

Harbinger

March 2020
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A special mentor in my life was Uncle Charlie! He was bigger than life, always full of joy, faith, hope and love. (And he was not shy about sharing advice.) When I was 5, we visited him in Florida. He often reminded me that I had hidden a bottle of 7UP in the oven and when Aunt Audrey turned on the oven it exploded. (*qui moi?*) Since his death, I think often of my Uncle Charlie. I wonder now why he told me that story so often (as he never shared anything without it having a purpose.) I don't remember that event at all, but can't stop thinking about it. As a kid, I did have a devious streak (colored by selfishness) and have a sneaky feeling that I likely hid that bottle of 7UP in the oven so my little brother wouldn't find it. That way I would have it all to myself. (This is just conjecture, but it makes sense. Why else would I have done that?) As I wonder if that was the reason or not, I am starting to think about why Uncle Charlie told me that story so often, when there are hundreds of other shared experiences we could have discussed. This is pure speculation, but I might have an answer. I wonder if it was his gentle way of reminding me that even though I was an adorable and funny little kid, I could also be selfish. Maybe this was his gift of holding a mirror in front of me and now, even after his earthly death, is able to keep helping me to keep my priorities straight and think about what I do, why I do it, and what my motives should never be. It is always a danger to put words into someone else's mouth or motives into their heart when they cannot defend themselves, but I have a feeling that Uncle Charlie could never pass up an opportunity to help me grow (just as he did for everyone he ever touched.) His love changed my life. He lifted me up in my times of grief, encouraged me in my efforts of writing, and was my sounding board in times when ministry was too intense. And, like the parables Jesus also told, he always shared stories to make sure I paid attention to what was important. *Why else remember a bottle of 7Up in the oven?* What a wonderful God we have who places "Uncle Charlies" in our lives! Blessings! Pastor Tim

Worship Help for Parents and Children (of all ages!)

"Liturgical" churches (like Lutherans) follow a pattern of readings, seasons, and a structured form for worship that helps us grow into the gift of faith. "Liturgy" comes from Greek words meaning "the duty of the people." Luther helped get everyone (and not just priests) to participate in Sunday worship.

Biblical Roots of Liturgy

For Dads and Moms and other adults:

Our liturgies are not arbitrary collections. We sing what has been sung for centuries. Much of the liturgy is Bible texts, which allows us to "sing what we believe!" As we understand the Biblical roots, worship is truly enhanced!

"Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14) is the song of angels at the birth of Jesus. How appropriate for a beginning hymn of praise! This helps set the tone for worship. Our response to God is joy!

"Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain" (Revelations 5, 15, and 19) is the visionary song John heard the hosts of heaven sing at God's throne as they celebrated Christ's victory. Look at the Lamb in our stained glass window as you sing this hymn of praise. How fitting that Christians begin worship at the manger or the heavenly throne — from birth to eternal birth, the response is Joy!

"Holy, Holy, Holy" comes from Isaiah's vision of the majesty of God (Isaiah 6:3). The song *"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest"* (Mark 11:9-10) comes from the story of Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem. As we prepare for Holy Communion, we reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus that brings life!

"Lamb of God" (John 1:29) is John the Baptist's confession of Jesus' identity and ministry. It is repeated (Revelation 5:6) by the heavenly host! Again, it is the sacrificial Lamb, God's own Son who gathers faithful people around

the Lord's table which truly is a foretaste of the feast to come.

"Lord now let your servant depart in peace" was sung by Simeon (Luke 2:29) at the temple, when he held the infant Jesus. What a beautiful way to celebrate an end to centuries of waiting for the Messiah! And these are the words that send us out into our daily lives — changed by that Messiah!

For Parents with younger children:

Did you sing when you rocked your "baby?"

Do you and your kids have favorite songs you sing at bath time or when traveling in the car? Or your favorite songs from preschool or a TV show. Songs bring us to a familiar place.

Remind your children how they feel when we sing songs they know — and they can sing too! Remind them of songs you sing at home, and how they bring familiar feelings back again and again.

When we sing in church, we are singing Bible stories. We sing about Jesus' birth! We sing to remember that heaven is a happy place and Jesus loves us very much.

Maybe, when they are old enough, you could take one part of the liturgy and tell them the story that these words are about. Maybe that is your theme for the next few times you are in worship. Have them wait for that song from the story you have shared.

Once you have done that over and over for a month or so, pick the next one. Tell the story and get them ready when the song is sung in worship. See if that helps them to better listen, and understand, and sing!

Parenting takes work, but what better way to show our kids our love! Just like other songs, these familiar "tunes" help us to remember a familiar place in the arms of a loving God.

Blessings! Pastor Seeber

Everyone needs a home!

The word "HOME" is such a special word, and I would like for you to think about why that is. Most of us think about where we live as our home, and yet many don't have that feeling. Military troops on assignment overseas or inmates in a prison might have a roof over their heads and daily meals, but certainly don't feel like they are "home." Children in an orphanage or residents of a care facility might be told they have all the comforts of home, but they certainly don't feel they are living in a real home. What makes a home?

Is "home" where you were born? Where you live? Where you grew up? Where you were with family? Is it where you sleep or have most of your meals? I think most would agree that a house is not a home, but home can be where your house is.

Or is home where your heart is?

For most, home is our shelter from weather, The place where family gathers. A place where meals are more than food. Where children are raised and visitors are welcome. Home is where memories are fondest and where we have reunions on days like Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Everyone would love to have a place called home, but unfortunately not everyone has a home. Have you ever considered Zion as your "church home?" Is it not where we do all of the above, and where we gather for more? Maybe more than anything else, a church home prepares us and give us a feel for our eternal home. So, how about the idea of a congregation as a home away from home? Does that make sense to you?

All of this is prelude to several ideas:

First, if Zion is seen as a home for you, doesn't that change how you see it and how you live in it and how you support and protect it?

Secondly, if Zion is your Church Home, wouldn't you like to share your blessings with others who might not have such a place of warmth, nourishment, memories and safety? This is a home to be shared.

And finally, if Zion is indeed the closest thing you have to a church home, and you have been away, why not come home? Everyone needs a home, and without a home, there is a part of our life that is empty.

We are going to start talking more and more about Zion as "home." Home base. Home away from home. Where our heart is. Where our family gathers. Where memories are made and futures are planned.

Be thankful for a place to call "home." Welcome others into our "home." **And, if you have been away, come home!**

How about this? Have not some of the most joyful times of the life of your family been when uncles and aunts and cousins and even friends have all gathered in your home for a birthday party or a Thanksgiving or Easter dinner? You know that is true!

Let's start planning on Easter as being that special time for the family called "Zion." Make plans for our Easter family gathering. Remember there is always room at the table for visitors and friends to join us. And please remember, if you have been absent, you are missed. Come home for Easter.

Christ has gathered us as a family, offered the greatest love and gifts the world has ever known. And this is where we make our home.

Home is where our hearts are warmer and more joyful than anywhere else. Celebrate home! Share our home! Zion is our home away from home, our reminder and preparer for our eventual, eternal home.

Welcome home!

Faith and Life: "HOLY WEEK"

Come Home for Easter!

What is your "routine" for Holy Week and Easter? Any time we have done something over and over again, it is easy to take it for granted, without paying attention to why or what we do. This year, it would be good for you to think about your plans, your needs, and what makes this week "holy." Why do we make such a big deal about a holy week the world doesn't seem that interested in?

In our culture, Christmas has an intense emotional, financial, and traditional buildup. It is not the same for Easter. The Christmas "thing" is a recent development. Until the last hundred years or so, all of the intensity we attach to Christmas was given only to Easter. Why do you think this has changed?

In a sense, it is a blessing that our culture has not "taken over" Holy Week the way it has Christmas. This allows us to prepare for what God has done, rather than be distracted with the commercial distortions of a broken world.

During Lent we have used familiar themes from "ET; the Extraterrestrial" to assist in our focus on Jesus' passionate journey to Jerusalem and the cross. Remembering the improbable friendship of a young boy and ET, and the effort to "phone home" helped us to reform images of Jesus' journey on behalf of our losses to sin and death. His journey was not tied to a space ship, but began in a manger and climaxed with an empty tomb. (An even more impossible trip than any writer could ever imagine. What a gift of grace!)

This week is called "holy" as it celebrates the beginning of a new creation — much like the seven days of creation in Genesis. We celebrate the re-creation of a paradise that was lost, and the healing of the brokenness we call sin and death. Mark your calendars now, and make this "Holy Week" worship a

powerful gift to nourish your faith. *These special worship services are also a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbors, friends, or family who aren't attending church to come and join you. This "holy week" can become the gift that changes their lives!*

The Sunday of the Passion (April 5)

We will remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to shouts of Alleluia! And we will remember how so quickly the tone changed as his mission was headed not to an earthly throne but a cross and tomb.

Maundy Thursday (April 9) noon & 6:30 pm

Join us to remember Jesus' "last meal" and his parting words to "love one another." We celebrate Holy Communion and remember the beginning of Jesus' passion. Our drama that night will focus on the Passover meal and how it was "filled full" by Jesus' acts of love.

Good Friday (April 10) Noon to 3pm

This service lasts three hours (in 1/2 hour segments (come when you can, leave when you must.) This year we reflect on the various "words from the cross" that are shared in the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion.

Good Friday 6:30pm

The evening worship focuses on Jesus' passion, his trial, and his death. We will focus on the account of Jesus' passion from the Gospel and allow music and prayer to complete our meditation at the foot of the cross.

The Easter Vigil (April 11) 6:30 pm

This service remembers the disciples' vigil at the tomb, and recalls all the promises that would be fulfilled on Easter. This is a time when we renew our baptismal washing and prepare for the Easter celebration!

Easter (April 12) 8am and 10:30 am

This is the most joyful, music filled, and celebrative worship of the year. Join us to celebrate at the empty tomb! **And don't forget our Easter breakfast at 9am!**

Friends of Jesus Preschool

Want to hear some exciting news? Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is **ALREADY FULL** at Friends of Jesus Preschool! Our roster is bursting at the seams. Thanks in part to the generous and consistent support of this congregation, we are building a rich program for early learners that puts Christ at the center of everything.

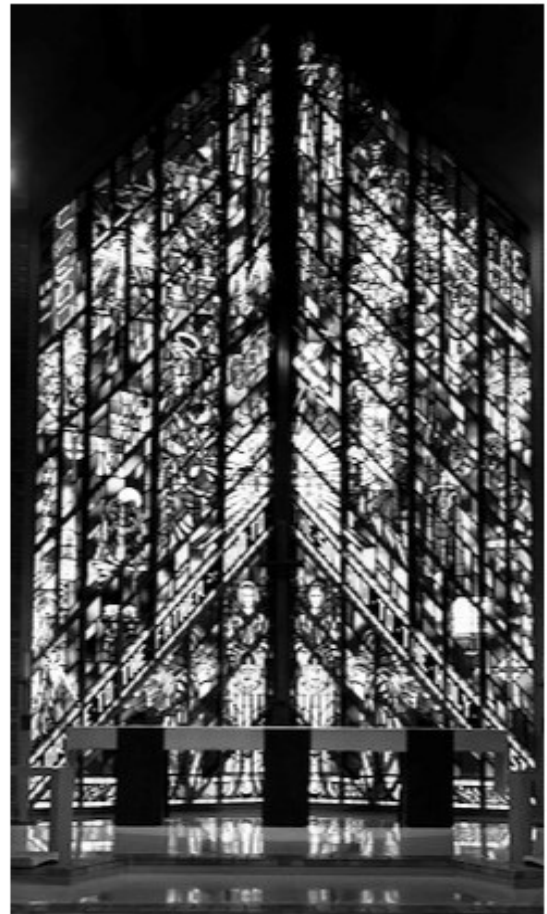
In February, Friends of Jesus Preschool students shared Valentine treat bags they had created with the students at Tree of Life School. It is fun and meaningful for our students to reach out to other students in our community with love and purposeful contributions.

**JOY:FULLY
LUTHERAN**
1 THESS 5:16-24

March is the month that Friends of Jesus Preschool observes National Lutheran Schools Week. Our observance this year is

March 8th – 13th. The theme for this year is Joy:Fully Lutheran. We'll have special activities everyday for our students and on Wednesday, March 11th, the Friends of Jesus Preschool staff will host, prepare and serve the midweek dinner. We hope you'll plan to come to dinner and meet and dine with our wonderful preschool students and their families.

Thank you so much to congregation members who supported our February Read-A-Thon. Our students had fun earning prizes and watching their names appear on our Candyland themed bulletin board as they made progress with their reading. This event gives our families the opportunity to slow down and spend some time reading together. Your pledges help provide our students with important enrichment materials and also help with replacing many of our old and well-loved toys. Being able to offer field trips and enrichment programming at a free or reduced rate helps Friends of Jesus Preschool stay competitive in the local preschool market. We truly appreciate your continued love and support of Friends of Jesus Preschool.



SYMBOL IN THE WINDOW (Window Talk)

Window Talk - Kids

Sunday, March 15th at 9:15a.m.,

Helen Reinkensmeyer will explain the symbols and background of Zion's stained glass window to our Sunday School children and their parents.

Sunday, March 22nd at 9:15a.m.

Helen will hold a "Window Talk" for Adults

Matthew 5:16 *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*



These lilies are used to decorate the church sanctuary.

Anyone interested in making a contribution to the **"Easter Lilies"** may do so by sending their gift to the church office or putting it in the offering plate along with this form. Please note on your check **"Easter Lilies."**

Contributions are due by March 22nd.

Contributions will be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin.

In Loving Memory of:

In Thanksgiving of:

In Honor Of:

Given By:

Giving Envelope # _____ Amount _____

Legends of Easter Traditions

Would you be surprised to learn many of our Easter traditions originated in Germany?

DYEING EASTER EGGS - It is said the eggs represent rebirth and life. People celebrated this by giving colored eggs to friends and family as gifts. Stories were told of Mary taking eggs with her to Jesus' crucifixion and His dripping blood colored those eggs.

THE EASTER BUNNY— It's thought that German immigrants brought their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" to the U.S. in the 1700s. This also represented life and rebirth with rabbits being famous for their fertility.

EASTER BASKETS - Continuing with the German Osterhase, kids would fashion nest of straw for the "giant bunny" to visit their home. Over time and to contain the 'mess' the nests evolved into baskets.

HOT CROSS BUNS - These sweet rolls studded with raisins or currants and marked with a cross on top are found during the week leading up to Easter Sunday. It's said the tradition started in the 12th century with a monk inspired to mark his rolls with a cross to celebrate Good Friday.

SUNRISE SERVICES— Mary opened Jesus' tomb at dawn to find it empty. In honor of this, some churches recreate the experience by holding a service at sunrise. The first one on record was held in 1732 in Saxony, Germany.

EASTER HAM- The tradition dates back to at least 6th-century Germany. Hunters often slaughtered hogs in the forest in the fall, then left them to cure all winter. By spring, pork was one of the only meats ready to go for spring celebrations.

Catechism Review: The Lord's Prayer (part 2) "Hallowed Be Your Name"

"Hallowed be thy name." We don't even talk like that anymore. New translations say, "Your name is holy." "Hallow," "holy," and "sacred" are all the same word – they have to do with God. So when we talk with God it is a "holy moment, hallowed ground, a sacred time!"

Was "hallowed be your name" a statement? "Yes! *God's name is holy?*" A request? *"I sure hope you are God?"* A proclamation grounded in awe? *"Wow, You are holy!"* Jesus makes clear that even the name we use to call God is as holy and sacred as God himself! The name and God are the same!

How can a "name" be holy? Well, as soon as we name something we define it. We limit it. We control it. If I say "red," you imagine something red. If I say "sorrow," you are filled with emotion. When we say, "God," we conjure an Image. But no one's thoughts or images would resemble those of others. To comprehend what that means is to come into contact with what can't be defined. It is the awesome miracle of "the Holy." Prayer places us into that Presence.

You have all seen an actor or athlete standing in the spotlight. What a moment of glory! Jesus wants us to remember prayer is our connection with God. He is THE focus! Prayer pulls us into the glow of HIS Holy Light. These words remind us that prayer is entering the "living room" of heaven, surrounded by spotlights and stars and angel choirs!

Luther said we can better understand how to keep God's name holy if we first look at how we make his name "unholy." We do this when we "misuse God's name in order to commit sin or steal his name and keep its power for our own." That gives us a point of reference, for we are best at "unholy things." (Like lying, cheating, not forgiving and not sharing love.)

Such moments are abusing the name of God! That is stealing his Name.

Luther said, "holy is nothing else than withdrawing something from misuse and dedicating it to its proper godly use, just as a church is dedicated and appointed solely to the service of God. In this prayer we are pulled from selfish, shortsighted needs and encouraged to be one with God, that God might make all things holy ... even through us! Prayer is truly a sacramental moment!

Jesus reminds that even the NAME of God is holy, as any word we use to express God is HOLY. Any thought. Any understanding – holy ALL! When the name of God rolls off our lips we are touching the very Being who created galaxies and microscopic cells.

And that is important – for how we use THE Name shows how we define what THE Name means to us. And it tells those around us what we believe. Prayer is not impersonal like an email or text message, but instead transports us into the courts of heaven and the presence of God!

To know the Holy Name is to know the secrets of the universe and the power of heaven. To say "Your Name is Holy" is to claim what the name means. To say "God" means we believe. It means that we grasp the Holy. And if we use it any other way, we demean the gift of grace that God's name is! To engage in holy talk means we have faith. In these words, Jesus teaches us how to connect in prayer.

When we remember the presence, power, and gift of the Holy One, we are more likely to be faithful and responsible in how we live, and love, and even how we die. Of course God is holy, and in this prayer we are reminded that his holy touch can change our broken and imperfect lives. How glorious that the holy One make us One with him ... in life, in death, and forever.

Pastor Seeber

Calendar

-Family Sunday School March 1st! This is also a potluck breakfast so bring your favorite dish to share at 9:15am! Get ready for another exciting lesson to accomplish as a family!

Save the Date

**Wednesday, May 6th, 5pm—7:30pm
Faith Conversations in the Home (workshop)**

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can be great for building community, reconnecting with old friends, and promoting your identity/sharing who you are.

But there are many new sites and apps that present some dangers if unaware teens, tweens, and even younger wander into. I shared a website via email a few weeks ago that is very helpful to understanding benefits and dangers of popular sites/apps. PLEASE take a look at it if your child shows interest in social media sites. Here it is again:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

Family Life

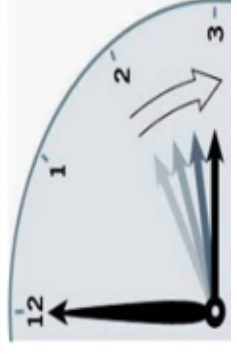
Family Ministry News

March, 2020 WORSHIP LEADERS

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29 Relationship
Head Ushers 8am	George Geissel	Dave Mayer	Stan Leitz	Richard Rakow	Walter Kohnke
Head Ushers 10:30am	Dan Buchtrup	Dick Coffinger	Bob Folck	Garr Gast	Brandon Hamilton
Greeters Sat 5:30pm	Dee Wentzel	Don & Marge Heath	Bruce & Kathy Huston	Bruce & Dorothy DeDee	Mary & Gordon Berkhausen
Greeters 8:00am	George & Ellie Hayward	Donya Dabbin	Benno & Carol Rosin	Terry & Gail Nelson	Bev Snow
Greeters 10:30am	Mark & Erin Hampshire	Shirley Rohrer	Charles & Cindy Krill	Bob & Cheryl Besser	Ron & Arlene Masek
Communion Assistants Sat 5:30pm	Kathleen Jordan	Mike Schlack	Dee Wentzel	Rita Linnenkugel	Joanne Bowes
Communion Assistants 8:00am	Matt Simmons, Jim Mayer, John Stiegemeyer	Richard Rakow, Cyndi Bremer, John Buetow	Jim Mayer, Linda Stieve, Ted Maxson	Dave Newman, Ken Toy, Richard Rakow	Matt Simmons, Cyndi Bremer,, Jim Mayer
Communion Assistants 10:30am	Rolie Preuss, Dan Seng, Linda Seng	Nick Sward, Chuck Wendling, Ryan Bickel	Steve Butt	Tony Cosgrove, Janis Dinda, Garr Gast	Lorraine Hanna, Mark Meyer, Steve Nuyen
Cantors	8:00-Vicki Holt	8:00-Vicki Holt 10:30-Karen Chapo	8:00-Dennis O'Brien	8:00-Pastor Breije 10:30-Danielle Field	
Acolytes 8am	Claire Kiessling, Brynley Bauer	Evan Schoonbeek	Savannah Waterlander, Owen Adams	Alex Kiessling, Claire Kiessling	Aiden Woods, Brynley Bauer
Acolytes 10:30am	Rudy Linebaugh, Bella Frazier	Talia Linebaugh, Anna Schierbeek	Aly Hampshire, Bella Greene	Riley Ketchum, Jill Hamilton	Maren Hampshire, Nevina Beck
Lectors 8am	Carolyn Daenzer	Barb Nutsch	Dave Mayer	Jayne Mayer	Linda Stieve
Lectors 10:30am	Chris Wilkins	Alice Tomer	Alison Carlson	Janis Dinda	Jill Hamilton
Altar Ministry Sat. 5:30	Rosemarie & Richard Griffith	Elsie Autry	Rosemarie & Richard Griffith	Elsie Autry, Melissa Noseworthy	Paul & Melissa Noseworthy
Altar Ministry 8:00am	Vicki Holt, Lucy Maxson	Joey Miller, Vicki Holt	Joe & Larry Zerbel	Vicki Holt, Amy Nelson	Joey Miller, Vickie Holt
Altar Ministry 10:30am	Toni Dembski, Julie Griesbach		Joe & Larry Zerbel	Toni Dembski, Vickie Asaro	Joe & Larry Zerbel
Sound	8:00-Mark Schwerin 10:30-Nick Alsvig	8:00-Neil Segerdahl 10:30-Andrew Bickel	8:00-Vicki Holt 10:30-Grace Dinda	8:00- Mark Schwerin 10:30-Neil Segerdahl	8:00-Neil Segerdahl 10:30-Nick Alsvig
Coffee Fellowship	Troy & Cynthia Cosgrove	Marlise Meimer	Barb & Bob Nutsch	Don & Carol Daenzer	Steve & Debbie Weber

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lent 1 8 & 10:30 Comm Svc 9:15 SS/HS/Adult Classes	2 FOJ Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration 6:30 Personnel	3 10:00 Bible Class 7:00 Bells	4 8:30 LWR Sewing Noon- Lent 1 Service 5:15 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent 1 Service	5	6	7 8:00 Men's Group 5:30 Communion Svc
8 Lent 2 Daylight Saving 8 & 10:30 Comm Svc 9:15 SS/HS/Adult Classes	9 Lutheran Schools Week 6:30 Endowment	10 10:00 Bible Class Noon Finance 7:00 Bells	11 8:30 LWR Sewing Noon- Lent 2 Service 5:15 FOJ Dinner 6:30 Lent 2 Service	12 7:00 Choir	13	14 8:00 Men's Group 5:30 Communion Svc
15 Lent 3 8 & 10:30 Comm Svc 9:15 SS/HS/Adult Classes 9:15 Kids Window Talk	16 5:00 Campus Ministry 6:30 BOD	17 10:00 Bible Class 7:00 Bells	18 8:30 LWR Sewing Noon- Lent 3 Service 5:15 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent 3 Service	19 7:00 Choir	20	21 8:00 Men's Group 2:40:00 Prayer Shawl at Bigby 5:30 Communion Svc
22 Lent 4 8 & 10:30 Comm Svc 9:15 SS/HS/Adult Classes 9:15 Adults Window Talk 11:30-1:30 MS/HS Game Day	23 7:00pm ZWBC	24 10:00 Bible Class 7:00 Bells	25 8:30 LWR Sewing Noon- Lent 4 Service 5:15 Soup Supper 6:30 Lent 4 Service	26 7:00 Choir	27	28 8:00 Men's Group 5:30 Communion Svc 6-8:30 Bingo Night
29 Lent 5 8 & 10:30 Comm Svc 9:15 SS/HS/Adult Classes	30	31 10:00 Bible Class 7:00 Bells				



February 2020						
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April 2020						
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26	27	28	29	30		

Youth News

High School:

Breakfast

Sunday, March 8th at 9:15am! We will also have a special surprise!

Bingo Night Fundraiser

Saturday, March 28th from 6—8:30pm

Middle School Youth:

Remember Wednesday night classes are redirected to worship with your family from 6:30pm—7:15pm!

All Youth:

Gameday

Sunday, March 22nd from 11:30am—1:30pm BOTH High School and Middle School youth groups are invited to come play games of all kinds!

Echoes

God IS at work through people in our congregation...here is their story:

Angels are messengers. A harbinger is someone who makes announcements. Those are very similar words. Did you know we have a team of dedicated volunteer “harbingers” who put this Harbinger together? Once a month they gather together for a morning of sorting and folding, sealing and organizing. These hardworking servants help share God’s love by sharing the messages and announcements enclosed in this mailing. They are, in essence, harbingers.

Another “behind the scenes” group helps our Wednesday night dinners flow smoothly. Each Wednesday we have volunteers set up placemats and table settings and fill water pitchers—not a hard job but a huge help! Later in the afternoon we have food prep and even later the clean up crew. Thanks to this crew we are able to provide dinner for 40-60 people each week.

There are many more volunteers that go unnoticed throughout the week. Thanks to them we have a much smoother and effective ministry at Zion!

Campus Ministry Report

This past week, Melody and I had the honor of attending an award ceremony for Jon Wassink, the quarterback for WMU's football team. Jon was awarded the Danny Wuerffel trophy, which is given to the college football player that best exemplifies a commitment to community service, academics and athletics.



Jon has been a part of our Bronco Buddy mentoring program the past four years with the kids at Tree of Life school in the Edison neighborhood. The ceremony took place in Ft. Walton Beach Florida, the home of Danny Wuerffel. Jon has been a great blessing to the kids at Tree of Life and his award was a great affirmation for all that are a part of our Bronco Buddy Mentoring program.

Our Sunday worship service has about 10-12 students that attend. The numbers are lower than last year, but they are a close knit community.

Our Tuesday evening Bible study has 6-8 students. We are using the Red Letter Challenge as our study guide and the students love the material and it has allowed for excellent discussion on a variety of topics.

This semester, we started a new ministry for male students struggling with addiction issues to pornography. The program is called The Conquer Series. It is a 10 week series. There are 7 WMU students that are attending and I am impressed with all of them and the courage that they have to want to address their struggles and to find healing and help in this area. We have met for 3 weeks and the group has developed a great sense of trust and openness.

Our upcoming Spring Break servant event trip will take place on February 29-March 7. We will be volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in Vero Beach Florida.

On the 2nd and 3rd and 5th Tuesday morning each month, I lead worship at State Hospital. This continues to be a rewarding part of ministry.

God's blessings and peace to you all.

Pastor Mark

ALTAR MINISTRY NEWS

Dear Members.... It is time to sign-up for cleaning and stripping palms. Please meet in the Gathering Room, Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 9:30a.m.

Many hands will make the work lighter and faster. We should be finished by Noon.

On Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 9:30a.m. we will meet again to help Cindi Krill decorate for our Easter celebration. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Please RSVP to our hostesses:

Toni Dembski 269.270.8424 or

Dee Wentzel 269.731.5540



*Save
the
Date*

Saturday, April 25th

8:00am—4:00pm

Women's Ministry Simulcast hosted by:

Priscilla Shirer

A great day of worship, learning, growing and fellowship.

For more information see:

www.lifelong.com/en/events/going-beyond-simulcast



Book Review: "The Hungering Dark." Frederick Buechner. Harper & Row 1969

I keep rediscovering meaningful books I have read in the past and am amazed how relevant they continue to be. This book was written over 50 years ago, but reads like it was written yesterday. It is a series of reflections on Biblical stories and themes. It would serve well as a devotional book and would be awesome for small groups.

He begins with a selection titled "Face in the Sky," which remembers the angels looking up to the sky at Christ's birth to hear the message of angels. He begins with a reference to an Italian film "La Dolce Vita" which began with the image of a life size statue of Christ being carried, by helicopter, through the skies of Rome, on its way to the Vatican.

The imagination, to visually create parallels between these two moments, is typical of Buechner's creativity. From there he begins to discuss the intimacy of God in being a baby in a manger rather than a distant face in the sky. Here is a sample of his writing as he discusses the birth of Jesus:

"Nothing is ever the same again for those who believe in God, and nothing is ever the same again for those who do not believe in God either, because once the birth has happened, it is no longer just God whom they have to deny but it is also this event they have to deny. Those who do not believe must also fall silent in the presence of the new-born child, but here silence can have only tears at its heart because for them this can only be another child born to die as every child is born to die..." [14]

Every chapter in this book begins with a selection from scripture that will be most familiar. Each chapter concludes with a wonderful prayer. My intent had been to use this for Lent one year, which is why I have not reviewed it up to this point. But I don't want

to keep this wonderful little book hidden from all of you who will find so much to enhance your own faith journeys as well.

I found a powerful sermon illustration in this book, regarding meditation and prayer-filled quiet. He remembered a classroom experience when he was preparing to teach a class, but saw an amazing sunset beginning to unfold. He simply turned off the lights and everyone watched in silence.

He wrote," the room went dark, and there it was—the entire sky was on fire by then, like the end of the world or the beginning of the world ... the astonishing thing was that the silence was as complete as you can get in a room full of people..." [74]

And his writing then continued to use that image to talk about how words often get in the way of seeing God or hiding who we really are. It is ironic that someone who crafts words so carefully and powerfully can also lament how words can come between us and faith. That is how Buechner makes his reader think, just as Jesus did when he told parables instead of reciting rules.

He sounds much like Luther as he talks about our vocation being tied to God, He writes,

"The word 'vocation' has a dull ring to it, but in terms of what it means it is really not dull at all. [It means] 'to call,' and a vocation is one's calling ... It is the work that one is called to in this world, the thing that one is summoned to spend life doing. We can speak of a choosing my vocation, but perhaps it is at least as accurate to speak of a vocation's choosing me, of a call's being given, and a hearing it or not hearing it. And maybe that is the place to start: the business of listening and hearing," [27]

This is a wonderful book on many levels. Just take time to let the words sink in.

Pastor Seeber



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2	Emma Hendricks, Ken Jorae, Alice Tomer
3/4	Pete Asaro, Jon Nelson
3/6	Kevin DeVries
3/7	Andrea Grube
3/8	Alan Sarver, Olivia VanDenBerg
3/9	Frank Geib
3/10	Addyson Emig, Kaitlyn Hamilton, Walter Kohnke
3/11	Lynne Gerfen, Kathy Harmon, Katie Woodhams
3/13	Ryan DeMorrow, Mark Meyer, Mike Proos
3/15	Graham Butler, Cathy Geib, Lynn Roe
3/16	Daniel Frazier
3/17	Nick Alsvig, Pat Frohnappfel, Matthew Schuppel, Mary Tuttle
3/18	Philip Kunze
3/19	Gina Schipper
3/21	Kim Schommer
3/22	Julia Richards
3/24	Andrew Gast, Jason Masek, Connor McGill
3/25	Susan Ahrenholz, Mary Horensky
3/26	Randall Parat
3/27	Marie Freudenberg, David Masek
3/28	Madison Geib, Brian Kiessling, Daniel Zerbel
3/29	Mary Berkhausen, Allison Watson, Alexandria Whittaker
3/30	Todd Schierbeek



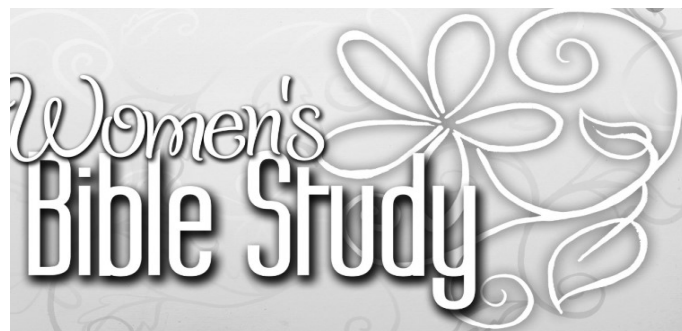
Zion Women's Book Group

Meetings are
at 7:00p.m.

March 23rd "The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, New Foundland" by Jim Defebe

April 27th "Outliers" by M Gladwell

Contact Yvonne Wordell with questions at 269-321-7984.



Women's Bible Study is off to another great start! It's not too late to drop in or check out the group either.

The group meets Wednesdays from 9:00a.m.—11:00a.m. (childcare provided) and discusses various topics. Our current study is called,

"Awakening to a Grand New Day."

It is in the Library if you would like to preview it. Women of all ages are welcome to join us. If you have any questions or interested, please contact Dana Butt at 269-352-0063.



The wish list item for **March is Canned Fruit (no sugar)**. Please put your donations in the gray tubs under the church office window. Thank you!

Financial Report for January 2020

ZION: January Giving was over budget by \$55,582. Expenses were over budget by \$14,309.
January ended with a Net Gain of \$38,674. YTD Net Income gain was \$39,593, over budget by \$23,425.

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL: Income was over budget by \$3,228. Expenses were under budget by \$213. December Net income gain was \$4,162. YTD Net Income gain was \$10,814, under budget by \$3,818.

Solid Grounds: Income was over budget by \$135. Expenses were over budget by \$2,400.
December Net Loss was \$3,412. YTD Net Income loss was \$5,941, under budget by \$11,782.

	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH						
INCOME						
Zion Giving & Misc.	52,914	108,496	55,582	481,627	524,775	43,148

EXPENSES						
Zion Staff Support	27,224	35,971	8,747	228,704	240,855	12,151
Office Operations	1,100	1,498	398	12,680	15,815	3,135
Church Property	7,610	9,380	1,770	55,590	55,537	-53
Education Ministry	478	1,031	553	10,137	8,794	-1,343
Evangelism/Missions	250	428	178	550	717	167
Worship Ministry	340	895	555	3,865	4,906	1,041
Other Ministries	75	296	221	2,200	1,494	-706
Music Ministry	2,525	2,525	0	18,725	17,984	-741
Finance Ministry	10,341	10,350	9	82,798	82,650	-148
Zion Haus Ministry	300	-131	-431	2,850	4,309	1,459
Missions - General	5,270	7,579	2,309	47,360	52,121	4,761
Total Expenses	55,513	69,822	-14,309	465,459	485,182	19,723
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-2,599	38,674	36,075	16,168	39,593	23,425

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL

INCOME						
FOJ Income	10,062	13,290	3,228	77,641	74,674	-2,967
FOJ Staff Support	9,121	8,386	-735	57,808	57,095	-713
FOJ Operations Expenses	220	742	522	5,201	6,765	1,564
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	721	4,162	3,441	14,632	10,814	3,818

SOLID GROUND

Solid Ground Income	8,661	8,796	135	82,251	72,203	-10,048
Solid Ground Expenses	9,808	12,208	-2,400	76,410	78,144	-1,734
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-1,147	-3,412	-2,265	5,841	-5,941	-11,782

BALANCE SHEET	6/1/2019	1/31/2020	YTD Change
ASSETS			
Cash	21,918	75,490	53,572
Investments	160,630	136,703	-23,927
Other Assets	1,026	2,787	1,761
TOTAL	183,574	214,980	31,406
LIABILITIES			
Payroll	4,388	7,952	3,564
Dedicated Funds	164,539	141,973	-22,566
Unrestricted Funds	14,647	65,054	50,407
TOTAL	183,574	214,979	31,405

MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE \$827,382

Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000

FOJ Estate Gift	\$5,089	Benevolence	\$4,475
Equipment Fund	\$8,118	New Staff	\$5,000
FOJ Fundraising	\$5,755	Savings	\$46,500
Youth Ministry	\$7,709		

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

March

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*Lenten Worship
every Wednesday in
March*

*Noon and 6:30p.m.
Soup Suppers @ 5:15*