



# Harbinger

June 2023  
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**Page 2**  
**Pastor Saylor Intro**

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

**Page 4**  
**Youth News**

**Page 5**  
**Family Life**

**Page 7**  
**Campus / FOJ**

**Page 8**  
**Book Review**

**Page 9**  
**Worship Help**

**Page 11**  
**Misc Announcements**

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Over the years, I have spent time behind bars in jail (always visiting, mind you.) The most interesting was when at the seminary as a basketball referee for local adult leagues. Over Christmas we were hired to referee a game in a medium security prison. All I remember is we gave the prison team the benefit of the doubt when it came to close calls! (Sometimes it helps to be practical rather than perfect.) A more troublesome jail visit was when a parishioner was arrested for physically abusing his wife. I knew them well. They were a loving couple, always pleasant and active at church. I visited him in his jail cell, as he explained his wife was suffering from dementia, which was rapidly getting out of control. They had tried to deal with it as best they could, he was her only caregiver, and there was not as much support then as there is now. He told me she was losing her temper more and more, and this day had been throwing pictures and plates and anything she could get her hands on. She even tried to hit him with a pan. He finally grabbed her arms to keep her from hurting herself or him. A neighbor heard her screams and called the police. The police found him holding her bruised arms in restraint, and had no choice but to arrest him. He was not angry or resentful, saying he did what he had to do to keep both of them safe. They already told him he would face no charges, would go home in the morning, but they needed time to find a place for his wife to be taken for psychiatric help. He was alone with no other family to help out. It was painful to watch this gentle man crying for his wife's pain, offering no compliant for being in jail. He was simply frustrated he didn't know what he could do to help her. Sometimes life is more complicated than we plan on, and easy answers are not close at hand. We had a wonderful visit, even behind bars, and his faith and love in such a tough moment were more a gift to me than anything I could do for him. She was later admitted to a care facility where he was then able to visit every day. There is no moral to this, only a reminder of the fragile nature of life, and the price of faithful love. Blessings! Pastor Seeber

## INTRODUCING NEW SENIOR PASTOR MICHAEL SAYLOR!

On June 4 at 3pm, we will install our new Senior Pastor, Michael Saylor. This is a brief biography to get you better acquainted.

The Reverend Michael Saylor, a 1999 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, has previously served congregations in Iowa and Ohio. In addition to his service as parish pastor, Pastor Mike has served the LCMS in numerous roles: LWML Zone Counselor, Circuit Visitor, and Ohio District 1st Vice-President.

He also helped establish and grow a number of local ministries in Ohio, including The Village Ministry Center (an after school tutoring program for students) and Haven of Hope (a men's homeless shelter).

Pastor Saylor also has had the privilege of leading theological training for Liberian pastors on four separate journeys to Zwedru, Liberia, West Africa under the direction and guidance of Joe Boway and the Liberian Children's Ministry based in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mike was born in Fort Wayne and attended Elmhurst High School, where he met Laura Vogelgesang. They graduated together in 1983 and were married on March 14, 1987 at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. They have been blessed with seven children and five grandchildren. The two youngest of the seven, Lydia and Sophia, currently are in college and will be in Kalamazoo during breaks and summers.

Laura was baptized at Mount Calvary and attended Lutheran elementary school until starting at Elmhurst as a high school freshman. Laura invited her unchurched boyfriend to begin attending church with her. As a result, Mike was baptized and confirmed at Mount Calvary on Christmas Day 1982 during their senior year of high school.

Prior to starting seminary in 1995, Mike worked for a candy company in Fort Wayne that specialized in chocolate clusters (vanilla, maple and caramel) and frosted pretzels. He spent 10 years with Key III Candies, Inc, starting as kitchen help and working up to a sales representative

responsible for about 180 wholesale and retail accounts. In essence, each day he drove around in an insulated van full of chocolate, delivered products, and provided samples upon request.

Pastor and Laura are grateful to God for the opportunity to serve His people here at Zion. They look forward to getting to know and serving with their new church family!

### A Message From Pastor Seeber

Thank you for the opportunities you have allowed for me to serve you, for your forgiveness for my shortcomings, and your love in nurturing and supporting me and my family.

It has been a blessing for me to get acquainted over these past few weeks with Pastor Saylor. I look forward to our new friendship and partnership in ministry. He is excited about his new role here.

Please find unique ways over the next weeks and months to welcome Pastor Saylor and his lovely wife Laura. They are wonderful people who are anxious to get to know all of you as we work together for God's kingdom.

God has brought us together, at this time and place. And now we move forward, remembering the past is the past. We can live only in the moment, even as we learn from yesterday and plan for tomorrow. Whatever we do in God's name and for his sake, will be blessed!

Pray for Pastor Saylor and his family, Ask God to guide you in how you can be most helpful in continuing to support Zion today and tomorrow. Whether you have been here forty years or four weeks, all will have the same history with Pastor Saylor as he will with you. In other words, it is a great time for everyone to jump in the pool together. Zion's future begins now!

It is important for me that you welcome and support Pastor Saylor as your pastor. I will have a more limited role in the years ahead, and look forward to serving under his guidance. He is easy to get to know, passionate about serving Jesus, and anxious to get to know all of you. I am excited about Zion's future ministries!

Blessings, Pastor Seeber

**CATECHISM REVIEW: Apostles Creed (part 2)**

We are used to gathering information on any subject of the interest on the internet. (And we assume that whatever we find is correct.) We forget that for most of human history, books (and especially libraries) were few and far between. For most of recorded time, even if there were books or scrolls available, they were available only to the rich and powerful.

For thousands of years, important information was shared orally. Such information was passed on word for word, generation by generation. People would memorize important facts such as the names of generations of ancestors, and the stories of where families came from. They learned when to plant and when to harvest, and how different crops needed different tending. The information had to be passed on correctly. That is how they remembered. The fact that they remembered so much correctly isn't because they were smarter than we are today, but that their lives depended on getting the facts straight. They listened and practiced reciting over and over again to their mentors and teachers until they got it right and were ready to be the new mentor of their generations.

The Apostles' Creed is one such gift. Like a hymn or poem, it was memorized and people would teach the faith by saying the Creed. Rather than tell a child to look it up, parents and grandparents recited the creed over and over until the next generation had it committed to memory. They then were able to carry the facts of the Christian faith wherever they went, and could teach others what we believe. The Creed is divided into three parts, as it proclaims three different ways (persons) in which God reveals his presence and carries out his actions in our lives.

We talk about each section as an Article of the creed. Since Scripture reveals to us a God with three distinct natures (trine, or three-in-one) the Creed proclaims the three natures (persons) of God: Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit. Each Article of the Creed is a summary of what we believe about God. Each deals specifically with one aspect or personality of God. While we talk about the three persons of the Trinity, this can confuse some into seeing God as having three heads and three bodies. But the concept really is about the three distinctly different ways that God comes to us, as one! There is only one God!

There is not a daddy god, a child god, and an invisible-spirit god, but only ONE God. We believe that everything God is, has always been and will always be. Our problem is we are limited to our own experience and ability to use reason and language to explain what is beyond our ability to completely understand or explain. Hence, faith! And so we begin: **"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."**

Rather than getting sidetracked by those who argue whether such language is politically correct, it is more productive to understand what Scripture and the Church has always taught, and accept at faith value what this proclaims about our God. Father means that God is the source of ALL life. Almighty proclaims God's power is incredible and beyond any limits or weakness. There is nothing equal to the power of God. There is no life without God as God alone is responsible for all life. It is not for us to say how God produces life, but rather to confess that Life is ultimately a gift from God.

The implications of that are tremendous! This means God is responsible for the purpose and the nurture of all that is. Proclaiming an almighty Father confesses our belief that God is up to the task and celebrates this gift. Everything, including time and space has origins in God. All is his gift to us.. Without God there would be nothing.

God is not just the head of the family of people, but Creator of everything. (Get that?) Every thing!!! That certainly leaves nothing out; not mold, sunsets, gamma rays, starlight, jelly fish, hummingbirds, poison ivy, mountains, or ... well, you get the point. As God is the Source of every thing, then God is also the owner. God (not you or me) determines purpose of any thing. God is the landlord and the patriarch of every clan.

We believe the only response to such a loving God is to care for all God has made. It behooves us to seek to learn what and why God has created. And for us to use and support life and all things to his glory! We aren't the owners, but the stewards and care takers of great mysteries and gifts. To be responsible takes constant faith and prayer. That is being responsible and faithful with the gift of creation and the gift of life.

- tws

# Youth News

## **All Youth:**

The week of service (with your family) is June 26-28. This opportunity to serve our congregation and the community will happen at 5:15pm each night. We will gather for dinner and then work on a different project each night. Bring your family and a friend to help out!

Summer Hangouts will replace the High School summer study. ALL YOUTH entering 6th-13th grade are encouraged to attend. Our June dates are the week of service (above) but watch for July and August dates to come.

## Echoes

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

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” This command from Jesus has implications for those around us...but have you ever thought specifically about being a good neighbor? Like “physical” neighbor...those living next to you and across the street?

I live in a neighborhood that’s cut off from others. I know the names of people within sight of my house and everyone seems friendly. But my literal neighbors are awesome. I was out edging my driveway with just a shovel and Craig across the street bought me his electric edger. Cut the job time in half. My immediate neighbor Alan came over and helped me cut down a tree and put up a shed. We chat at least three or four times a week. Alan has a church home and is active there but I’m not sure Craig does. Regardless, these two neighbors have been God at work to me. I see God through them, whether or not they realize it!

That’s it! God works despite us. But if we take a step back and seek out how to share His love, we will see those opportunities too.

# Family Life

## Family Ministry News

### Summer Fun

We take a break from Sunday School over the summer, but we plan to host these community builders as well as some other opportunities to gather:

**June 26-28: VBS/Week of Service**

**July 15: Growlers game**

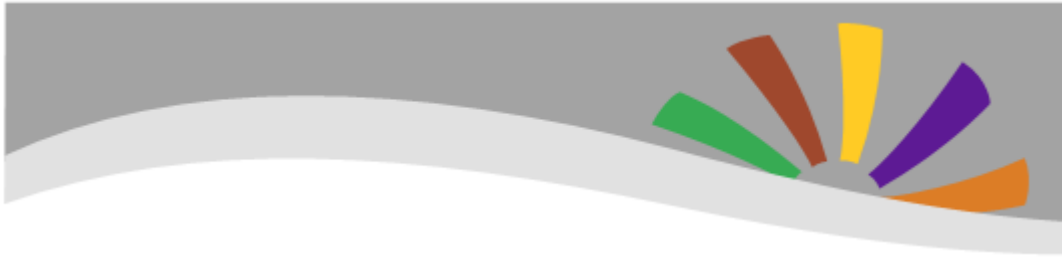
**August 9: Congregation Meal Packing  
Servant Event**

### **ADDICTION**

There is a common quote that says "If the devil can't make you bad, he'll make you busy." Oftentimes we associate addiction with drugs, sex, alcohol, etc. In my article a few months back I highlighted addiction to technology. But what about addition to busyness? We often overlook that one in an attempt to say our lives are not boring or we are filling the lives of our kids with experiences. But let's think about this in a different light. Addiction is simply an overuse of something intended to be enjoyed.

What happens next?

You become reliant on that behavior or substance. It's no longer used for enjoyment and now it becomes a necessity. Summer is here. It's good to stay busy but be more aware of when your busyness stops being enjoyable. Remember, we are raising the future generation. Our kids are learning behaviors directly from us. Let's remember to incorporate rest, recovery, Sabbath time into the regular schedule. Let's have attitudes that don't rely on activities but rather on opportunities that God gives us to share His love.



# Week of Service

We have been gifted by God and called to serve others. Join us in various projects from landscaping to cleaning to packing care kits. All ages are welcome! Sign up on the kiosk at Zion.

**June 26-28, 5:15pm**

Meet at Zion for dinner and project assignment

Each project expected to last about 1-2 hours. Sign up ahead of time required to coordinate projects. Any questions? Ask Aaron

## Kalamazoo Growlers!

Saturday, July 15th at 6:35 pm



**Tickets are only \$20/adult! Kids 18 and under are FREE!**

Join other Zion families and friends on the annual trip to the Growlers! Family Ministry is covering the cost of kids 18 and under, so they are free! Tickets are first come/first serve and we only have 40 tickets this year. This event is open to everyone in Zion's congregation and family/friends. Ticket includes dinner and vouchers for drinks/hats/etc!

To sign up, contact Aaron at [dcegrube21@gmail.com](mailto:dcegrube21@gmail.com)

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

First of all, thank you for the ongoing prayers and support for both me and Melody regarding her health situation. We have felt the love and support of the members of Zion and the power of the prayers that everyone has lifted up in our behalf. Hopefully, we'll have a better direction in June or early July from the medical professionals.

There are a few students that have remained in town for the summer semester. We are continuing to volunteer on Tuesday evenings at the YWCA.

In addition to serving the campus community, I am looking forward to taking over for Pastor Brelje's ministry with the shut-ins. I went with him last Friday on his regular round of visits with the shut-ins. As it turns out, I know the vast majority of our shut ins and really look forward to taking on this new role.

In June, WMU hosts summer orientation for the incoming freshmen. Each year, during the orientation sessions, there is an event called the Involvement Zone. The Involvement Zone gives student organizations on campus the opportunity to meet the incoming freshmen, and for us, the chance to promote Solid Grounds and our campus ministry.

God's blessings and peace to you all.

Pastor Mark

## FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL

As we enter the summer months, please continue to spread the word about Friends of Jesus Preschool. Enrollment is open for our 3- and 4-year-old classes, and before and after care is available from 7 AM until 5:30 PM. We will be hosting Preschoolers & Popsicles this summer, which is a great opportunity to meet other preschool families! For more information or to schedule a tour please contact Jen LaPorte at 269-382-2360 or [jen@zionkazoo.org](mailto:jen@zionkazoo.org).

**Friends of Jesus Preschool is hiring!** If you or someone you know has a background in education and experience working with children and would like to be a part of our team, send us your resume at [jen@zionkazoo.org](mailto:jen@zionkazoo.org) or drop it off at the office.

Wishing everyone a summer filled with joy and memorable moments,

Jen LaPorte

Director

KICK OFF SUMMER WITH...

## PRESCHOOLERS & POPSICLES

Wednesday, June 7th

10-11:30 AM

Preschool-age children (and siblings) and their caregivers are welcome to join us on the playground at Zion Lutheran Church for some sunshine, playtime, and popsicles!

\*\*Weather permitting



## Two Book Reviews

**A Guide to Monastic Guest Houses. (U.S. and Canada)** Robert Regalbuto. Morehouse Publishing. 2000.

**Sanctuaries: A Guide to Lodgings in Monasteries, Abbeys, and Retreats. (U.S.)** Jack and Marcia Kelly. Bell Tower. 1996.

These books comprise a different type of review than I normally share. They are not theological in the sense that most of what I share might have been. But they have to do with nurture and support of your lives of faith. And they are both in our library.

They might be somewhat dated, and affected by the aftermath of a pandemic and many of the regulations that followed, but that does not take away from <sup>their</sup> value as a starting place.

Many of our members enjoy travel. Many of our members have participated in retreats of various natures. These books are intended to provide an incentive for combining such passions that you might be seeking for.

For hundreds and hundreds of years, the Church has founded facilities for people to gather in monastic communities, but have also opened many of those facilities for those seeking nurture, healing, or renewal.

For some, having a quiet several acres of garden and peaceful surroundings is enough. Others might be looking for a weekend or month long time to get away and renew a relationship of faith with our God of love.

Spending time in a community for a few hours, days, or weeks, with people who have committed their lives to full time ministry in such place might seem intimidating at first, but it should not. I have been a variety of such settings both in Ohio and Michigan, either for day long retreats, conferences, or occasional visits and can assure you that this is something everyone should consider.

For many years, we utilized St. Joseph's Retreat center in Nazareth (here in Kalamazoo County) for retreats. All who were part of such moments can attest to the helpfulness of such facilities.

St. Augustine's in Oxford, MI, for instance, is the only Lutheran monastery I am aware of. The Hermitage and St. Gregory's Abbey are both within twenty minutes of Kalamazoo.

St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, KS was featured in "Atchison Blue." (a book in our library.) Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina was featured in the book "Beyond the Walls; Monastic Wisdom for Everyday Life," also in our library.

We live in a world that is increasingly noisy, busy, conflicted and searching for the reclusive moments of peace that are so few and far between. We take vacations to get away, but how many consider finding a quiet place as part of that getaway, whether an abbey, a retreat center, or small house specifically offered for serenity, contemplation, and prayer.

These books might give you some ideas, especially should there be such a facility in a place you are headed. These are not the only such facilities around. Or maybe these facilities might inspire you, as you rent a cabin on a lake, or find a special place for quiet to consider making spiritual reflection part of your get away.

Many (and most are from outside Zion) have even found our sanctuary a quiet place to come and reflect, pray, and even seek guidance from staff during the week. The point not to miss is we might consider the possibilities that abound for our faith journey through life. We need more often to find quiet times and places for reflection and renewal in our lives of faith, that our faith vision is more central to daily life.

Take a look at the Gospels and you will be reminded how often Jesus would take time away from the crowds (and disciples) to find quiet places to pray. If such was his need, maybe that is an example we have forgotten to consider!

Each book lists locations and facilities that at the time of writing, were open and available or short term visits. I would use either or both of these as a starting place and use the internet to find websites with updated information. These might also help you consider what information you might look for should you become aware of other locations that offer such opportunities.

Pastor Seeber



## Worship Help for Parents and Children

(It is OK for everyone else to read too! Our goal is to help all to better understand the practices of our Lutheran style of worship. )

### Colors, Candles and Crosses

How do you learn best — by words, diagrams, or by touching and doing yourself? We all encounter the world and learn in different ways. Much of our faith culture is passed along in the written and spoken word. But much is visual as well.

Early cultures shared history and traditions orally. Later those stories were written. At the same time cave paintings and illustrations on ancient buildings and walls speak to the importance of visual stimulation, remembering, and learning. (The artist was as important as the storyteller!)

The Church has been at the forefront of such a varied approach to proclaiming the Gospel from its earliest days. The written and spoken Word of Scripture and liturgy has been important in worship — but so has the visual.

Candles are a symbol of Christ as Light of the World. An empty cross proclaims the victory of resurrection; a crucifix reminds us of the Savior's passion and death. Stained glass windows or banners proclaim a message through color and symbol. Such visuals speak Gospel at so many different levels. We remember Jesus' words to let our light shine as we lift up a candle at the baptism of our infants!

Every Sunday the altar color proclaims a theme. Advent is blue (for royalty.) Christmas and Epiphany are white (for stars and angels, and a Light for the World.) Lent is purple (for passion and a royal procession to the cross.) Easter is white (for the dazzling hope of the resurrection.) Pentecost is red (for the fire of the Spirit.) The Pentecost season is green (for the growing time of the Church.) Colors bring to mind words about faith, and help set the mood just as candles chase away shadows and gloom.

Communion vessels are silver, and candles are lighted, because Holy Communion is our special meal of the family. We remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples and his presence with us as we gather around his table. This is a most

precious meal and so it is fitting for the table is set with our finest dishes. (Just as we do in our own homes for special meals like Thanksgiving, Easter, or Christmas.

The stark bareness of the chancel (no colors, candles or furnishings) from Maundy Thursday to Easter announce the lonely vigil of death which our Savior endured for us. The powerful colors of our stained glass proclaims the Biblical message from Genesis to Revelation.

Our other windows in the sanctuary are clear, so we are reminded of the world in which we live and are called to serve. We are surrounded by so many visual aids, and rather than take them for granted, why not let each be understood as a gift that enhances and enriches your lives of faith!

### For Parents with young children:

We have all felt overwhelmed with keeping children busy in worship, but what a blessing these visuals can be to help bring little ones into the power of our time of worship!

We have copies of children's Bible with pictures next to their book bags to help teach them the stories of faith. Children's bulletins allow them to draw pictures that reinforce a theme for the day. Why not have them pick a scene from the window to copy and use that to talk about that message for the day? Ask what color the pastor is wearing and talk about why colors change. Look at woodcarvings (from Jesus' passion) and use them to talk about what Jesus did out of love for us.

Encourage them to ask about what they see. When the acolyte lights a candle, use that as a chance to talk about how light changes darkness and why Jesus is the Light of the world. When smoke rises from a candle, let them think about prayers rising to God. What window colors match the color of the season? Why is the baptismal banner blue (water?) Why is there a symbol of a dove? How many crosses can they find in the window, or throughout the building? How neat that ordinary items can be used in a special way to enhance and enrich worship — to create a mood, announce a theme, or proclaim the Good News of Jesus! You see there are many ways to learn and many ways to feel and reflect the power and the message of our faith. Pastor Seeber

*(Pastor Charles Mueller, served for many years as a parish pastor, district president, synodical leader, and helped Zion deal with the grief upon the death of our pastor's wife, and later the death of his oldest daughter. His ministry in our midst was pastoral and practical.*

*Twenty five year ago he assisted Zion in an extensive congregational study, which led to our present organization and structure. This precipitated the renovation and expansion of our building to enable more ministry and outreach. His guidance helped us to more intentionally focus on ministry beyond Sunday morning worship. Many of our current ministries were begun or readjusted as a direct result of his help.*

*This was one of many articles he wrote for church workers and congregations. Hopefully it will inspire you to similar gifts for your family.*

### ***“Sparrows All”***

Urged to do so by my sainted parents to do so, I have completed the text of what has become a 120 page history of how God watched over each of the eight ancestral strands Audrey [his wife] and I brought together in our marriage. Mom and dad had a more modest vision. They gathered facts, family photos, stories, and lots of supporting material that were needed for telling how God's hand was at work in my family's history.

I organized what they had begun and expanded the project's scope to include my wife's ancestry. Together they provide our children's gene pool. That collection of family histories has continuing and extended significance for their descendants and parenthetically for various elements of our extended family.

While the story I wrote is woven around Audrey, me, and about our many ancestors, going back as far we were able to trace, the story line is about our God's unfailing care for our eight primary ancestral lines.

All of our immigrant ancestors emigrated from what is now northwest Germany though as far as we can tell none of them ever met. Over about a forty year period they took turns crossing the Atlantic and settled in Indiana, Iowa, Missouri,

Nebraska, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Half headed to cities where they could practice crafts like soap making and construction. The other half hungered for farm land. None left Germany looking for religious freedom though all were very religious, loved the Lutheran church and founded dozens of churches in the USA. Wanting to know more about them Audie and I visited almost every place they had lived.

As part of our broader family strategy Audie and I plan to have copies of our document printed which we will share not only with our children and grandchildren but with other extended family members for whom at least some part of the story has ancestral relevance.

We call the publication, “Sparrows All” a title based on Jesus' comment about how God watches over all the sparrows. In my digging around I came upon an unverifiable tidbit that at any given time there are 35 billion sparrows flittering around in the world. Mind-boggling as it seems the number looks OK to me – I think 25 billion of them live in Illinois.

But he watches all? Using snippets of Prange, Mewes, Dorn, Scherer, Mueller, Beckman, Steinkamp and Hasenjaeger we want to show what God does for those who are His. In 1789 a Mueller ancestor living in Fischehutte, Germany carved on an exterior frontal beam of his thatched cottage the following words:

*“Haben deine Liebe an Gott und seinen Willen ... So wird er deinen Wunsch erfuellen”.* An English paraphrase of sort is “Delight in God and His will, and your deepest desires He will fulfill.” this was based, somewhat, on Psalm 37:4.

In time the cottage collapsed and was razed. But that sixteen foot carved beam was preserved and re-used in a replacement structure that still stands today. Audie and I saw it in place – a silent witness across the centuries. What can I do to encourage you to an open ended project of seeking and saving stories and photos of how God has blessed your roots families? Do it for your children – and for theirs – and for yourself. It gives life a purpose. Make it an offering.

Pastor Charles S. Mueller



- 6/1 Alyson Hampshire, Maren Hampshire, Lila Hauge-Stoffel, Robert Rosenthal, Jeff Schommer, Ruth Stokes
- 6/2 Morgan Freeby, Lynette Gumbleton, Jon Tomer
- 6/3 Jason Emig
- 6/4 Briley Vander Veen
- 6/5 Cynthia Krill,
- 6/6 Vicki Holt, William Ohland, Amy Woznick
- 6/7 Rolland Preuss, Sam Proos, Philomene Rettman
- 6/9 Margo Bridges, Christopher Hurry
- 6/10 James Siek, Joshua Vickery
- 6/11 Candace Buetow,
- 6/12 Ellie Bentz, Hanna Brege, Kimberly Stiegemeyer
- 6/13 Marilyn Fager, Renae Morgan, Michael O'Connor
- 6/15 Phyllis Huberty
- 6/16 Tricia Dinda, Roberta Thomas
- 6/17 Susan Buchtrup, Nancy Heineman, Philip Parr Jr., John Skuratowicz
- 6/18 Pam DeMorrow, Paul Gilbert,
- 6/19 Larry Harding,
- 6/20 Megan Collins, Donya Mosher, Tom Proos, Sarah Schierbeek
- 6/21 Benjamin Bickel, Michael Hovde, Dillon Wollberg
- 6/22 Joye Mayer
- 6/23 Natalie Asaro, Tessa Butt, Kathleen Jordan, Daniel Woodford
- 6/24 Barbara Witkoske
- 6/25 Patricia Anne Madison
- 6/27 Ryan Bickel, Angela Bowers, Scot Miller
- 6/28 Cynthia Cosgrove, Bobbie Dorow, June Ver Sluis
- 6/29 Daniel Wilson
- 6/30 Megan Brennan, Heidi Fuhrman Patricia Kaukola-Weber

## PARISH REPORT

### Baptisms

Roland Peter Turczyn 5/14/2023

### Deaths

Joan Maier 4/25/2023

Eldor Quandt 4/26/2023

## Staff Anniversaries

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

Pastor Seeber 6/01/1987

Pastor Brelje 6/01/1994

Michelle Devine 6/19/2006

Rebecca Craft 6/07/2012

**Attention All Women of Zion!** We will be hosting our 2nd **Coffee & Craft!** We will have everything to get you caffeinated and crafting. All levels of ability are welcome. We promise you will have a great time and go home with a beautiful **Patriotic Wreath**. Crafting begins **June 10 @ 9-11 a.m.** in the Gathering Place. Please sign up on the Kiosk (or call the office). Contact Dana Butt (352-0063) or Sue Bickle (823-4493) with any questions.

Accepting donations for this year's Grateful Hearts / Thankful Hands

**BAZAAR .....** As of June 1st, ONLY 170 days until the bazaar. Looking for crafts, canned goods and treasures! And, leftovers from your garage sales.

Use the sign in sheet provided for crafts and food items.

## KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

**June is Healthy snacks with low sugar and sodium.** Gray donation tubs are under the church office window. Thank you!

	<b>JUNE 4</b>	<b>JUNE 11</b>	<b>JUNE 18</b>	<b>JUNE 25</b>
<b>Head Ushers 8:00am</b>	Steve Weber Dave Mayer	Stan Leitz John DuBois	Dave Newman Rich Rakow	Matt Simmons Walter Kohnke
<b>Head Ushers 10:00am</b>	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak
<b>Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm</b>			Roxanne Seeber	
<b>Communion Assistants 8:00am</b>	Jim Mayer	Steve Nuyen	Jim Mayer	Matt Simmons
<b>Communion Assistants 10:00am</b>	Karen Stokes Chapo	Lorraine Hanna	Garr Gast	Jon Tomer
<b>Lectors 8:00am</b>	Carolyn Daenzer	Dave Mayer	Andrew Niedbala	Jayne Mayer
<b>Lectors 10:00am</b>	Erin Hampshire	Jill Hamilton	Rollie Preuss	Jon Tomer
<b>Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm</b>	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2. Pat Frohnapfel	1. Arlene Masek 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
<b>Altar Ministry 8:00am</b>	1. Carol Daenzer 2.	1. Carol Daenzer 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
<b>Altar Ministry 10:00am</b>	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Grade out boxes indicate where assistance is needed.  
Please call the Office 382-2360 if you are available to assist. |

# JUNE 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship Baccalaureate 3:00 Pastor Saylor Installation/Recept.	<b>5</b> Blood Drive Noon - 5:45 6:30 Personnel	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10-11 Popsicles & Preschoolers	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> MI Dist Worship Conf.	<b>10</b> 9 - 11 Coffee & Craft 5:30 Worship
<b>11</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Flag Day	<b>15</b> Noon - Finance	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>18</b> Father's Day 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>19</b> 6:30 BOD	<b>20</b> 2:00 Book Group	<b>21</b> June Solstice (GMT)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>25</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
		← WEEK	VBS	OF	SERVICE	
Notes						

**Zion Financial Report for April 30, 2023**

**ZION:** April Spending exceeded Giving by \$409

YTD Giving is under by \$57,362; YTD Spending is under by \$31,875

The 17,297 YTD extra in Finance Ministry is a result of not being able to pay extra on mortgage principle as originally budgeted

Questions? Please email Don Klug at dakdwk@msn.com

**Solid Ground:** April Spending exceeded Giving by \$2,575

YTD Income is under by \$1,153; YTD Spending is over by \$3,041

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
<b>INCOME</b>						
Zion Giving & Misc.	76,891	55,274	-21,617	677,131	619,769	-57,362
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Zion Staff Support	31,166	30,362	803	346,197	343,608	2,588
Office Operations	1,156	814	343	14,115	18,141	-4,026
Church Property	6,782	6,591	190	89,673	94,066	-4,392
Education Ministry	1,270	22	1,248	11,430	10,175	1,255
Evangelism/Missions	50	426	-376	450	778	-328
Worship Ministry	500	2,145	-1,645	5,650	7,217	-1,567
Other Ministries	135	110	25	2,760	2,802	-42
Music Ministry	3,550	2,980	570	29,515	24,781	4,734
Finance Ministry	9,365	6,609	2,756	103,030	85,733	17,297
Zion Haus Ministry	1,083	139	944	12,263	2,750	9,513
Missions - General	7,065	5,484	1,581	66,764	59,921	6,843
Total Expenses	62,122	55,682	-6,439	681,847	649,972	31,875
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>14,770</b>	<b>-409</b>	<b>-15,178</b>	<b>-4,716</b>	<b>-30,203</b>	<b>-25,487</b>
<b>SOLID GROUND</b>						
Solid Ground Income	9,892	7,272	-2,620	109,932	108,779	-1,153
Solid Ground Expenses	9,555	9,847	-292	105,674	108,715	3,041
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>-2,575</b>	<b>-2,912</b>	<b>4,258</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-4,194</b>

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2022	4/30/2023	YTD Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	70,269	139,244	68,975
Investments	189,391	160,547	-28,843
Due To/From SG & Endow	3,430	-23,584	-27,014
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263,089</b>	<b>276,207</b>	<b>13,118</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Payroll	2,616	4,954	2,339
Dedicated Funds	121,187	162,149	40,962
Unrestricted Funds	139,287	109,104	-30,183
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263,089</b>	<b>276,207</b>	<b>13,118</b>

**MORTGAGE LOAN**

Balance 4/30/2023	\$465,634
Monthly Payment	\$6,350.00
Additional Principal	\$0.00

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

Zion Haus	\$8,689	Anonymous	\$63,064
Midweek Dinner	\$3,058	Youth Ministry	\$8,726
FOJ Fundraising	\$9,337	New Staff	\$48,744

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**Monthly Publication of**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**June**

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**PASTOR SAYLOR INSTALLATION &  
RECEPTION**

**Sunday, June 4th  
3:00 PM**