (as does Sunday School) helps reinforce many of the concepts they hear.

We are always looking for ideas from parents for what we can do to help. Parents should never assume their children aren't hearing — and asking questions afterward will help you to answer questions or make applications on their level. When you hear something in a text or sermon that might apply in your own family life — jot a note down and use that to begin a conversation in the car or around the dinner table. The bags with crayons, books, and even puppets aren't simply to keep kids busy ... they often will act out what they are hearing or draw something that reflects what they are hearing. God's Word is never wasted, it is just that sometimes we get in its way. Sunday School helps parents to begin a lifelong growth in being changed by God's Words. The living Word is Jesus, and God's Word from Scripture helps bring Jesus' love and practical call into our lives.

Blessings! Pastor Tim

## Zion's Table Update

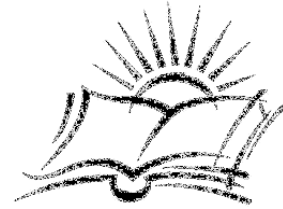
Thank you to everyone who donated the delicious baked goods and canned goods last year for our bazaar.

We had such a tremendous response in our Blend's Room Snack area, that we will continue this outreach. It was a perfectly cozy area to reach out to the community with our small decorated tables, comfortable seating, music, lights, drinks and baked goods. This year we will have coffee, hot mulled cider, various baked goods, sloppy joes, chips, pickles, and soda pop for our visitors to purchase.

Ideas for Creative Packaging of Baked Goods:

- For candies and cookies, use cellophane bags tied with a ribbon. Single servings can be sold in our Blend's Room Snack area.
- Little boxes are perfect for cookies, fudge, or candies.
- **LABEL** all baked goods with a tag or colorful sticky note.
- Cookies by the dozen can be placed on a plastic plate and covered with Saran wrap or cellophane and tied up with a ribbon.
- Breads should be wrapped in cellophane or Saran wrap.
- One can also include the recipe on a cute card to tie to the treat as an added value.
- Pies should be covered with Saran wrap or cellophane and labeled.
- Cakes should be on a sturdy plate. A place card can be put in front of the cake to tell what kind it is.
- To figure out how much we should charge for the goodies, total the cost to make it and double it. This would help me soooo very much. We have price tags available.
- Super size it! Jumbo or "Texas"-sized treats are big sellers. Two large cookies or a large muffin in a bag would be super.
- Tie a blank gift tag to each package so the buyer can easily leave it for a friend or loved one.

If you can help me with cooking the sloppy joes, serving, set-up, selling, baking, decorating the tables with a Christmas or fall arrangement, or clean-up, please call me. Dee Wentzel at 269-731-5540. Thank you!!!



## Church Library News

Please note the library 2010 annual report in the window. The following books were donated:

*Power Prayers for Women: Prayer Starters for 21*  
*Ares of Life*, by Jackie Johnson  
*The Crossroad* and *The Postcard*, by Beverly Lewis

*Amazing Questions Kids Ask About Heaven and Angels* and *Three Hundred Sixty-five Days of Good Clean Humor*, by Daryl J. Lucas

Thanks to all of you who so graciously responded to Corrine's calls to please return books. One Veggie tales had been out since 2001 and returned in excellent condition! My personal thanks to Sue Ann who makes by library column look so inviting month after month. This is the month to return to some serious reading. C'mon now, let's get into those books the Freeby's gave us to learn about Martin Luther. One is about his table talks, another lets you know "where he stands" and many deal with his actual works. And you don't even need a library card to take one home and peruse it in your favorite reading corner.

Bags for the Pews will soon be stuffed with literally all new books to use and lots of creative new finger puppets from Abigail and Roxanne Seeber.

Are you aware that the library has all of Paul Maier's books and DVDs? The Horensky's provided many of these. Get ready for the March "seminar" before the holiday rush is upon us. REMEMBER TO ASK FOR STAMPS when shopping at Christian Family Bookstores.

Pat Kasdorf, 685-8404

## Zion Women's Book Club

The book for September is *Plainsong*, by K. Haruf. Please join us on Monday, September 27 at 7pm at Zion for discussion.

## FOR PARENTS ONLY (and especially!)

### Weekly Sunday Parent Support 9:15am in the Gathering Space

We have an exciting year planned for Sunday School, and we continue to be blessed by the leadership of Kim Licavoli in planning an outstanding program for this fall!

Our middle and high school classes and youth groups also have a great year planned. Ellie Hayward and Janis Dinda are taking the lead for Middle School and Pastor Mark is doing the same for High School.

At Baptism, you made a commitment to our loving God to bring your children to worship, help them grow in faith, and teach them to pray and live as a child of God. Much of what we do as a congregation seeks to help you in that joyful journey.

It is difficult when we take a baby home from the hospital to realize that our most important task as a parent is to prepare them for the day when they will be "on their own," but that is what parenting is all about. For the Christian parent, our faith colors much of how we do that and informs why this is such a privilege to share.

This fall (beginning September 19) we are offering a new, **"Parent Gathering" during the Sunday School hour.** Whether you have one child or five, whether they are in high school or just an infant, you are invited to help us in our mutual support of each other.

Each week at 9:15 (while the kids are in Sunday School) we will meet in the Gathering Place by the Sanctuary. I will share a few brief thoughts about the lesson that is being

used in Sunday School that day, and the rest of the time will be spent in conversation about that theme and how you and your kids might carry that theme through the week.

I am certain this will become a very relaxed and helpful place for our parents to meet each week. At the same time you will find a great resource and support group for finding babysitters, new friends, and advice from others who have similar experiences.

Another powerful gift of this gathering will be that you can help me to better understand how Zion can serve and meet your needs as young adults and as parents. I will help start each parent gathering, but you all will determine much of the agenda. For instance, if you wish to have speakers come in to talk about parenting, discuss topics such as devotions and prayer at home, or even how to plan for college we can do that too. This is your time and it must serve your needs. My goal is to help tie faith to the reality of your daily life at home.

You have the special call of being faithful as parents. You are also the next generation of Zion's leadership. It will help you to spend time with others who are at the same stage of life's journey as you.

Most importantly, you are the first and most effective role model your children have! Your participation in worship and Sunday School, as well as the example you share every day, are the most important legacies you will leave your kids.

Times such as this will go a long way to helping you establish and support priorities for your life of faith, at home, at work, and here at Zion. See you soon!

Pastor Seeber

## Family Life Ministry

On Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 9:15am in Blends, there will be a special presentation on KPEP Mentoring Services and its faith-based collaborator, Center For Transformation (both non-profit charities). What does KPEP do? What are its "standards of excellence"? Resident programming? Resident Rules? Success Rate? Mentoring Services? How can I help? All these questions will be answered by Rollie Preuss, KPEP Outreach Director, along with an ex-KPEP resident who will discuss his transitional challenges from prison to becoming a productive citizen of the community.

Rollie Preuss, Outreach Director  
383-2204  
www.kpep.com

## Mom-to-Mom Sale

Hilltop Preschool will hold its first Mom-to-Mom sale Saturday, September 25 here at the church. Anyone interested in selling their used children's clothing, toys and accessories can participate. The cost of a table is \$15.00. We will also accept donated items for the Preschool to sell at its own table. Set up is Friday, September 24 and all donated items may be dropped off then. The sale is from 9:00am to 3:00pm and the cost of admission is only \$1.00! All proceeds from table and admission fees will go directly to benefit the Preschool. To volunteer, donate, participate or just ask a question, please call Jennifer Loy at 269-270-1939.

## College Students

If you would like to receive the Harbinger while away at school, please let the church office know your address.

## Completed Bazaar Items

Please drop off your completed items for the Grateful Hearts, Thankful Hands Bazaar at any time in the Workroom. There is a Sign-In sheet available near the box for you to record your crafts. Please enter your name, phone number, the quantity and type of item you are leaving and a suggested selling price if you have one in mind. We will need this information for planning and inventory purposes. If you left completed items before the sign in sheet was available, we would like you to fill out the form when you have time so we know who submitted the items. Please call Marti Nuyen 342-8714 or Sharon Preuss 553-3385 if you have questions.

## Fall Beautification



Our main jobs during the fall include the following:

- Trim shrubs/bushes and some trees
- Replace the A/C covers
- Clean the roofs and gutters
- Clean the grounds and the parking lot
- Check and replace exterior lights
- Rake leaves

Upcoming fall work dates are planned for:  
September 15, 22 and 29  
October 6 and 20  
November 3

**NOTE:** This schedule may need to be modified. The Sunday bulletin will announce any changes.



***If you are reading the Harbinger on the Zion website, please tell the office so we may take you off the paper mailing list!***

***Thank You!***

## Little Dresses for Africa

Zion has now donated more than 700 dresses to African Children in orphanages via Little Dresses for Africa. For many of these children, it is the only dress of a lifetime. We have been blessed with a third (and very productive!) seamstress and have been sending our nearly 20 dresses a week. We continue to need pillowcases, flat sheets and lengths of fabric. Check out your linen closets and your fabric stashes! Bring your donations to Zion and place them in the box labeled "Little Dresses for Africa" in the workroom.



We are looking for box sponsors to pay the \$8.00 to \$12.00 in postage (to the Detroit area). We will gladly accept your donations to assist with the postage costs. If you have a desire to actually accomplish the mailing on your own, we would be happy to provide you with our next full box to mail out! If you have questions or wish to help, please contact Roxanne Seeber at 327-0974 or at [roxanneseeber@yahoo.com](mailto:roxanneseeber@yahoo.com).

## Grateful Hands, Thankful Hearts Bazaar Contacts:

If you have questions concerning the upcoming Bazaar, the following is a list of people to contact:

- Attic Treasures; Book Nook: Sharon Preuss (553-3385), Linda Mayer (375-1241), Jayne Mayer (375-8342).
- Crafts: Kim DuBois (375-2858)
- Knit and Crochet: Jackie Dinda (679-5693), Janis Dinda (373-6958)
- Ornaments: Marti Nuyen (342-8714)
- Sewing: Laura Jenkins (353-3576)
- Gifts in a Jar: Nancy Dressler (381-8612)
- Zions Table (baked or canned goods), Dee Wenzel (731-5540)

## Adult Faith and Life

The Adult and Faith and Life class will be exploring the readings in new and different ways on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in Blends during the month of September. All are welcome to join the discussion!

## Stephen Ministry

A class on Stephen Ministry (*Walking Along Side of Someone in Crisis*) will start on Tuesday, October 5th. Please contact any of the following individuals if you are interested in this class: Sue Curtiss - 327-0285, Jil Larson - 685-6246, or Rollie Preuss - 553-3385

## 2 Corinthians 9:6

"Remember this: whoever sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." The Corinthians were a difficult congregation to say the least! After Paul's departure, they quickly fell back into their old habits. False teachers in their midst preached against Paul, challenged his authority and accused him of stealing funds collected for the impoverished believers in Jerusalem. So it was that Paul once again found himself writing to the church at Corinth - as well as to Greek Christians in nearby Macedonia. His response was both stern and loving. After denouncing those who bore false witness against him, Paul forgave them. He then reminded the Corinthians that "we are Christ's ambassadors" (5:2), and he encouraged them to be generous to others in every way.

Paul's words are just as meaningful today as they were in 55 A.D. We are indeed Christ's ambassadors, and with the help of the Church Extension Fund, we can sow wisely as well as generously furthering the work of Christ's ministry. For further investment opportunities and rates, call 800-242-3944 or log onto [www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org).

**Book Review: "The Clown in the Belfry: Writings on Faith and Fiction."**

By: Frederick Buechner. Harper Collins. 1992.

This is a series of short writings that describe the connections between faith and the words that explore faith. In this book, Buechner speaks about how other contemporary writers have inspired him and shares his own unique word plays to explore the power and peace that faith brings. If nothing else, this book can serve as a bibliography that can lead you to other writers that you may not have ever considered reading.

Buechner wonders why people write, and asks, "are novels such as mine a kind of whistling in the dark? I think so. To whistle in the dark is more than just to try to convince yourself that dark is not all there is. It is also to remind yourself that dark is not all there is or the end of all there is because even in the dark there is hope. Even in the dark you have the power to whistle, and sometimes that seems more than just your own power because it is powerful enough to hold the dark back. The tunes you whistle in the dark are the images you make of that hope, that power. In just the same way faith could be called a kind of whistling in the dark too, of course. The living out of faith. (p. 25)

Buechner reflects on how writing explores and intensifies faith. "Writing strikes me as *intravenous*. As you sit there only a few inches from the printed page, the words you read go directly into the bloodstream and go into it at full strength. More than the painting you see or the music you hear, the words you read become in the very act of reading them part of who you are ... If there is poison in the words, you are poisoned; if there is nourishment, you are nourished; if there is beauty, you are made a little more beautiful." (p. 76)

Buechner has a wonderful chapter titled, "Paul sends his love" in which he outlines the

message of the Letter to the Corinthians. In a very clear way he sets up the issues that were prominent at Corinth. He then writes, "The Church in Corinth and everywhere else for that matter was indeed ordinary men and women who spiritually speaking hadn't cut their first teeth yet." (p. 49) He explained that Paul was having to answer questions about what it meant to be people of faith to people who had never been to Sunday School and for the first time were hearing about a God who loved them.

He discusses 1 Corinthians 13, where Paul used the Greek word, *agape* (the servant love of Christ) which is contrasted with *eros* (an earthly, physical, self absorbed love.) "The power of *agape*—otherwise quite powerless — is perhaps nowhere better seen than in the tale of Beauty and the Beast, where Beauty does not love the Beast because he is beautiful but makes him beautiful by loving him. (p. 57)

Buechner retells the story of the Prodigal son as only he can do. He does so through the eyes of the prodigal son, as he finally comes home and sees his father. "As I might have guessed, the old man was waiting for me. I was as ready to crawl to him, say anything he wanted. He looked smaller than I remembered him. His coat didn't look warm enough. We ran the last length between us if you could call the way he did it running. I couldn't get a word out. My mouth was pushed crooked against his chest he held me so tight. I was blinded by whatever blinded me. I could still hear though. I could hear the thump of his old ticker through the skimpy coat. I could hear his voice break." (p. 133)

Why a book about writing, and words and stories? Buechner reminds us "Jesus didn't just tell stories. He himself is the story. Jesus is the Word made flesh, the truth narrated in bone and bowel, space and time." (p. 134)

— Pastor Seeber

## SEPTEMBER 2010 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	September 5	September 12 10:30am Late Service Begins	September 19	September 26
<b>Head Ushers 8am</b>	Angelo Waterlander	Walter Kohnke	Pete Fager	Fred Bierlein
<b>Head Ushers 10:30am</b>	<b>(10am)</b> Dan Buchtrup	Dan Curtiss	Ken Lundquist	Ted Maxson
<b>Greeters 8am</b>	Dave and Linda Mayer	Bob and Barbara Nutsch	George and Ellie Hayward	Kathy Pfeifer Bev Snow
<b>Greeters 10:30am</b>	<b>(10am)</b> Fred and Chris Sitkins	Lois Heuchert Sylvia Heuchert	Judy Dinda Shirley Rohrer	Charles & Cindy Krill
<b>Worship Assistants Saturday Night 5:30pm</b>	Cyndi Bremer	Lois Heuchert	Ted Maxson	Ted Maxson
<b>Worship Assistants 8am</b>	Jim Mayer Terry Nelson	Rich Rakow Cyndi Bremer John Buetow	Paul Fierke Dennis Dressler	George Geissel Terry Nelson Rich Rakow
<b>Worship Assistants 10:30am</b>	<b>(10am)</b> Dee Wentzel Chuck Wendling	Dan Buchtrup Brent Butler Janis Dinda	Lois Heuchert Jim Huberty	Mark Meyer Steve Nuyen Rollie Preuss
<b>Acolytes 8am</b>	Sarah Schierbeek Taylor Rosenthal	Sarah Sward Justin Thiede	Kaylie Butt Laine DeMorrow	Meredith Freeby Morgan Freeby
<b>Acolytes 10:30am</b>	<b>(10am)</b> Anna Griesbach Kody Tangeman	Lucy Tomer Ryan Tomer	Megan Doorlag Matthew Huberty	Anna Griesbach Catherine Holt
<b>Lectors 8am</b>	Dennis Dressler	Erin Hampshire	Carol Daenzer	Barbara Nutsch
<b>Lectors 10:30am</b>	<b>(10am)</b> Janis Dinda	Kathleen Jordan	Terry Nelson	Michelle Larason
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Larry and Jan Harding	Dave and Linda Mayer	<b>Needed</b>	<b>Needed</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Dee Wentzel Phyllis Huberty	Julie Griesbach Dee Wentzel	Dee Wentzel Phyllis Huberty	Dee Wentzel Laura VanderMeer
<b>Sound 8am &amp; 10:30am</b>	<b>(10am)</b> Nathan Holt	Neil Segerdahl	Nathan Holt	Neil Segerdahl

# SEPTEMBER 2010

			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8 Braille  12 Braille  7 Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>     <b>5:30</b> Communion Service
<b>5</b>  8 Communion Service  10 Communion Service	<b>6</b>  Labor Day  <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>7</b>    <b>6:30</b> Property  7 Bell Choir	<b>8</b>  <b>5:15</b> Dinner  <b>6:15</b> Confirmation <b>6:15</b> Sr. High Bible Class <b>6:15</b> BC - Matthew	<b>9</b> 8 Braille    7 Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>     <b>5:30</b> Communion Service
<b>12</b> Late Service Time Change  <i>Sunday School Rally Day</i>  8 Communion Service <b>9:15</b> SS/BC <b>10:30</b> Communion Service	<b>13</b>    12 Finance   7 Personnel Board	<b>14</b>  10 Bible Class    7 Stephen Ministry  7 Bell Choir	<b>15 Harbinger Articles Due</b>  8 World Relief Sewing <b>8:30</b> Fall Beautification  <b>5:15</b> Dinner <b>6:15</b> Confirmation <b>6:15</b> Sr. High Bible Class <b>6:15</b> BC - Matthew	<b>16</b> 8 Braille  12 Braille    7 Choir	<b>17</b>      <b>5:30</b> Wedding Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 8 Men's Group    3 Wedding Erica Blochard/Tyler Reynolds  <b>5:30</b> Communion Service
<b>19</b> 8 Communion Service 9 Sun. School Fellowship <b>9:15</b> SS/BC/Welcome to Zion <b>10:30</b> Communion Service 2 Zion's Golf	<b>20</b>      7 Board of Directors	<b>21</b> 10 Bible Class    7 Bell Choir	<b>22</b> <b>8:30</b> World Relief Sewing <b>8:30</b> Fall Beautification  <b>5:15</b> Dinner <b>6:15</b> Confirmation <b>6:15</b> Sr. High Bible Class <b>6:15</b> BC - Matthew	<b>23</b> 8 Braille     7 Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8 Men's Group   9-3 Hilltop Mom-to-Mom Sale  <b>5:30</b> Communion
<b>26</b> 8 Communion Service 9 Sun. School Fellowship <b>9:15</b> SS/BC/Welcome to Zion <b>10:30</b> Communion	<b>27</b>    7 Zion Women's Book Club	<b>28</b> 10 Bible Class   7 Stephen Ministry  7 Bell Choir	<b>29</b> <b>8:30</b> Fall Beautification  <b>5:15</b> Dinner <b>6:15</b> Confirmation <b>6:15</b> Sr. High Bible Class <b>6:15</b> BC	<b>30</b> <b>NO Braille</b>   7 Choir		

9/1 Haven Besser, Brad Glasser,  
Sara Helmer, Lisbeth Mellor  
Paige Sward

9/2 Christine Eichaker, Alisha Rowe  
Veronica Schoonbeck, Dee Wentzel  
David von der Osten, Austin Wordell

9/3 Cassidy Eastman, Marjorie Meyer

9/4 Nathan Adlam, Allison Havera  
Alexander Schultz

9/5 Nicole Anderson, Jessica Berry  
Marilyn Kline

9/6 John Berry, Ian Davidson, Laura Holt  
Nathan Holt, Glen Kellam Jr.  
Lee Kneer

9/7 Beth Fletcher, Paul Warnick

9/8 Laurie Anderson, Gail Nelson

9/10 Daniel Buchtrup, Joshua Collinson  
Deborah Klug, Josh Schmidt

9/11 Sarah Bernhardt, Thelma Lanphear  
Robert Monck, Christina Mulhearn

9/12 Karl Dinda, Christine Ellis, Sharon Preuss

9/13 Cyndi Bremer

9/14 Doug Knobloch, Ruth Norton  
Steve Nuyen, Katie O'Connor

9/15 Maxine Bushouse, Todd Hansen  
Horst Jendralski, Deb Patterson  
Christopher Seeber, Anna Sward

9/16 Erik DuBois, Kelly Schulze  
Angela Williams

9/17 Emily Merz

9/18 Ardith Bradley, Brenda Rakow

9/19 Paul Bowes, Connie Crotteau  
Linda Hazell, Evie Linebaugh  
Ashley Wesseling

9/20 Yvonne Wordell

9/21 John Boettcher, Hanna Doorlag  
Paul Noseworthy, Kelly Stetten

9/22 Sharon Acerra-Barner, Daniel Dale  
Alec Greenburg, Terry VanderMeer

9/23 Fred Bierlein, Robert Lee, Lois Shaw  
Gus Solberg

9/24 Carol Beutler, Allison Boettcher  
Genivee Botticher, Kimberly Dyer  
Darren Mercier

9/25 Isabella Greene, Roxanne Seeber  
Macen Vanlerberghe

9/27 Shari Blied, Helen Loen, Jan Rogers  
Elaine Westveer

9/28 Genevieve Miller, Devin Woelzlein

9/29 Edward Grau, Denise Hanley  
Daniel Stephan

9/30 Ava Olney, Anthony Parente  
Alexander Tangeman, Jace Wilson

## Parish Report

### Wedding

8/14 Justin Bernhardt / Rachel Higgins

### Released

8/24 Gary and Barbara Schultz

## Church Directory Updates

### New Address and Phone Number

Steve and Dana Butt  
3795 Fleetwood Drive  
Portage, MI 49024  
269-366-4009

## Bazaar Project Sign Up

If you are presently working on making items for the Bazaar, please let us know. We need your name and phone number, the type of item you are making and the number you think you can complete by the end of October. This information will help this Bazaar committee have an idea of what items will be available and also help us plan the type of spaces we will need to present your items for sale.

If you like, you can email that information to [rwpreuss@att.net](mailto:rwpreuss@att.net) (use Bazaar Projects in the subject line). Please call Marti Nuyen 342-8714 or Sharon Preuss 553-3385 if you have questions.

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

**SEPTEMBER**

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**Please Join Us**

**Sunday morning, September 12th  
at 9:15am for the kickoff of our  
educational programs for all ages!**

## FINANCIAL REVIEW Results as of July 31, 2010

Although giving for the first two months of our budget year have exceeded budget, the projections show that giving will be very close to the budgeted amount by the end of the fiscal year. Because of the hotter than expected summer, our utility bills have been greater than budgeted due to the cost of air conditioning. We are also predicting a positive month in August due to the fact that there will be five Sundays for giving compared to the normal four. This will help us keep our cash position positive going into the fall months. The potential problems facing us in the coming months include a decrease in giving, additional maintenance work to be done around the facility such as the garage and shed, and greater than expected utility bills. We continue to make additional payments on our loan from the generous support of our members who continue to make contributions to the capital campaign.

### July 31, 2010 Balance Sheet:

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Assets:</b>			
Cash (checking Accounts)	\$ 1,920	\$ 130,854	\$ 132,774
Petty Cash Accounts	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Zion Major Medical Fund	\$ -	\$ 12,296	\$ 12,296
Employee Medical Flex Account	\$ -	\$ 5,035	\$ 5,035
Total Assets	\$ 2,920	\$ 148,184	\$ 151,105
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Prepaid from Endowment	\$ -	\$ 4,171	\$ 4,171
Short Term Liabilities	\$ 7,470	\$ -	\$ 7,470
Dedicated Accounts	\$ -	\$ 126,800	\$ 126,800
Equity Account	\$ (4,550)	\$ 17,213	\$ 12,664
	\$ 2,920	\$ 148,184	\$ 151,105

**Footnotes:**

The Debt of Zion includes:

Remodeling Loan balance is less than \$1.776 million

**Primary Dedicated Accounts (Balances over \$2,000)**

Michigan District	\$ 2,343
Gifts/Memorials	\$ 5,515
Stephan Ministry	\$ 2,000
Savings for Loan Payment	\$ 10,000
Major Maintenance account	\$ 8,093
Hilltop Fundraising	\$ 5,038
Future Audit Expense	\$ 6,000
Maier One Day Seminar	\$ 3,847
Midweek Dinner Ministry	\$ 2,869
Capital Campaign	\$ 72,399

Statement of Income and Expense  
Year to Date as of July 2010

	Zion		Solid Grounds	
Income:	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Giving	\$ 91,700	\$ 100,679	\$ 6,669	\$ 7,340
Interest	\$ 217	\$ 173	\$ -	\$ -
Hilltop Revenue	\$ 3,374	\$ 8,558	\$ -	\$ -
District Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,667	\$ 4,750
Monies From Savings	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 97,291</b>	<b>\$ 109,410</b>	<b>\$ 11,335</b>	<b>\$ 12,090</b>
Expenses:				
Staff Support	\$ 42,376	\$ 40,851	\$ -	\$ -
Office Support	\$ 3,697	\$ 2,462	\$ -	\$ -
Church Property	\$ 8,680	\$ 11,989	\$ -	\$ -
Education Ministries	\$ 1,540	\$ 3,497	\$ -	\$ -
Evangelism	\$ 271	\$ 172	\$ -	\$ -
Public Relations	\$ (134)	\$ (431)	\$ -	\$ -
Worship	\$ 391	\$ 391	\$ -	\$ -
Social Ministry	\$ 489	\$ 483	\$ -	\$ -
Music Ministry	\$ 6,762	\$ 6,038	\$ -	\$ -
Finance	\$ 20,612	\$ 20,564	\$ -	\$ -
Hilltop Operations	\$ 12,761	\$ 12,535	\$ -	\$ -
Zion Haus	\$ 361	\$ 183	\$ -	\$ -
Missions- General	\$ 9,171	\$ 10,016	\$ -	\$ -
Missions - Support Solid Grounds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (6,098)	\$ (7,122)
<b>Solid Grounds Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 13,450</b>	<b>\$ 14,825</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 106,976</b>	<b>\$ 108,750</b>	<b>\$ 7,352</b>	<b>\$ 7,703</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (9,685)</b>	<b>\$ 660</b>	<b>\$ 3,984</b>	<b>\$ 4,387</b>

History of Unrestricted Cash Balance

June	\$ (436)
July	\$ 1,920