



# Harbinger

**November 2020**  
**Volume 152 Number 11**

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My freshman year of high school was lived in Kansas City. Dad was in Vietnam, as part of the first big troop build-up of the war. We moved there to be close to some relatives “just in case something happened to Dad.” There were no school buses so Mom would drop me off at high school in the morning, and I would make the mile and a half walk every afternoon, as she was busy rounding up four siblings from their schools. The walk was OK in good weather, but one day I was about half way home and I heard the wail of tornado sirens starting to blare. I looked toward the west, where the sky was darkest and saw a funnel starting to dip from a black cloud bank on the horizon. I was likely at least 10 miles away, but moving quickly and definitively a tornado. I have never been so scared! Sirens were wailing and I didn’t know which way to run. We had just moved into town. I didn’t know the neighborhood, and no one was outside. I was trapped! Then I heard a car horn honk, and on the other side of the road was Mom! She had all the kids in the car, had somehow figured out where I might be, and showed up at just the right time. Just as we got into our garage, the hail started and the wind really picked up. I saw the funnel starting to lift back up into the clouds as it passed over our house. But we were safe and quickly headed to the basement. Once upon a time, on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus’ disciples were caught by a sudden storm as Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat. When they woke him up, he ended the storm’s fury, and then reminded them he had always been there and they needed to learn to quit worrying about everything they couldn’t control. That was a lesson in faith for them, which would become even more important when they faced another storm at the foot of Calvary’s cross. Easter made it clear, then and now, that God is close and will never let us go. My Mom gave me similar relief one day when I thought I was trapped. I should have had faith she would look for me! Faith is surrender to a love that never lets us down. And remember that faith always brings peace!

Pastor Seeber

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## Thanksgiving; A Tradition or a Lifestyle?

"Thanksgiving" will certainly be different this year! After a contentious election, many societal upheavals, and a pesky pandemic, much has changed. (Tentatively, we will worship together on Thanksgiving Day, but it will have a different look and feel than what we are used to.) So this will be a wonderful opportunity to decide what this time and season means for you?

Just what is this "Thanksgiving" about? What do you think? Is thankfulness "more" or "less" this year for you? Does it have more meaning when times are difficult or when times are easy? Is Thanksgiving about what I am thankful for or difficult to gear up for when my life feels empty? Or, maybe, is Thanksgiving about God and how I show thanks? We begin by reflecting on the many things we really can be thankful to God for!

Today blends two traditions. One is national and one is about faith. One is tied to earthly things and one responds to heavenly things. One is about ME and one is about God. Everyone calls this day "Thanks-giving" 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 by nature social and constantly in change. It began with Pilgrims who survived incredible hardships in a new land. It became national as George Washington encouraged a young nation to celebrate its freedom; and an institution as Lincoln led a divided nation into a time of peace. In our day it is synonymous with football, family reunions, and parades. It has become the kickoff for the stampede of Christmas shopping. This national day of Thanksgiving is whatever we want to make it be. And it comes only once a year.

The other Thanksgiving had beginnings in events such as the Exodus, when former slaves were led to a land of their own. When

God called them out of their constantly shifting, 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 permanent villages. In the desert, there had been no 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.

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.

There is a difference between Thanksgiving traditions and a lifestyle that keeps God first.

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 not doubt about the reason and power of the faithful giving of thanks.

And 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. Thankful people are about lifestyles not traditions. Pastor Seeber

## COVID UPDATES FOR ZION

The Michigan Supreme Court has ruled that our Governor acted inappropriately in “how” she mandated the response to COVID-19 through executive orders. **However, there is no doubt that the danger is real, and that masks, distancing, handwashing and other appropriate measures are ways of keeping self and others safe.** At Zion we will continue our gradual process toward resuming many of the activities we have had to curtail, even as we know that things will not be the same here for some time.

Face masks and appropriate distancing from each other will be in place. **If you are in the building, you must wear a mask.** Hand sanitizers are available. Worship services will be printed for one-time-use only.

**Our tentative plan is to add two worship services “inside” with Saturday service at 5:30pm on October 31, and a 10:30 am service on Sunday November 1.**

Keep an eye on website, Facebook, and our weekly emails for any updates. This gradual reopening will be dependent on EVERYONE respecting and abiding by guidelines.

If you are not receiving a weekly email update from us, please call the church office or send an email to [zion@zionkazoo.org](mailto:zion@zionkazoo.org) with your email address!

WKZO radio sermon at 9:30 am (590 AM.)

Online worship: Sunday 10am on YouTube and Facebook

Facebook devotions: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Website ([www.zionkazoo.org](http://www.zionkazoo.org)) has printed and audio sermons. We will also post updates as schedules change.

New **Portals of Prayer** are available. Grab a copy if you are here for worship, swing by the office when it is open, or call and one of us will drop one off at your home.

Small groups, Bible studies and meetings are being conducted on ZOOM. Call the church office if you would like to join such a group.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR MINISTRY AND ALL WHO ARE INVOLVED.

YOUR STEADY AND GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR BUDGET CONTINUES TO BE A VERY SPECIAL GIFT TO ALL. THANK YOU!

### REMEMBER ME!

*“WHEN YOU REMEMBER ME, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart.*

*For as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost. When I'm feeling most ghostlike, it's your remembering me that helps remind me that I actually exist. When I'm feeling sad, it's my consolation. When I'm feeling happy, it's part of why I feel that way.*

*If you forget me, one of the ways I remember who I am will be gone. If you forget me, part of who I am will be gone.*

*“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom,” the good thief said from his cross (Luke 23:42). There are perhaps no more human words in all of Scripture, no prayer we can pray so well.”*

(From Fred Buechner's Book “Whistling in the Dark,” Fred Buechner. 1988)

## **HELPING HANDS** **CHRISTMAS 2020**

*With the current pandemic and safety concerns Zion will not be doing the Helping Hands program this year. If your family would like to help a community family we would suggest supporting any of the following organizations:*

1. Make your contribution to Ministry with Community, Inc., 500 North Edwards Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
(Indicate on your check the **Warm Clothing Fund**)
2. Make your contribution to Family and Children Services Kalamazoo Office, 1608 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
(Indicate on your check **Holiday Giving, C/O Dale Hein**)
3. Make your contribution to The Salvation Army Kalamazoo Corps, 1700 South Burdick Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001-2714  
(Indicate on your check **Toy Shop for Children**)
4. Loaves & Fishes 901 Portage St, Kalamazoo MI 49001-3005

We are so thankful for the generosity our congregation has provided for our Helping Hands program. Hopefully, Zion will once again be able to bless our community in 2021 as it has in the past. Until then, please pray our community will support those in need this season.



### **The Lutheran World Relief Sewing Project**

As we all know, 2020 brought many different challenges. That was true for our sewing ministry, too.

However, creativity and perseverance prevailed. While COVID prevented us from quilting this year, we joyously were able to provide 77 layette bundles.

Many hands contribute to our projects. We especially thank the many donors of fabric, gently used sheets, flannels, corduroy, wool, knit, cotton and other items.

Special thank you to Michelle Devine for lugging supplies and ensuring the boxes were all brought upstairs. And to Pastor Seeber loading the boxes in his car and taking them to St Michaels Lutheran Church for world distribution.

A very special thanks to our dedicated sewing ladies:

Elsie Autry, Lydia Decker, Kim DuBois, Judy Erdman, Pat Frohnappfel, Lynne Gerfen, Kathy Huston, Sandy Krueger, Sharon Preuss, Helen Reinkensmeyer, Shirley Rohrer, Carol Rosin, Rosemary Sillars, Leona Van Antwerp and

Knitters: Jan Davidson, Roberta Geissel, Lucy Maxson

for sharing their God-given talents to warm and touch the lives of others.

As 2021 approaches, we hope to begin our sewing ministry. We welcome others to join us. In the past we have sewn on Wednesday mornings starting in January. However, this will depend on weather and of course COVID. We will remain optimistic for January. Watch for confirmation of date and time as more information is available.

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

### “The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther.”

“Catechism” is from a Greek word meaning “to teach orally.” The historic branches of Christianity have catechisms to outline their explanation of the articles of Christian faith. One of the highlights of the Reformation was The Small Catechism which Luther wrote as a handbook for parents to teach the faith to their children at home.

Luther’s stance was that all Christians (not just priests) should learn the basis and basics of faith. The 6 Chief Parts of this handbook of the faith were The Commandments, Apostles’ Creed, Baptism, Communion, Lord’s Prayer, and Confession/Absolution.

**Luther wrote this with a series of questions and answers to facilitate dialog between parents and children.** What many don’t realize is the many Bible verses that were added to future revisions of the Catechism (beginning in the late 19th century) were not in Martin Luther’s original text at all. Over the next months, we will again explore, section by section what is in the Catechism, as a way for each of us to review and renew what we believe.

Next month we will begin to explore the Commandments. They were the basis for the covenant promise between God and Israel at Sinai and are recorded in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:4-21.

The “Law” (as they are often called) was shared to introduce Israel to God and reveal his purpose and plan for them to become a “Light” to the nations. How they lived would proclaim their love for God and show the world what it meant to believe in the God of Creation. Israel refers to these as the “Ten Words” or “Decalogue.”

Because the Law was ultimately forgotten, misunderstood, or ignored, Jesus came to put these words into the flesh of his life! (That is why John began his Gospel by saying, “And

the WORD became FLESH!) This was John’s way of saying Jesus illustrated the relationship with God by his servant life, sacrificial death.

Luther’s Catechism explains these basics of the Christian faith, beginning with the commandants. Over time, faith leaders assigned numbers to commandments, but that was not the same for all Christians.

The Hebrew text begins, “You shall have no other gods before me, you shall make no graven images.” Lutherans and Catholics make that one commandment, while the Orthodox and Reformed make them two. Obviously that changes the numbering of all. So for Roman Catholics or Lutherans, “Remember the Sabbath is #3. For Orthodox or Reformed it is #4. And when it came to the last words, Lutherans and Catholics have “don’t covet your neighbor’s wife” as #9 and “don’t covet anything that is your neighbor’s” as #10. Orthodox and Reformed make these into one: “Don’t covet!”

But remember: It is the WORD and not what number that is assigned to it that is important!

Although the numbering is different the words are all the same. It is what God says that is most important.

Numbering helps us remember, and it is true that the first part of the law talks about our relationship to God (no other gods, no idols, don’t take God’s name in vain, remember the Sabbath), while the last deal with our relationships with people (honor parents, don’t murder, don’t commit adultery, don’t steal, don’t bear false witness, don’t covet.)

Jesus would later restate all these words in a very simple response to a questions about which ONE law is the most important when he said, “love God, love neighbor ... this is the ONE most important law.

And so, we begin next month with a closer look at the 10 Commandments.

## Worship Help for Parents and Children

This month: **Worship Assistants**

Worship is all about “showing the worth” of our faith in God through Jesus Christ. On Saturdays and Sundays we (usually) gather as one family in Christ, around Word and Sacrament to give God glory, grow in faith, and share our mutual support with each other. It is like a family dinner at Thanksgiving. “Liturgy” literally means “the work of the people” and is our pattern of worship. Lutherans believe worship is something we participate in rather than passively watch. Worship is not a spectator sport! We are not an audience, we are all participants!

Seminary training helps pastors to lead worship, administer the Sacraments, and proclaim the prophetic Word (sermons.) But one of Luther’s great gifts of worship was to write liturgies, hymns and translate the Bible *into the language of his people*. This brought ALL believers into the participation of worship!

It is important for our members to assist in that role in many ways. Each week in the bulletin that we list our “worship assistants.”

**Altar Guild** members “set the table” for the Holy Meal of Communion. **Acolytes** assist by lighting candles, gathering offerings, assisting at baptisms, and leading processions on festival days. **Ushers** assist with worship materials, emergencies, and helping the flow of worship. **Lectors** of all ages read Scripture. **Cantors** chant the liturgy and Psalms. **Organists, pianists, choirs,** and other **musicians** lead the singing or proclaim the Word through music. Some help with **sound** and **lighting**. Some **bake** communion bread. **Artists** provide banners, flowers, and other gifts to help celebrate the church year. And

**everyone assists** by participating in song, prayer, and simply “showing up” to mutually support each other. We are currently seeking to find more ways to involve more people of all ages, so that the “family” of Zion is truly

more involved in leading and supporting worship. Worship is a participatory event for all! Worship is a “team event!” What gifts, time, or energy might you bring to the table?

For Parents with young children: We have sought many ways to involve our children in worship. Simply by being here, your kids are learning the “liturgy.” They are getting used to the parts of worship and the flow, and so parents are a worship assistant for their family. When you let your children put your offering envelope (or their own nickel or dime) in the offering place, you are helping them learn about stewardship, and they are assisting in the life of our worship.

Children’s activity pages offer children the themes adults are considering and singing about on any given Sunday. When a child comes up and receives a blessing at Communion, they are showing other children, by their example, that worship is a place for children to participate in also. And when a youngster shouts out “Amen!” at the “wrong time” or sings when everyone else has stopped — so what?! This is the Spirit moving them and their way of helping us to remember that we once were young as well. Remember what Jesus said about welcoming little children! That is at the heart of the kingdom and at the heart of our worship. *Don’t ever be embarrassed by your kids! They are God’s gifts entrusted to you and they are as much a part of our family here as anyone else. If worship is important for any, it is important for all — especially kids!*

We even added windows in the back of the sanctuary, so if your little ones get too restless or noisy, you can have a brief time out, but still see and hear what is going on! If you have other ways that you would like to be involved as a worship assistant, or have ideas for our children, please pass them along. Every time we gather to celebrate Easter, there is some way that all “assist” in making that meaningful and full of joy! Peace!

**Book Review:** "Genesis; the Movie." Robert Farrar Capon. Eerdmans. 2003.

Capon is one of my favorite writers on relating matters of scripture and faith to daily life. He makes much of what is in Scripture come to life in new and imaginative ways. He feels the Creation Story is one of the most familiar but misunderstood Bible stories.

*"We have fallen into the habit of reading Genesis the way we read all of Scripture — as a manual of religious instructions. To break this (bad) habit, Capon here offers a whimsical yet wonderfully fruitful approach — watching the Bible as a historical movie whose director is God." [from book jacket]*

Too many digress into arguments about whether creation happened over a literal week or over many years, rather than celebrate the magnificence of the Creator and how nothing was made into something with a plan and purpose. Some use "how" we read Genesis as a litmus test of faith, and disparage any who do not subscribe to their own interpretation of the facts of Creation. And what are the facts? Well, until you "watch the whole movie" (or read the entire book of Genesis) how can one really know?

The Hebrew word we translate as Genesis means literally "in the beginning." That is the first word of Scripture, And the story of creation tells us all we need to know about how and why God created and gives purpose and life to all that we see and know.

This is a book for those who want to wrestle with the Creation account, and Capon uses various of resources, including many of the commentaries of the leaders of the early Church and how they used Genesis. This is a book to read slowly, and maybe even over the course of several months. There is much to consider as Genesis is the beginning of so much: Creation, Rebellion against God, and God's plan to restore what that rebellion daily

causes as sin wrecks havoc upon what God has created and confuses us as to whom we will follow and whom we will believe.

Here is a sample of his powerful interpretation and insights into what God is beginning to share with us in the inspiration of the Hebrew Book of Genesis.

*"Death has been the engine of the world's life from the beginning ... And thus when the Beginning himself appears as the Incarnate Word in the death and resurrection of Jesus, he's not doing something new; he's just reiterating the same old story he's told for the start. Every death in the world has always been a sacrament, a real presence, of the rising from the dead that the Word has had in mind all along. So death as it appears here is not a curse but a blessing. True enough, we human beings may see it as a robbery of life, a fatal abolition of our being. But that's only because we rejected God's hands-off management of the ecology of life and death at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Refusing to see our mortality as a boon, we decided to use our own hands-on mismanagement and fight it as an enemy. Every living creature dies sooner or later — and its death becomes an instrument of life for other creatures." [91]*

His concept of Genesis as a movie is interesting as he invites the reader to take in the whole picture before starting to make assumptions about individual pieces or plots. I find that this has been a wonderful way to slow down and meditate on each scene, savoring the color and tone before seeing and hearing what comes next. Over time, themes develop, anticipation grows, and finally after the Creative process is complete, (like at the end of a suspenseful movie) we can start breathing again and better understanding what we might have missed, at early points in the movie. Let me know what you think.

Pastor Seeber

# FAMILY LIFE

## FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

### Calendar

In November we hope to gather again with in-person Sunday School. Watch your email for a start date.

Operation Shoebox is a project of Samaritan's Purse. The project impacts millions of boys and girls in over 100 countries with the Good News of the Gospel. We are asking each of our families to model serving by creating at least one shoebox for this project. Details can be found at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>

We ask that you drop off the box(es) on November 15th at 1pm.

### ADAPTIVE

I never thought "adaptive" would be the number one character trait of 2020. As we continue to adapt in ministry at Zion I want to hear from you...

1. How, as a family or as an individual, do you want to serve?
2. How, as a family or individual, do you need to be served?
3. Think outside the box—what does effective ministry to your family look like in today's culture? (and COVID world)

Please email me or call me! [dcegrube21@gmail.com](mailto:dcegrube21@gmail.com)

# Youth News

## **High School:**

### Bible Study

How can we be in a relationship with God and tell others about His love, if we don't know about it ourselves? Join us for a weekly Bible Study (in person) Sunday evenings at 6pm. They usually last an hour. We'll be outside until the weather forces us inside...then socially distanced and masked. Hope to see you soon! (we will NOT meet Nov 29th)

## **Middle School Youth:**

### Service Project on 11/22

After late service we will gather to assemble some care kits for people in need.

## Echoes

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

God is at work every minute of every day. So often we are too busy to notice. There are times where it is pretty obvious, and others where it can feel like God isn't even around. But He is there. So many situations are so complex and we will never realize it. Some situations could be 100 times worse than they are, yet we will never be thankful because of our ignorance. I had the urge to stop and get donuts and cider at a modern looking farmstand. When I went in, I was apparently on the wrong side of the line—like at a coffee shop where there is an order side and a pickup side. After two people had gone around me, I was told I was in the wrong spot. The 30 seconds of wasted time was not appreciated...until I was driving home on the highway. If I had been 30 seconds ahead of where I was, I would have had a motorized wheelchair fall off the car in front of me. Instead, I safely navigated past it.

Do you recognize God's work (or even apparent "lack" of work) in your life? Thanks be to God for the times we don't even realize His involvement!

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2020



On Thursday, Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, there was a Pastor's Conference for pastors in the Michigan District entitled: "Heart Issues are Hard Issues." One of the sessions was called: Building a Foundation of Trust.

The focus of this session was how we as Christians can begin to take practical steps to build relationships that can begin to bridge and heal the racial divide. The session was led by Pastor Keith Haney, who is the Assistant to the President of the Iowa District West for Missions, Human Care, and Stewardship.

Pastor Haney and I were classmates at the Seminary in St. Louis. He is African-American and has served congregations in St. Louis, Detroit, and Milwaukee. He has written a Bible study series entitled: One Nation Under God: Healing Racial Divides in America.

During his session, Pastor Haney emphasized how important it is for us, as followers of Jesus, to listen to one another and have open and clear communication between the races. He also emphasized that even though healing the racial divide in our country may seem daunting and overwhelming, NO problem is too great for God. Jesus said: "In this world, you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world!"

That session was very inspiring and reinforced the importance of our campus ministry and the panel discussion work we have undertaken. On Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the Bernhard Center, our inaugural discussion was held. The title of our panel discussion: "Crucial Conversations: What Would Jesus Say About BLM?" While the in-person was limited to 50 people, it was streamed live on YouTube. In upcoming editions, I'll share our learnings from the discussion along with where we go from here.

The phrase BLM means different things to different people. As Pastor Haney pointed out, we need to communicate and learn to listen to one another to begin healing the racial divide in our country. As

followers of Jesus, we have a wonderful opportunity to be a witness to the world as ones who strive for reconciliation and healing.

Having crucial and courageous conversations regarding race, racism, pursuing racial equality and addressing inequalities was our hope and vision for the panel discussion. This is just the beginning of bringing WMU students and faculty together to talk and come together on this very important issue in our country as well as the world today. The Lord will lead and guide us in each step.

Our panel discussion ended with 2 questions for everyone to contemplate as well as consider how they can personally impact healing our community, nation and world.

Where do we go from here?

What would Jesus say and do?

God's blessings and peace to all of you,

Pastor Mark





|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 11/4  | Claire Alsvig, Carolyn Daenzer   |
| 11/5  | Amanda Coleman, Eleanor Strunk   |
| 11/6  | Myla Bierlein, Michael O'Connor  |
| 11/8  | Mark Heineman, Catherine Holt,<br>Shelby Waterlander,<br>Hayden Williams               |
| 11/9  | Grace Dinda, Ted Maxson,<br>Mary Phillips, Carol Rosin,<br>Peter Wilkins, Sydney Woods |
| 11/10 | Grant Butler, Rudy Linebaugh   |
| 11/12 | Curtis Chapman II  |
| 11/13 | Kristin Butler, Jayne Mayer  |
| 11/14 | Stan Leitz   |
| 11/15 | Eric Heineman, Ron Perry,<br>Mark Spann  |
| 11/16 | Suzanne Dale   |
| 11/17 | Rozalyn Whitakker  |
| 11/18 | Theresa Devine, Joshua Madison   |
| 11/19 | Amy Bentz, Anna Nicolen  |
| 11/20 | Emma Boettcher, Marjorie Heath,<br>Valorie Miller, Abbey VandenBerg                    |
| 11/21 | John Skuratowicz   |
| 11/22 | Darcie Kiessling, Jacqueline<br>Morgan   |
| 11/23 | Kailynne Besser, Karen Kellam,<br>David Newman   |
| 11/24 | Adam Licavoli, Angelina<br>Pachuda, Jay Woodhams                                       |
| 11/25 | Chris Ertl, Grayson Field,<br>Patricia Kasdorf   |
| 11/27 | Aspasia (Tedi) Clark, Ann French   |
| 11/29 | Scott Adams, Olivia Carlson  |
| 11/30 | Owen Burnard, Mark Couch,<br>Donald Heath  |

### Parish Report

#### Deaths

Alice Ferris

09/29/2020

### Staff Anniversaries

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

Jim Johnston

11/19/2000

### Small Groups

Small Groups are meeting and welcome your presence.

Currently, five groups are meeting weekly at different times. Topics covered include: the Book of James, parenting, marriage, hope, grand parenting and other topics of importance.

Please join us by calling Dave Mayer (375-1241) or the Church Office.



**"A One Dollar Donation provides 3 meals"**



# NOVEMBER 2020

|    | Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                     | Friday                       | Saturday            |
|----|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1  | Daylight Saving<br>8:00 Indoor Service<br>10:30 Indoor Worship | 2<br>Pastor Tim Fb Devotion                    | 3<br>10:00 P. Breije Study<br>1:00 Aaron Fb Devotion<br>6:30 FOU Zoom<br>6:30 P. Seeber Zoom Study   | 4<br>6:30 Confirmation Class<br>Facebook Readings                  | 5<br>2:30 Aaron Fb Devotion  | 6<br>Pastor Tim Fb Devotion  | 7<br>5:30p Worship  |
| 8  | 6:00p HS Youth<br>8:00 Indoor Service<br>10:30 Indoor Worship  | 9<br>6:30 Personnel<br>Pastor Tim Fb Devotion  | 10<br>10:00 P. Breije Study<br>Noon - Finance<br>1:00 Aaron Fb Devotion<br>6:30 P. Seeber Zoom Study<br>6:30 Sml Grp Zoom<br>8:30 Fam Min Zoom | 11<br>Veterans Day<br>6:30 Confirmation Class<br>Facebook Readings | 12<br>2:30 Aaron Fb Devotion | 13<br>Pastor Tim Fb Devotion | 14<br>5:30p Worship |
| 15 | 6:00p HS Youth<br>8:00 Indoor Service<br>10:30 Indoor Worship  | 16<br>6:30 Endowment<br>Pastor Tim Fb Devotion | 17<br>10:00 P. Breije Study  | 18<br>6:30 Confirmation Class<br>Facebook Readings                 | 19<br>2:30 Aaron Fb Devotion | 20<br>Pastor Tim Fb Devotion | 21<br>5:30p Worship |
| 22 | 6:00p HS Youth<br>8:00 Indoor Service<br>10:30 Indoor Worship  | 23<br>6:30 BOD<br>Pastor Tim Fb Devotion       | 24<br>1:00 Aaron Fb Devotion<br>6:30 P. Seeber Zoom Study  | 25<br>6:30 Confirmation Class<br>Facebook Readings                 | 26<br>Thanksgiving           | 27<br>Pastor Tim Fb Devotion | 28<br>5:30p Worship |
| 29 | 6:00p HS Youth<br>8:00 Indoor Service<br>10:30 Indoor Worship  | 30<br>Pastor Tim Fb Devotion                   | 1:00 Aaron Fb Devotion<br>6:30 P. Seeber Zoom Study  | No Confirmation Class<br>Facebook Readings                         |                              |                              | 5:30p Worship       |

*In All Things,  
Give Thanks*  
I Thessalonians 5:18

| October 2020 |    |    |    |    |    |    | December 2020 |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| S            | M  | T  | W  | Th | F  | Sa | S             | M  | T  | W  | Th | F  | Sa |   |
|              |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |    |               |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5 |
| 4            | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 6             | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |   |
| 11           | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 13            | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |   |
| 18           | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 20            | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |   |
| 25           | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 27            | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |   |

**Financial Report for September 2020**

**ZION:** September Giving was under budget by \$25,875. Expenses were under budget by \$14,083. September ended with a Net Loss of \$2,242. YTD Net Income Gain was \$14,312, over budget by \$7,763.

**FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL:** Income was under budget by \$19,033. Expenses were under budget by \$12,914. September Net Gain was \$317. YTD Net Income Gain was \$659, under budget by \$8,856.

**Solid Grounds:** Income was under budget by \$1,779. Expenses were under budget by \$1,157. September Net Gain was \$1,335. YTD Net Income Gain was \$5,272, over budget by \$639.

| ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH        | Current Month |               |               | Year-To-Date |               |              |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
|                             | Budget        | Actual        | Over/Under    | Budget       | Actual        | Over/Under   |
| <b>INCOME</b>               |               |               |               |              |               |              |
| Zion Giving & Misc.         | 67,325        | 41,650        | -25,675       | 234,700      | 204,308       | -30,392      |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>             |               |               |               |              |               |              |
| Zion Staff Support          | 28,322        | 27,844        | -478          | 113,120      | 112,651       | -469         |
| Office Operations           | 1,635         | 545           | -1,090        | 5,940        | 4,509         | -1,431       |
| Church Property             | 6,372         | 3,399         | -2,973        | 29,490       | 19,859        | -9,631       |
| Education Ministry          | 1,385         | 133           | -1,252        | 2,720        | 930           | -1,790       |
| Evangelism/Missions         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 100          | 0             | -100         |
| Worship Ministry            | 400           | 300           | -100          | 1,900        | 1,764         | -136         |
| Other Ministries            | 275           | 234           | -41           | 925          | 442           | -483         |
| Music Ministry              | 2,375         | 875           | -1,500        | 7,825        | 3,375         | -4,450       |
| Finance Ministry            | 10,341        | 6,367         | -3,974        | 41,361       | 25,487        | -15,874      |
| Zion Haus Ministry          | 400           | 378           | -22           | 1,600        | 1,162         | -438         |
| Missions - General          | 6,470         | 3,817         | -2,653        | 23,170       | 19,817        | -3,353       |
| Total Expenses              | 57,975        | 43,892        | 14,083        | 228,151      | 189,996       | -38,155      |
| <b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b> | <b>9,350</b>  | <b>-2,242</b> | <b>11,592</b> | <b>6,549</b> | <b>14,312</b> | <b>7,763</b> |

**FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL**

| <b>INCOME</b>               |              |            |               |              |            |               |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| FOJ Income                  | 19,350       | 317        | -19,033       | 36,236       | 5,121      | -31,115       |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>             |              |            |               |              |            |               |
| FOJ Staff Support           | 10,694       | 0          | -10,694       | 20,451       | 3,737      | -16,714       |
| FOJ Operations Expenses     | 2,220        | 0          | -2,220        | 6,270        | 725        | -5,545        |
| <b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b> | <b>6,436</b> | <b>317</b> | <b>-6,119</b> | <b>9,515</b> | <b>659</b> | <b>-8,856</b> |

**SOLID GROUND**

|                             |              |              |             |              |              |            |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Solid Ground Income         | 12,126       | 10,347       | -1,779      | 41,757       | 40,984       | -773       |
| Solid Ground Expenses       | 10,169       | 9,012        | 1,157       | 37,124       | 35,712       | 1,412      |
| <b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b> | <b>1,957</b> | <b>1,335</b> | <b>-622</b> | <b>4,633</b> | <b>5,272</b> | <b>639</b> |

**BALANCE SHEET**

|                    | 6/1/2020       | 9/30/2020      | YTD Change    |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>      |                |                |               |
| Cash               | 78,336         | 110,600        | 32,264        |
| Investments        | 137,222        | 137,633        | 411           |
| Other Assets       | 10,944         | -8,308         | -19,252       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>226,502</b> | <b>239,925</b> | <b>13,423</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b> |                |                |               |
| Payroll            | 5,829          | 5,285          | -544          |
| Dedicated Funds    | 87,136         | 86,132         | -1,004        |
| Unrestricted Funds | 133,537        | 148,508        | 14,971        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>226,502</b> | <b>239,925</b> | <b>13,423</b> |

**MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE** \$768,762

Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000

|                |          |                 |          |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Youth Ministry | \$9,024  | FOJ Estate Gift | \$4,005  |
| New Staff      | \$50,000 | FOJ Fundraising | \$11,835 |

□

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

November

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ORGANIZATION

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November 26th