



Looking Up | Reaching Out

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

***Harbinger***

**November 2023**  
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**Page 2**  
**Thanksgiving**

**Page 3**  
**Catechism Review**

**Page 6**  
**Worship Help**

**Page 7**  
**Book Review**

**Page 8**  
**Family Life**

**Page 9**  
**Youth News**

**Page 11**  
**Friends of Jesus**

I'm at the age where some friendships are measured by decade. Some people have been part of my life so long they feel like family. My friend Joe Boway is someone I hope you can meet in the upcoming months. I'd love for Zion to know him.

Joe's life story is amazing, and I certainly could not begin to tell it within the constraints of this brief article. I met Joe back in the early 1990s when I was in my mid 20s and beginning to take my faith in the Lord seriously and was seeking to follow His will. Following His will led me back to college after flunking out of school when I was 19.

At age 26 I registered for a class at a Christian college in Fort Wayne, a school only a few blocks from where Laura and I lived. I signed up for an Old Testament survey class, thinking it would be the least amount of homework. On the first day the professor asked us about our church backgrounds, and we all shared which church we attended. In that entire class there was only one other Lutheran, a young man from Liberia, West Africa who had recently come to America to attend college.

That was Joe. We are the same age, both being 26 at the time. I was amazed to hear how he had come to America by means of Lutheran missionaries who had known Joe since he was a young boy. Joe helped these missionaries from Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) translate the New Testament into Joe's native language of Krahn. Seeing Joe's aptitude for languages they wanted to send him to the United States for a proper education.

After taking that college class together, our paths crossed again a few years later when I was a college graduate and student at the LCMS seminary in Fort Wayne. Joe also had a college degree and was taking a course at the seminary as he was deciding whether to go to work for LBT or attend seminary full-time to become a pastor. Joe decided on LBT. He moved to Illinois and worked with them for several years. With both of us very busy, and with me graduating from seminary and taking a Call to a church in western Iowa, we lost contact. Fast forward to spring of 2003 and I'm the new Redeemer Lutheran pastor in Convoy, Ohio. My sister in Fort Wayne had invited me over to the Lutheran school where her kids attended, for an art fair. While I'm walking around the school gym, I see a poster on the wall describing an upcoming visit to the school by none other than JOE BOWAY of the Liberian Children's Ministry. I remember telling my sister, I KNOW THAT GUY!

Joe didn't work for LBT any longer. Long story short, Joe was called to start a ministry to the children of Liberia, his home country. Joe's heart was in education, and he wanted kids in Liberia to learn God's love in Christ and the world He has made. Since 2003 Joe has started 15 schools throughout the rural areas of Liberia which now have almost 6,000 students. Out of this ministry have come literally hundreds of baptisms for both students and very often their parents. I know, as over the years Joe has taken me to Liberia on four different occasions.

A copy of one of Joe's newsletters is in this edition of Harbinger. I'll be working with Joe to schedule a time for him to visit Zion so you can meet him and hear how God has worked in Joe's life to make him a blessing to so many. I've known Joe for over 30 years now. His story, His life, is a great reminder of how God performs miracles even today. I can't wait for you to get to know Joe!

Pastor Mike

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## Thanksgiving; A Tradition or a Lifestyle?

Thanksgiving is a blend of two traditions. One is national and tied to earthly gifts. The other is tied to faith and related to spiritual gifts. One tradition centers around me while the other revolves around God. Thanksgiving is on everyone's calendar but for people of faith, this is not the only day when such a theme is to be our focus.

The national day of Thanksgiving is social and constantly in change. It began after Pilgrims survived incredible hardships in a new land. Washington made it a tradition as a young nation celebrated its freedom. Lincoln made it an institution as he sought to lead a divided nation into a time of peace. Today it is synonymous with turkey, football, family reunions, parades, and the kickoff for the stampede of Christmas shopping. This day is whatever we want to make it be. And it comes only once a year.

The other Thanksgiving had beginnings in the Exodus, as former slaves were led to a land of their own. God called them out of the shifting sands of the desert campgrounds into a land they could call their own. No longer living a hand-to-mouth existence, they would raise crops, shepherd flocks, and build villages. In the desert, there was little doubt that their survival was a miracle of God. In the new land, they would be tempted to think it was their wisdom and goodness that showered them with blessings.

What are you thankful for and what does the idea of thanks giving mean to you? Are you more or less thankful this year than last? Does this holiday have more meaning when times are different than usual than when times are easy? Is Thanksgiving about what you are thankful for, or is it meaningless when you don't feel thankful? What is it for you?

Thanksgiving will hopefully be much different than last year, but things are still not back to

"as normal" as we would like. When we have to pay more attention to what we are doing and what is going on, that gives us more of an opportunity to decide what this time and season means for each of us. How can each of us find ways for thanks to be more about God than about me? !

Deuteronomy is a book about Thanksgiving, and tying faith to life. It encouraged God's people to take "first fruits" of the harvest and offer them to God as a gift — a reminder that God is the source of all gifts. This sacrifice would be an act of praise! Such giving of thanks would keep daily living in proper perspective. This would be true worship and such living would come each and every day.

Everyone, no matter how much or how little they have is blessed with the same presence, love, hope and peace from God. Such gifts color everything else that is or isn't part of our individual realities. As Christians, we should be clear about the value of our lives. We should be certain of the gift of God's creation. We should have no doubt about the reason and power of the faithful giving of thanks.

The best way to do that is to remember what Israel was taught. When we give God the first and the best of what appears to be ours we are doing two very important things. First we acknowledge the primacy of God, and secondly, we begin a lifestyle that celebrates faith every day of the year!

May Christ's abundant love lead us into new and thankful living every day and every moment of our lives. For whether in deep deserts or fertile valleys, in joy or in sorrow, in sickness or in health -- God is with us and will never let us go! Thankful people always have something to give, because they are always filled with the love of a Savior who emptied himself for us.

We are all thankful for something, just be clear about what it is for you. Pastor Seeber

**SPECIAL WORSHIP in NOVEMBER****Sunday Nov. 5. The Festival of All Saints**

All Saints Day is November 1. All Saints' Day is the celebration of the lives of God's faithful people in heaven and on earth. (It is like "Homecoming" in the secular world.) This is a time when we remember and thank God for the faithful witness of loved ones and good friends who have already claimed their heavenly home. Give thanks for those whose lives of faith have been blessings to you in your pilgrimage on earth.

**Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Day**

All cultures have various harvest festivals. That is the root of this day for American history. It is a national holiday, but a good time for people of faith to remember that all blessings come from God. It is our chance to be thankful for the land in which we live, but more importantly for the blessings that God so faithfully showers upon us, in good times and in bad. (Plus we get to eat turkey!)

**Sunday Nov. 26, the Festival of Christ the King**

This is the last Sunday in the liturgical year. (It is like New Year's Eve for the Church.) On this Sunday we focus on the victory of Christ as King over all, and how on the Last Day He will welcome us home. The focus is on the end of all time, and the end of our earthly time. It has an Easter ring to it and is a day of joyful celebration and triumph. This finishes the yearly cycle that begins with Advent.

The liturgical Church year begins with Advent and ends with Christ the King. From anticipating Christ's coming to our heavenly reunion, we spend time following this journey.

Then comes Advent! Advent begins Sunday December 3. Wednesday Midweek services begin on December 6. Mark your calendars now!

Don't ignore this special time of preparation!

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS**

We will again have special devotional booklets, this year produced by the Zion's ministry staff.

Available beginning on Sunday, November 26, they will share meditations and prayers to help prepare to celebrate Christ's birth!

The theme for these devotions will be "A Light in the Darkness." The devotions begin Sunday, December 3 and conclude on January 6, which is Epiphany or the last of the twelve days of Christmas.

**ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP**

Our midweek Advent services are a time out to help us prayerfully anticipate our celebration of Christ's birth. This year the fourth Sunday in Advent actually falls on December 24, so we will have only three midweek Advent services.

Advent worship services are held at noon, and also at 6:30pm, follow the Wednesday evening dinners in the Gathering Space. The services are casual, family friendly, and last about 30 minutes.

Written by Pastor Seeber, our Advent series this year will feature a series of dramatic dialogues. He has chosen a familiar children's book "The Little Engine That Could" to help illustrate practical Advent themes.

Advent wreaths, devotional booklets, and midweek services are all gifts to help prepare us to remember what Christmas is all about. Our Advent preparations are our way of preparing the manger of our hearts, for the joyous praise of a light to the nations and a savior for you and me.

In a world that has so little hope along with so much anger and fear, you can make a difference by growing in your faith and finding new ways to integrate what YOU believe into how you live as someone changed by the love of a baby in a manger. If we are to be shining lights, this is another way to recharge our energy and passion so that we are not only focused on gifts we are to receive but the greater gifts that we are daily called to share.

## Catechism Review: Communion (part two)

### “In the Upper Room”

When Jesus and his disciples gathered for a final meal, before his arrest and death, the disciples assumed they were only celebrating Passover.

They gathered, as they did every year, to remember a different last supper before their ancestors were set free from the harsh realities of slavery in Egypt. In a meal that focused on thanksgiving for the past and God’s miraculous rescue, they would again remember WHO had set them free and HOW God prepared them for the journey.

They thought they were just remembering the past, but Jesus surprised everyone by adding a new twist. He broke a piece of bread and declared, “This is my body broken for you!” And then as he shared the final cup of wine, he said, “This is my blood, poured out for you.”

Even as they looked back and forth, trying to understand what was going on, he was preparing them for what would come next. Later, they would remember and finally understand.

Every time we share in the fellowship, grace, and bread and wine of this blessed meal, it is the context of that Passover and special night in an upper room that sets the stage for us. Like their ancestors who had always built altars on high ground (assuming this would get them closer to God) it is interesting that Jesus walked them up the stairs to an upper room (high above the city) where most homes had only a ground floor.

Jesus took them to high ground before the meal and used that moment to introduce a new sacrifice that would end the need for any sacrifice ever again! They gathered as thankful people gather — celebrating the love of a God for his children of all ages. And then, Jesus proclaimed the love of a God who would surrender his flesh and blood to show his love for all eternity.

Jesus told his disciples, “Every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you will remember me.” Even that is an interesting concept, for it sounds as if it is a memorial or just a device to make the past clear. But understand, that for Jewish people, to remember literally made them a part of the past that was right before them. To remember meant to tie themselves to what they

gathered around. And so, for instance, if any were asked “How many people escaped Egypt?” the correct answer would be to say, “we all did!”

In a spiritual sense, to remember means we make ourselves one with the physical gift of Jesus himself, whom we are gathered around. To be more correct, we celebrate the One who gathers us in this sacramental time, as makes Himself one with us! Communion is unity with the Holy One! It is a sacred time that is timeless, as God again and again touches us in a miraculous way!

In a few short hours the disciples would be surrounded by darkness, fear and gloom. As their ancestors were driven out of Egypt under the cover of darkness and would be scattered out into the desert, they too would run from their greatest fears. Like Israel who would grumble in the desert and complain about their tough life — they would spend a lot of time hiding for fear of the authorities and trying to figure out what Jesus had done.

What is so neat is that they continued to meet in an upper room. And they continued to break bread, share the cup of blessing, pray, and remember the parables, the miracles, and the surprise guests at their many meals.

In such a meal is where they would see Jesus again, finally understanding what he meant when he had talked about his body and blood. On that evening of the first Easter, when he mysteriously appeared and broke bread they remembered! When he gathered with them again and again, it was in the breaking of bread they remembered all that he had promised and done for them (and for all people) out of love.

What happens in Communion? How can bread and wine and body and blood all be present at once? Theologians can try to explain miracles, but miracles cannot be explained. Faith is simply accepting what we cannot understand and allowing God to be God in our midst.

Every time we gather we remember, for we too were in that upper room. And Jesus still, in an unexplainable way is physical present with us. As we touch and taste we know this is true and it is real! And in remembering, we are with Jesus, just like those disciples were, again and again!

## **HELPING HANDS** **CHRISTMAS 2023**

*Zion is incredibly thankful to once again participate in Helping Hands. This program is a blessing to families within our community and an opportunity to share our love and the generosity of our congregation!*

Helping Hands returns on  
**Saturday, November 18, 2023**

Please take the tree(s) of your choice and a direction sheet explaining how to participate and how to return your gift(s).

The display is set up outside the library.

## **Zion Lutheran World Relief** **Sewing Project**

Wednesday, Oct 4th was a special day for our sewers. Our leader, Leona Van Antwerp shared we made 108 quilts and 98 layette bundles; Pastor Mike greeted us with a prayer for a safe arrival of these items. He emphasized only God knows when the gifts will arrive and how they will be received. They will be distributed in seven African countries, six Latin American and six Asia-Mexico.

Special thank you to all our sewers, knitters and donators making this another successful year.

Our work will start back up the 2nd week of January, weather permitting. We welcome others to join our sewing ministry.

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1Peter 4:10*

**OFFERING ENVELOPES...** Are being ordered for 2024. If you no longer use the envelopes, please let the Office know to remove you from the list. Thank you!

## **Grateful Hearts /** **Thankful Hands**

**November 18th 9:00a—2:00p**

Checklist for our upcoming bazaar:

- circle the date and time-
- sign up to volunteer
- continue to turn in crafts and Attic treasures no later than 1st week of November
- baked goods should be turned in on Friday 11/17 or by 8:30 Saturday morning
- help would be appreciated Sunday morning, the 12th, after the 10:30 service to move tables and boxes into the Gathering Room
- strong arms would be greatly appreciated at 2:00 on the 18th to move tables after the bazaar is over
- please consider contributing Baked goods - cookies, cakes, fudge, pies, muffins, scones, breads, spiced nuts or pretzels. please package so ingredients are visible and labeled
- please spread the word to neighbors, friends and family so we can make this our best bazaar yet
- call Jayne Mayer with questions - 375-8342

## **Loaves and Fishes**

### **Benefit Concert**

**Sat, Nov 4h at 5:30pm**

Trinity Lutheran Church

504 S. Westnedge Ave.

Admission by Cash Donation or Non Perishable Food Items

## Worship Help for Parents and Children

The different segments and patterns of our worship are called the liturgy. Liturgy comes from a Greek word meaning “the duty of the people.” The Liturgy is a pattern that we follow in our worship time together as God’s people. It helps prepare for worship. It brings us gifts of grace such as Word and Sacrament. It nurtures us for daily worship as God’s people. It shapes our response to God’s love.

Martin Luther was instrumental bringing the people (and not just the priests) into active worship! Before Luther’s day, the liturgy was only in Latin, and mostly chanted and understood by the priests, nuns, and monks. The people spent more time watching than being involved.

(And don’t forget basic preparations you engage in before you arrive, such as your attitude, mood, expectations, and temperament. Those set the tone as much as what we do together.) The musical prelude offers time for reflection and prayer, and then we speak!)

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** begins our formal act of worship. We “confess” sins and then hear God’s promise of forgiveness.

What was it this week? Not speaking to your spouse? A fight with your parents? No time for prayer or spiritual growth? Did any morning begin by remembering your Baptism? Sin simply devastates God’s family, and it is important to remember what God has done to restore what we break. We are created to live as one family but daily find ourselves separated from God and one another. If worship is to be as one, some thing is needed to bring us together as one.

**Confession** begins our time of healing as we *silently* admit specific sins (why pretend or try to hide — who are we fooling?) USE this time of silence. Open your heart! Admit your mistakes and trust God will love you anyway!

And then, in unison, we speak as one, because we are one family in Christ! In a general way we confess what is true for all, the general symptoms (“what we have done and what we have left undone”).

How can we worship God if we don’t begin by being honest? It is like getting baptized every

time we worship — we begin with the washing away the crust and grime of daily sin and selfishness. God’s touch begins worship.

We begin in complete honesty! No barriers. No pretensions. *Like Adam and Eve we stand naked before God.*

The **Absolution** is God’s response, in which the Pastor announces God has removed any guilt for what we have done. Jesus takes punishment we deserve on Himself. It is great news to hear “the entire forgiveness of all your sins!” Now that decks are clean, real worship can begin. It is like hearing the angels sing on Christmas which sets us free to run to the manger! What a change this makes! What a gift that God’s love brings us together, as the walls that separated are replaced with the outstretched arms of a loving God! Now we are ready for whatever comes next!

### For Parents with young children:

Ask your little ones why you sometimes want them to say “I’m sorry.” Ask what sorry means! Talk about how it is better not to hide things that we are afraid of, or that we might in trouble for.

Talk about why telling the truth always makes things easier. Remind them that even when you get upset, you still love them, feed them, and take care of them. Tell them how happy they make you when they come to you and say sorry. Let them know you will always love them and just want them to learn the right way to do things.

Ask if there is anything you have done to hurt them? Is there anything they want you to say you are sorry for? And, if there is, do it! Follow that with a hug and kiss and say, “I love you!” And keep hugging and kissing every day! Let them know how special you feel when they hug you — even when you have hurt their feelings or been a little too loud! This is exactly what God has done for us!

Never forget, much of how they view God comes from how they view you as parent! Explain, as best you can, that confession is our chance to tell God we are sorry, and absolution is God’s answer that he forgives and forgets, all out of love!

What a neat way to color our time with each other as a family, both at home and with our family here at Zion!

- tws

**Book Review:** The Substance of Things Seen: Art, Faith, and the Christian Community. Robin Jensen. Eerdmans. 2004

This book is incredibly insightful, readable, and wonderful in tying the relevance of art to faith. It might be even more important for anyone who sees art as secondary in importance to sermons and printed words about faith.

From the beginning, the most basic way for humans to respond to each other is through the gift of language. But before language there were symbols and images.

Sometimes it is difficult for any of us, to find the perfect word, and if someone doesn't speak the same language words can frustrate and confuse. The gift of art adds another dimension which is more symbolic and can be understood when words are too limiting or inadequate.

Art has been an incredible part of the Christian faith as a means of teaching, inviting, inspiring, and sharing the themes and theology as only art can do. Art can bridge the gap. It is more universal than language, and is a form of expression that is not as limiting as words.

The Bible is our handbook of faith, but we must remember we worship the God the Bible reveals and not the Bible itself. It is not printed words that are holy, but the holy Word of God revealed through printed words. The God of creation uses other creative gifts such as sunsets, burning bushes, floods, and visions to the prophets as his creative means for sharing glimpses into his divine nature and plan.

In our scientific world of facts we sometimes have lost the gift of imagination and discovery. Art, for that reason, is sometimes not given its due in terms of its ability to help us visualize and internalize the realities of faith. But art that is inspired and reveals the nature and guidance of God can be just as helpful as the greatest sermon Luther ever preached.

Because theology (words about God) is so important to our faith, we tend to spend more time with words than images, as words allow us to be exact and precise in our interpretations and explanations. But God has created eyes and imagination to see and feel more than words.

Divine inspiration is more than just God's manner of causing Scripture to come into being and our receptiveness in understanding his voice in the words of the printed page. There is a reason Jesus used parables rather than printed tracts to make his message clear. A parable is an artform. It is a verbal picture book. Jesus inspires those who listen to visualize what his words meant!

Jensen writes, "*The inspiration is a gift of the Spirit, and we are meant to attend to it! Our imagination is a receptive organ, and our imaginative work, therefore, a way we encourage and engage the divine ... Art's purpose is not to imitate life. Art's true purpose is to externalize, shape, and present a particular view of life and thus to achieve its own reality.*" [p.14]

The cathedrals of Europe are full of art for many reasons. While some criticize the waste of time and resources in such endeavors, saying more time could be spent in prayer or feeding the poor, there are reasons for liturgical art. While acts of charity and washing feet are crucial to the life of the Church, so are other expressions of faith as normal people use their artistic gifts to express and digest the mystery of God's presence.

Art allows for the creative expression of worship (which is giving glory to God) whether it is in an altar piece or the glorious colors of a stained glass windows that showers a cold sanctuary with the spectrum of God's love. Art is often the best way for the young or illiterate (which was the norm when the great cathedrals were built) to memorize the stories of scripture through pictures. Finally, so important in the Eastern branch of Catholicism (yet forgotten by many today) art allows us to slow down and focus on an aspect of the Christian message as a tool for mediation and prayer.

Luther said, "*If it is not a sin, but good to have the image of Christ in my heart, why should it be a sin to have it in my eyes?*" [p. 63]

This is a book that many would enjoy, and is quite readable as well. Just as there can be poor art, there can be poor sermons. Paint and words are only what they are. What makes art or sermons good is all about content, passion, and openness to let God use talent and opportunity for his glory, not ours. This book reminds us that if God uses many gifts to inspire, and art can be one of those important gifts.

- - Pastor Seeber

# FAMILY LIFE

## FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

### Upcoming Schedule

**November 12: Operation Christmas Child  
Shoeboxes are due!!!**

**November 18th: Church Bazaar**

**November 26th: NO Sunday School**

### DAILY ROUTINE

What does your daily routine look like? We typically function best when our routine is not interrupted, however, this is rarely the case. No matter how “ordinary” of a day it is, the routine that should be simple has many outside factors pulling and pushing on it. Routines help us function efficiently—so efficiently we often can get stuck in a routine, such as driving to work instead of to church on Sunday morning...our mind on autopilot...or turning on a light switch when the power is out.

Faith can become routine too. This is both good and bad. Our desire to show Jesus’ love should simply be part of who we are, part of our routine. But we should never get so used to loving that we forget why it is we love. We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19)! Faith should be included in our routine because of that great love, because we want to live out that love in our lives. How do you stress a faith routine with your kids? Show them! Make spiritual disciplines a priority, make hard decisions that benefit your future (eternity) more than your present, and reach out to those in need with generosity. Lead by example...love because He loves you.



## Youth News

We will continue to meet as a combined Middle School/High School Youth Group. Any student entering 6th-12th grades is invited to attend unless specifically noted! Friends are also invited!

### Confirmation Class (6th-8th)

Wednesdays at 6:15pm

**No Class November 22nd**

### Bible Study

Sundays, at 9:15am in the High School Youth Room

**No Class November 26th**

### Lock-In

Friday, November 3rd the lock-in begins at 8pm. After spending the night playing games, watching movies and building community we will snack on breakfast and head home at 7am on Saturday the 4th.

### Service Day

Sunday, November 12th

11:30am–2pm we are packing OCC kits, College Care Kits, and setting up for the bazaar! We are also tearing down the bazaar on November 18th at 2pm.

## Echoes

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

As we scanned old directories we reminisced about people from the past, chatted about kids grown up, and commented on staples who changed over time. “One day at a time” is a common phrase I hear from friends.

As members age, health issues come into play. People who were once able to serve others or help in many ways no longer physically can. Who steps up? So many of our Zion people take matters into their own hands, providing a meal for a couple that cannot get around, landscaping for someone who cannot be out in the heat, or simply sending a positive note or phone call to one who needs to chat. That’s the thing...it’s time to take your faith and live it out—without the need of Zion to organize a drive, issue a service day, or only have staff do visitation. Yes we will certainly keep doing those things but you are a child of God, called by Him to serve, to love! What can you do this month to seek out someone in need and show them love?

Who can you serve?



- 11/4 Claire Alsvig, Carolyn Daenzer
- 11/5 Amanda Coleman
- 11/6 Myla Bierlein, Michael O'Connor
- 11/8 Mark Heineman, Catherine Holt,  
Shelby Waterlander,  
Hayden Williams
- 11/9 Grace Dinda, Ted Maxson,  
Mary Phillips, Carol Rosin,  
Peter Wilkins, Sydney Woods
- 11/10 Rudy Linebaugh
- 11/12 Curtis Chapman II, Vince LaPorte
- 11/13 Jayne Mayer
- 11/14 Stan Leitz
- 11/15 Eric Heineman, Mark Spann
- 11/17 Suzanne Dale, Rozalyn Whitaker
- 11/18 Theresa Devine, Joshua Madison
- 11/19 Amy Bentz, Anna Nicolen
- 11/20 Emma Boettcher, Valorie Miller,  
Abbey VandenBerg
- 11/21 Bill Mercier, John Skuratowicz
- 11/22 Darcie Kiessling, Jacqueline  
Morgan
- 11/23 Kailynne Besser, Karen Kellam,  
David Newman
- 11/24 Angelina Pachuda,  
Jay Woodhams
- 11/25 Chris Ertl, Grayson Field,
- 11/27 Ann French
- 11/29 Scott Adams, Olivia Carlson
- 11/30 Owen Burnard, Mark Couch,  
Donald Heath



**November's need is**

**Low-Sodium Canned Vegetables**

Gray tubs are in the church lobby below the office window

**Parish Report**

<u>Deaths</u>	
Melody Couch	10/8/2023
<u>Baptism</u>	
Bauer Ethan Zerbel	9/17/2023

**Staff Anniversaries**

Congratulations to the following staff for their service to Zion (November):

Jim Johnston	11/19/2000
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**FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL**

It is only natural during this month to reflect on everything we are grateful for. Serving the students and families of Friends of Jesus Preschool is an opportunity I am very thankful the Lord brought before me. The support, love, and kindness of the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church is another blessing I thank God for.

Thank you to everyone who visited Y'OPA frozen yogurt for our fundraiser in early October, as well as all the help we had for our Fall Fest event.

As we look to the coming months, we will be hosting a second snack drive during the month of January and registration for the 2024-2025 school year, as well as summer camp registration, will also begin in January. Summer camps are another great opportunity to spread the word to family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about what Friends of Jesus Preschool has to offer.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Jen LaPorte  
Director

*"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:10 NIV*



## THE LIBERIAN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### 15 Schools, 6500 Children - Ready to Start A New School Year

Dear Partner in Mission,

Thank you for your prayers and support for our schools during the 2022-23 school year. Our 15 schools with over 6000 students closed the first and second week of July. We are now **preparing to reopen the first week of September for the 2023-24 school year.**

Our school ministry gives us the opportunity to reach over 6000 families with the Gospel. **Seventy percent of the children in our schools come from homes with no church background.** Because of your faithful prayers and financial support, we are able to share Christ with the children and their parents. **Pray with us that the Holy Spirit will touch lives and change the children and their parents this new school year.**

We want to ask for your continued prayers and support as we start our 2023-24 school year. **We anticipate the enrollment for the new school year to be over 6500 children for our 15 schools.** Please prayerfully consider how you can help sponsor some of our new students. It costs \$25 per child to attend our schools for a year. Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$75, or more will help one, two, three, or more children to attend our schools for a year. Or your gift of \$3000 will help run one of our schools with 150 to 200 children for a year.

I will be in Liberia from August 29 through September 17. The principals and teachers in our schools have asked that I join them for the beginning of the new school year. While in Liberia, **I will join Rev. S.T. Williams in Monrovia to visit our church leaders and as he preaches at one of the churches.** Rev. Williams is the Senior Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Los Angeles, California.

**Please use the prayer calendar on page 2 to guide your prayers during our trip to Liberia August 28 – September 18.**

With a Thankful Heart,  
Joe Boway



**Our 15 schools in rural Liberia are ready to welcome over 6500 eager children for the 2023-2024 school year**



**Pray with us that the Holy Spirit will touch lives and change the hearts of the children in our schools, and their parents, this new school year.**

## NOVEMBER 2023 WORSHIP LEADERS

	NOVEMBER 5 ALL SAINTS	NOVEMBER 12	NOVEMBER 19	NOVEMBER 23 THANKSGIVING 10:00am	NOVEMBER 26 CHRIST THE KING
<b>Acolytes 8:00am</b>	Nikko Quezada	Ashlynn Leitz	Eli Frazier	n/a	Crosby & Grayson Field
<b>Acolytes 10:30am</b>	Crosby & Grayson Field	Noah Bentz	Hayden Williams	Eli Frazier	Beatrice & James Mayer
<b>Head Ushers 8:00am</b>	Fred Bierlein Dave Newman	Matt Simmons Alan Sarver	Steve Weber Dave Mayer	Stan Leitz John DuBois	Dave Newman Rich Rakow
<b>Head Ushers 10:30am</b>	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak		Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien
<b>Cantor 8:00am</b>	Dennis O'Brien	Karen Stokes Chapo	Linda Stieve	n/a	Vicki Holt
<b>Cantor 10:30am</b>	n/a	Karen Stokes Chapo	n/a	n/a	Vicki Holt
<b>Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm</b>	Kathleen Jordan	Judy Adlam	Joanne Bowes	n/a	Ted Maxson
<b>Communion Assistants 8:00am</b>	Pastors	Ted Maxson	Mike Schlack	n/a	Pastors
<b>Communion Assistants 10:30am</b>	Pastors	Garr Gast	Dana Butt	Dee Wentzel (10:00)	Pastors
<b>Lectors 8:00am</b>	Pastors	Jayne Mayer	Dave Mayer	n/a	Pastors
<b>Lectors 10:30am</b>	Pastors	Alison Carlson	Greg Gerfen	Pastor Mark Couch (10:00)	Pastors
<b>Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm</b>	1. 2.	1. Mary Vandenberg 2.	1. 2.	1.n/a 2. n/a	1. 2.
<b>Altar Ministry 8:00am</b>	1. Nicki Klein 2.	1. Linda Mayer 2.	1. Nicki Klein 2.	1. 2.	1. Joe Zerbel 2. Larry Zerbel
<b>Altar Ministry 10:30am</b>	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2. Dee Wentzel	1. Dee Wentzel 2. Cathy Hof	1. Carrie Chapman 2. Dee Wentzel	1. Dee Wentzel 2. Melissa Noseworthy	1. Dee Wentzel 2. Cathy Hof

# NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>  5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	<b>2</b>  7:00 Choir	<b>3</b>  8P Youth Lock In	<b>4</b> 8a Men's Bible 8-Noon Women's Coffee & Crafts 5:30 Worship 7A
<b>5</b> Daylight Saving 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 P. Brejle Bible St	<b>8</b>  5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	<b>9</b>  7:00 Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veterans Day 8:00 Men's Bible Study  5:30 Worship
<b>12</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Packing / College Care Kits	<b>13</b>  6:30 Endowment	<b>14</b> 10:00 P Brejle Bible St	<b>15</b>  5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	<b>16</b>  Noon - Finance  7:00 Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>9 - 2 Bazaar</b>  2:00 Pray Shawl 5:30 Worship
<b>19</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>20</b>  6:30 BOD	<b>21</b> 10:00 P Brejle Bible St ? 2:00 Book Group	<b>22</b>  No Midweek Activities	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving 10:00 Worship  FOJ Closed	<b>24</b> Church Closed  FOJ Closed	<b>25</b>  5:30 Worship
<b>26</b> 8:00 Worship  10:30 Worship No Sunday School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 P Brejle Bible St	<b>29</b>  5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	<b>30</b>  7:00 Choir		
		Notes				

Zion Financial Report for September 30, 2023

ZION: September Spending exceeded Giving by \$ (13,298)  
 YTD Spending exceeds Giving by \$ (60,431)  
 YTD Giving is under by \$ (21,085)  
 YTD Spending is under by \$ 4,352

Questions? Please email Rhonda Newman at mewmancpa@sboglobal.net

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
<b>INCOME</b>						
Zion Giving & Misc.	65,865	61,538	-4,327	263,177	242,092	-21,085
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Church Property	9,350	9,854	-504	37,400	48,161	-10,761
Education Ministry	2,200	954	1,246	6,400	5,642	758
Evangelism/Missions	75	40	35	300	40	260
Finance Ministry	6,396	6,407	-11	25,582	25,576	6
FOJ Expenses	2,285	166	2,119	5,411	915	4,496
FOJ Staff	8,276	7,036	1,240	13,855	7,036	6,819
Missions - General	4,665	5,861	-1,196	19,992	22,800	-2,808
Music Ministry	2,845	1,266	1,379	8,660	8,141	519
Office Operations	1,367	1,372	-5	5,306	5,121	185
Other	166	452	-286	1,139	1,133	6
SG Expenses	890	433	457	3,560	5,014	-1,454
SG Staff	9,448	9,535	-87	37,792	37,539	253
Worship	540	408	134	2,220	1,681	539
Zion Haus	447	500	-53	1,788	1,148	640
Zion Staff	32,879	30,555	2,324	137,470	132,576	4,894
Total Expenses	81,629	74,837	6,792	306,875	302,523	4,352
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-15,764</b>	<b>-13,298</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>-43,698</b>	<b>-60,431</b>	<b>-16,733</b>

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2023	9/30/2023	YTD Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	120,658	80,669	-39,989
Investments	180,547	162,550	2,003
Due To/From Endowment	-12,713	-14,661	-1,947
Dedicated Funds	-73,123	-77,759	-4,636
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195,369</b>	<b>150,801</b>	<b>-44,568</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current Liabilities	5,850	2,189	-3,660
Unrestricted Funds	189,519	148,612	-40,907
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195,369</b>	<b>150,801</b>	<b>-44,568</b>

**MORTGAGE LOAN**

Balance 9/30/2023 \$442,748  
 Monthly Payment \$6,350.00  
 Additional Principal \$0.00

**Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000**

FOJ Fundraising \$3,519  
 Youth Ministry \$9,982  
 New Staff \$35,734  
 Solid Grounds \$13,325

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

November

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**November 23rd**