

Looking Up | Reaching Out



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Harbinger

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Many years ago I visited my brother and his wife when they were living in Germany. One side trip to my favorite region, Bavaria. That part of Germany is more traditional, less urbanized, and filled with mountains, heavy forests, and the rich heritage of the past. The pace is slower, and the past hasn't been changed as much as in the big cities. In cities like Frankfurt or Cologne is easy to find people who could speak English. (How embarrassing to realize in other countries almost everyone speaks at least two languages, if not three, with one usually English. For us, this is not often the case but that is the subject for another time.) Anyway, our menu was only in German, and I had no clue what most of the food items were. As was typical, we were seated at a table where another gentleman was already eating his meal. As we discussed the menu we were very quiet, out of embarrassment I couldn't read the menu. We didn't want him to know we were Americans. (Ha! As if he couldn't tell!) My brother prided himself in his German and ordered for us. He was careful to order a vegetarian entrée he was certain his wife would appreciate. When we were done, and wondering how to carry on a conversation with someone else so close, the gentleman finally spoke. "You all American?" he asked with a southern drawl! We started laughing as he gave us grief for our attempt to hide our language difficulties. As it turned out he worked for the state department and we had a delightful visit. He finished his meal and left just as our food arrived. Well, my brother's order for his wife wasn't what he thought! It was a platter full of every vegetable imaginable, probably about five pounds worth that was obviously meant as a dish for an entire family to share. We got a charge out of that and I learned several things that evening. First, it's better to admit what you don't know and ask for help. Secondly, we need to take more time to learn the language of others. And finally, it is a good idea never to make assumptions about strangers, but instead to simply reach out and find out who is your neighbor. And that is the story of one memorable night!

Pastor Seeber

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Baptism, Confirmation, and Affirmation

On May 1st, some of our young people will be confirmed in their commitment to the faith of their Baptism. That makes this a good time to review what that means for all of us.

Many of us grew up with Confirmation Day as a public day to celebrate and recognize the fact that we were no longer children in Sunday School but moving into our teenage years. There are times in our lives when we celebrate milestones of our lives. And this was a milestone for surviving several years of extra instruction in the Christian faith under the guidance of a pastor, DCE, or other adults who helped with such instruction.

During the 1960's and 1970's all of the Lutheran churches in this country spent considerable time in reviewing how we understand confirmation, especially in light of the reality many saw it only as a graduation from things like Sunday School.

It was felt by many that an opportunity of major significance in the lives of our young people was being missed. Confirmation had become a moment in time for dresses and suit coats and pictures.

In 1971 the major Lutheran churches in the U.S. adopted this statement:

“Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church that is designed to help baptized children identify with the life and mission of the adult Christian community, and that is celebrated in a public rite.”

This was an important opportunity for all of us as the focus on continued spiritual growth rather than an end to such growth was the emphasis of this affirmation. Our formal process of growing into our faith has the following components.

Baptism is our Sacrament of initiation, in which we celebrate God's gift of faith in our lives which is lived out as a member of the Body of Christ on earth, which we call “the Church.”

Baptism is a Sacrament of washing, which announces cleansing and rebirth. With the washing of water, the pastor **confirms** the faith of God's child with a “hands on” blessing and the sign of the cross.

At baptism, parents and godparents, and the entire congregation make a commitment to help the newly baptized to grow in their faith. This is a community effort and a privilege we all share in helping each other to mature into the faith which baptism gifts us with.

Lutherans now define **Confirmation** as a lifelong pastoral and educational ministry of the Church which helps the baptized person to fully identify with and participate in the mission and ministry of the Church.

The witness of Christian family and friends, Sunday School, worship, and our **“Confirmation”** ministries prepare our young people for the day when they stand before of the congregation to publicly embrace their Christian faith. We call this rite the **Affirmation of Baptism**, and it is celebrated as the pastor **confirms** the gift of faith in each life with a “hands on” blessing and the sign of the cross, just as was done in Baptism!

(When an adult, who was never baptized, embraces the Christian faith, Baptism and a public affirmation of that faith occur at the same time.) So, you see, what we got used to calling Confirmation Day is indeed an important day, but it is not a graduation but a mile marker and a wonderful opportunity for our young people to say “I get it!” And the journey then moves forward in new ways.

This is a special day for all of us, for we are in this journey together!

Catechism Review: The Lord's Prayer (part 6)**"Lead us not into temptation"**

A misunderstanding of "lead us not into temptation" is an assumption that temptation comes from God. That would mean unless we ask God to stop, he will keep tempting. It insinuates God is devious, or that our strength can stop God from luring us into temptation. But nothing can be farther from the truth. It really misses the point. A young mother dying from cancer told me she was tired of hearing, "God won't give you more than you can handle." She said, "That makes me feel I am being punished for having faith! That if I had no faith, I wouldn't have cancer." Do you see how misunderstandings and lack of faith can hurt others? She was tempted, not by God, but by those who had misrepresented God! We all deserve better!

"Temptation" is turning our backs on God and saying, "I know better than God!" It isn't God's doing, but ours alone. It is the brokenness we call sin rearing its ugly head and trying to appear beautiful and harmless. Temptation separates us from God's love. God doesn't tempt. Satan does. Taking a bite of "forbidden fruit" is something we do all on our own! Temptation is the desire for something that will harm me, my relationship with God, or with others. In this prayer we ask God to deflect temptation; to cover and protect us from its power. "Temptation" is the hiss of the serpent, the lure of worldly things, and the weakness we call "sin." In these words we confess our addiction to this world, and ask God to lift us from selfishness by his forgiving and empowering servant love.

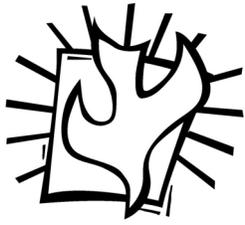
Did you know that most "shooting stars" are not stars but grains of dust or tiny pebbles? How can something so little burn so bright? We know it is all about speed and friction caused by the atmosphere, but is that any different than the destructive nature of a little lie, or something shoplifted, or disobeying our Mom or Dad? The Space Shuttle was

covered with heat tiles to deflect the power of earth's energy during re-entry. Without that protection, "friction" caused by such speed would destroy any life or object that enters the boundaries of earth's atmosphere. This is what Jesus is teaching us to understand and ask for in this prayer. In this prayer we are asking God to keep us in the orbit of his love, and to become a shield and protection from the destructive results of our sinful choices.

Temptation is the friction of sin. Faith trusts God to be strong where we are weak, and knows He will lead us away from what would harm our faith, our lives, or our love. And just as heat tiles on the shuttle deflected what could destroy the lives inside, so Jesus deflects the power of sin, death, and the devil through the loving gift of his sacrificial death and resurrection. He literally "takes the heat" for our failures, buries them in the tomb, and returns us to life with burdens left behind. His descent into the darkness of death was no different than the blackout that occurred when the space shuttle entered the time of greatest heat and friction as it returned home. In this prayer we surround ourselves with the God who deflects every weapon Satan has in his arsenal.

We are reminded prayer is no different than any other exercise; the more often we do it the easier it becomes. When we think we can live without God's help we face rude surprises. This is no different than an alcoholic who stays sober for three years and takes one drink just to prove alcohol no longer has any power over her ... and then a real problem returns. Why take the drink when you know what your weakness is? Why fail to pray, when you know God's promise to help? Prayer does indeed change all things. And we say, "Dear God, we know that you and you alone can lead us safely through any and all things that could be destructive to us. And we trust you will lead us safely away from what could harm me or someone I love. Thank you God! "

Pastor Seeber



Confirmation Sunday

MAY 1st
10:30 Worship

This year we have 11 confirmands taking the next step in their faith journeys. As a project they decided to each create a puzzle piece. This class has not had an opportunity to spend a lot of time together and build a similar community as classes in the past. Their 6th grade year was cut short due to COVID, 7th grade year was an ugly mess of hybrid, online, and in person, and their 8th grade year also had some interruptions. They felt they were each a piece to the bigger puzzle of the faith community. After creating a faith paper/testimony, they placed their handprint on a giant wooden puzzle piece, along with their confirmation verse and one word summary of where their faith life is at right now. Please celebrate with these students and pray for them as they continue their faith journey!

Owen Adams

Brynley Bauer

Ian Carlson

Bella Greene

Kaitlyn Hamilton

Claire Kiessling

Talia Linebaugh

Kurtis Scheffler

Anna Schierbeek

Savannah Waterlander

Aiden Woods

IDEAS TO MAKE MOM FEEL SPECIAL!!

1. Write a 'special heartfelt' Thank You
2. Design a picture collage
3. Make a video / slide show
4. Cook her favorite meal
5. Photo Locket / Family jewelry
6. Book a Spa Day
7. Wash / Detail her Car
8. Plan a Weekend Adventure
9. Play a Game Together
10. Schedule an Art / Painting Evening
11. Enjoy a TV Marathon together
12. Always tell her you LOVE her, but extra on Mother's Day and SHOW her



What is the difference between a “Bible and a “Study Bible?”

Let's get something clear — a Bible is not just a pretty book or simply a place to record births and burials. The Bible is a powerful gift of grace that nourishes our faith and challenges our daily living to look more like God's plan than to be molded by the pressure of the world.

The Bible is not something we worship, but is “holy” because it is the proclamation of God's plan of salvation. It is “holy” because we believe it is “inspired” meaning God's “breath” touched people and caused them to record what He revealed in special ways. We don't worship the Bible but the God who is revealed in the written word of Scripture.

While a standard edition of the Bible might have some maps, footnotes, and cross references, it is primarily for reading the text.

Translations are important. For instance, while the King James is the most literal, it uses very archaic language. Some versions like “The Message” or “the Living Bible” are not translations but are the author's interpretation and meant to be devotional and much easier reading. Others like the NIV and NRSV sometimes try too hard to use modern terms to speak to our own culture and wind up losing the original intent. And the ESV seems to be a good modern translation that is closer to the KJV in terms of the word order but is much more readable.

Any Bible should have pages that are easy to turn, a readable font, and an accurate translation. A “study” Bible has references to other parts of scripture, commentaries on most verses, introductions to each book, maps, charts and other additional helps. A “study Bible” seeks to guide you in your reading and help answer many of the questions that you might typically run across in reading a text. It has commentary, not part of the Bible, but added to help study it.

Any translation has some “interpretation” as the change from one language to another involves choices in exactly what a word means. Commentaries and study Bibles do the same, they interpret and suggest what the writer thinks that most likely means.

Two recent study Bibles using the ESV (a very accurate translation) are worth considering.

“The Lutheran Study Bible.” (TLSB) Concordia Publishing House. 2009. Its commentary is by a variety of Lutheran biblical scholars, and is well done. It has commentary that discusses our theology or doctrine and how a particular text helps us to understand issues such as Law and Gospel, or the nature of discipleship. It allows a more “devotional” use of the Bible, as it leads from just reading to considering some of its applications in our lives of faith.

“The ESV Study Bible.” Crossway Bibles. 2008, has more charts, maps (in color) and articles than the CPH Bible. It is compiled by a variety of Christian scholars and has a wonderful and accurate commentary. It is open about differences in interpretation of various passages. It has many articles related to archaeology, biblical customs, doctrinal differences, and a wonderful discussion of how the Bible came to be what we see today. I have found the ESV Study Bible to be a favorite and useful study Bible.

There are other good versions as well, but we have found these to be two of the best, both for their translation and the incredible maps, articles and charts which help our study.

God speaks through the Holy Spirit as we read the text, but it is helpful to have “guides” who can help. Good Bible study is more than reading a text and deciding it means whatever you decide. It involves prayer, the context, the purpose for each book, and so forth. These study Bibles help give you that background and support. Ask one of your pastors if we can help with other questions.

Family Life

Family Ministry News

Family Events

**-Family VBS June 20-23,
from 5:30pm—whenever**

**-June 23 at 5:30pm: Congregational Servant
Event**

-Growler's Game August 13

CULTURE SHOCK (FINAL ARTICLE)

When the world reacted to COVID a little more than 2 years ago, many thought a short pause would take place. That morphed into a year and the resurgences and variants extended the pandemic even longer. A better way to understand this is like this: The first two weeks were our blizzard/winter storm. As time went on we realized we were actually in the “season of winter.” That season continued but we realized we were actually in a new ice age. See, the hope we held out that this would be a short, temporary time, actually hindered us in the long run. We were short-sighted and made a lot of snap decisions that hurt our youth. High school seniors were always promised a prom...until it didn't happen. College freshmen were promised an awesome year, full of socializing...until it didn't happen. We need to constantly be aware of the way we respond to the situations around us, and conscious of our experiences not being similar to those of our youth. The world today IS different than the one in which you grew up. The best things we, as adults, parents, grandparents, mentors, etc. can do is:

1. Listen
2. Empathize
3. Guide their narrative

Youth News

High School:

Bible Study

Sunday mornings at 9:15am!

May 22nd will be our last Sunday morning until Fall. We WILL be doing our summer study every other week, at different times during the week.

NYG Meeting May 15 at 5pm

Dinner will be provided! Ends at 7pm

Middle School Youth:

Confirmation Day!

May 1 at 10:30am Service

Confirmation Pizza Party

May 4th at 6pm-7pm in the Middle School Room

Echoes

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

This column has traditionally been used to share stories of how God is at work through people in our congregation. So many of these stories are about servant leaders who are sharing the love of Jesus any way they can. That's the mission, right? Love God by loving other people. So what's your story? Where is your focus? So often we try to do something big or when opportunities present themselves we claim we are too busy. But sharing the love of Jesus simply by loving someone does not have to be a great act or take a lot of time.

Each and every day we have an opportunity to be an echo of God's love. We don't have to do miracles or die on a cross (thank you Jesus!), but we do have the opportunity to first of all to know God's love and second to be that echo. Over the summer there will be an opportunity to gather with a group of 3 others and practice this echo. If this is something you or your whole family would like to do, please let Aaron know. Each group would need to be available 1 hour a week for 8 weeks (in person or via Zoom). Thanks! Keep listening!

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT:

The week of April 18th was the last week of our ministry activities for the Spring Semester, as Finals was the week of April 25th.

In many ways, this academic year was a rebuilding year and like starting over. Before COVID, we had around 12-15 students as our core group at Solid Grounds. In the two years of COVID, the majority of those students graduated. When we started back this academic year, there were only 2 returning students.

Also, before COVID, our Bronco Buddy Mentoring program had between 35-40 WMU students. Typically, around 20 or so mentors come from Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), 10 from Solid Grounds, and another 5-7 students were not involved in either group, but were students I met at Freshmen orientation that wanted to volunteer with kids. Our last Bronco Buddy event was in February 2020. In April 2020, around 15 of the Bronco Buddy mentors graduated. In previous years, we would replace graduating mentors with new mentors. However, during the 2020-2021 academic year, when COVID was at its height and we could not do group events in person, we were not able to replace those mentors. When April 2021 rolled around, another 15 or so of the students that had served as mentors graduated.

So, when this past Fall semester started, there were only 7 returning mentors, out of nearly 40 before COVID. Of those 7, less than 5 said that they would be able to serve as mentors.

Bronco Buddy mentoring had 8 great years from 2012-2020. But, I felt like the season of Bronco Buddies was over and did not feel compelled or led to try and restart it this past academic year. One thing I have learned in campus ministry is that there are seasons for ministry events and activities, and I felt great about the 8 great years of Bronco Buddies, and thankful to God for all of the mentors that served over those years and the partnership with the kids at Tree of Life.

I also felt like the season of doing our worship service at Solid Grounds on Sunday's at noon was coming to an end, especially with only 2 returning students. So, I made the decision that we would worship at Zion at the 10:30AM service and have pizza after service. 2 new students joined Solid Grounds and attended

almost every Sunday service at Zion. We also had 3 other new students join us this semester. I am hopeful that those 5 students will continue to be a part of our campus ministry as we look to this upcoming Fall semester.

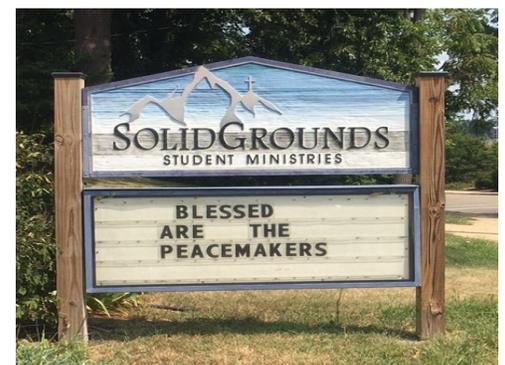
We also started a new community outreach with the Kalamazoo YWCA this semester. We have been volunteering with the kids whose moms are staying at the YWCA shelter for victims of domestic violence. So far, we have volunteered at the YWCA on 3 evenings. There are 5 students that have volunteered (4 from FCA and one from Solid Grounds). The 4 athletes from FCA will be here this summer and want to volunteer on a regular basis. We are hoping to volunteer once a week over the summer. I am looking forward to having this as a regular community outreach over the summer and see what might develop going forward.

One new campus outreach that I will be doing on a weekly basis during the summer is to grill out one day during the lunch hour at Solid Grounds for the WMU landscaping and maintenance workers and other WMU staff that are around over the summer.

In many ways, the landscaping and maintenance workers and other staff on campus are the forgotten group. I built connections with a number of the landscaping and maintenance workers this past Fall semester when we were doing the Popeye's fundraiser for victims of human trafficking. I invited them to Solid Grounds a few weeks ago when the NCAA basketball tournament started and 8 of them attended. When I told them I wanted to do a weekly cookout during the lunch hour this summer, they liked the idea. So, I am going to talk with them, find out which day works best for them during the lunch hour, and will start up sometime in mid-late May.

God's blessings and peace to you all!

Pastor Mark



Book Review: "Same Kind of Different As Me," Ron Hall and Denver Moore. Nelson. 2006.

One of our members shared this title with me a dozen years ago, and I find it even more timely today than when I first read it. This is an easy narrative to follow, and is difficult to put down once you start.

This is the autobiography of two unlikely friends named Denver and Ron, and the love that brought them together. Each tells the same story from his own perspective. Denver grew up picking cotton in Louisiana, living as close to slavery as was still possible in the early 20th century. Ron lived a charmed life as a successful, wealthy, art dealer. Denver lived on the streets and was homeless most of his life. Ron lived the American Dream.

This is the story of an amazing woman (Ron's wife, Deborah) who brought these two men together, and whose witness and faith changed their lives forever. (With a double emphasis on the word "forever!") One of the gifts of this narrative is to be faced with the reality that two people can see the same thing in such different ways. This is a lesson in learning not to make assumptions about what others "need" or "feel," and learn to simply let God lead and do what needs to be done.

This is about wealth and true wealth. It is full of joy and tears, and is wonderful in terms of helping us to examine our own lifestyles and attitudes and where discipleship might fit in for each of us. It is about two men who began with no faith. One had good reasons because of racism, poverty, and loneliness. The other had no good reason because he was a church member, who was wealthy, had a family, and a "good life." This tells how their worlds collided, changed and became new. You must read the book!

Denver, the homeless and illiterate transplant from Louisiana is approached by Ron to be his friend. Denver says "I'm gon' tell you right

now what I first thought about Mr. Ron askin me would I be his friend: I didn't like it. Why would he want to be my friend? That's what I was thinking. What does he want?

Everybody wants something. Why don't he pick on somebody else? Why I got to be his friend? Bein a friend is a heavy commitment. In a way, even more than a husband or a wife. And I was selfish. I could take care a' myself, and I didn't' need nobody else's baggage." (p. 108)

Denver, who grew up in a windowless shack and noticed Ron had a key ring with many keys. He asked, "do you own something that each one of those keys fits?" Ron glanced at the keys and said, "I suppose," not really ever having thought about it. To which Denver asked, "Are you sure you own them, or does they own you?" (p.113)

The book is about living and dying and finding out that sometimes dying is life and living is death. Once you get into the flow of these two lives and the narrative that is shared, it is difficult to put down. The book has study questions in the back that makes it very easily used with a book or discussion group. Lest you think the book is just a retelling of the "odd couple," you will quickly find out the quiet and powerful angel of the story is Ron's wife, Debbie. And that's all I'll say for you need to discover why!

This book is full of insights about faith, witness, ministry, and fear. It is about prayer and miracles, and the surprising realities that faith brings; and most relevant with the struggles of this present economic downturn. It raises questions for each of us about true ministry and true discipleship. At times I laughed out loud, or felt tears running down my cheek. It forced me to question my own willingness to live with servant love. Best, it lifts up the triumph of faith. Give it a read and let me know what you think.

Pastor Seeber



BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Rhenda Pease
5/2	June Schurig
5/3	Mandy Scheffler
5/4	Thomas Cooper, Kayla Eichaker, Meredith Freeby, Shawn Schipper, Paul Vickery
5/5	Judith Adlam, Crosby Field, Hunter Laurin, Daniel Phillips,
5/6	Eli Frazier, Kevin Morrison, David Ostrem
5/7	Matthew Folck, Carter Simmons,
5/8	Bruce Huston
5/10	Scott Adams, Diane Alsvig, Karen Stokes-Chapo, Marti Nuyen, Steve Slesinski, Zoey Soppelsa
5/11	Myles Ream, Jacob Waterlander
5/12	Celia Schipper, Jeffrey Thiede
5/13	Steven Glascock, Amy Hendricks, Aiden Woods
5/14	Thuy Martin, Parker Wagner
5/15	Zoe Tinigin, Aaron Whittaker
5/17	Wanda Jewett,
5/18	Jill Koning, Kurt Weber
5/20	Steven Stokes
5/22	Christopher Glasser, Robert Klein,
5/23	Carrie Chapman, Sue Ann Coffinger, Laine DeMorrow
5/24	Donald Klug
5/25	Eliza Grube, Eleanor Hayward, Riley Ketchum, Diane Koning, Samantha Leitz
5/26	Patricia Langworthy
5/27	Greggory Dinda
5/28	Don Eastman, Nicole Greene
5/29	Laurel Cullimore, Kirk Decker, Hannah Laurin
5/31	Brandon Hamilton, Linda Hoepfner, Paul Maier

PARISH REPORT

Baptisms

Lucille Rollen	4/9/2022
Zachary Rollen	4/9/2022

Staff Anniversaries

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

Monica Slesinski	5/29/2018
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Please keep your **EMAIL ADDRESS** **current** with the church office.

Add zion@zionkazoo.org to your email contacts list, please. New email security is blocking many of you from receiving Church notices.

Also, if you would prefer to **receive an electronic version of Harbinger each month**, please let the church office know.

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

The wish list item for **May is Canned vegetables, low-sodium**. Please put your donations in the gray tubs under the church office window. Thank you!



MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Confirmation Day 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult & Kids SS 10:30 Worship 4:00p Kzo Comm Chorus Concert	2 6:30 Personnel	3 10:00 P. Brejje Bible Walk thru Bible on FB	4 6p Conf Class Pizza Party 7:30 Sml Grp LS	5 Cinco de Mayo 5:30p Long Term Care Seminar 7:00 Choir Practice	6	7 8:00 Men's Bible Study
8 Mother's Day 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult & Kids SS 10:30 Worship	9 6:30 Endowment	10 10:00 P. Brejje Bible Walk thru Bible on FB	11 7:30 Sml Grp LS	12 Noon Finance 7:00 Choir Practice	13 5:30-7:30 Family Game Nt	14 8:00 Men's Bible Study
15 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult & Kids SS 10:30 Worship 5:00p NYG Meeting	16 6:30 BOD	17 10:00 P. Brejje Bible Walk thru Bible on FB	18 7:30 Sml Grp LS	19 7:00 Choir Practice	20 5:30-7:30 Family Game Nt	21 8:00 Men's Bible Study
22 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult & Kids SS 10:30 Worship 11:45 Congregational Meetings	23	24 10:00 P. Brejje Bible Walk thru Bible on FB	25 7:30 Sml Grp LS	26 7:00 Choir Practice	27 5:30-7:30 Family Game Nt	28 8:00 Men's Bible Study
29 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult & Kids SS 10:00 Worship-time ch	30 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	31 Walk thru Bible on FB	7:30 Sml Grp LS	7:00 Choir Practice		5:30 Worship



April 2022							June 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2022 WORSHIP LEADERS

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29 Time changed to 10:00a.m.
Acolytes 8:00am					
Acolytes 10:30am					
Head Ushers 8:00am	Walter Kohnke Alan Sarver	Steve Weber Mark Schoonbeck	Walter Kohnke John DuBois	Larry Harding Rich Rakow	Matt Simmons Alan Sarver
Head Ushers 10:30am	Steve Nuyven Dennis O'Brien	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak	Steve Nuyven Dennis O'Brien	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast
Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm	Roxanne Seeber	Mike Schlack	Roxanne Seeber	Ted Maxson	Joanne Bowes
Communion Assistants 8:00am	Mike Schlack	Ted Maxson	John Buetow	Rita Linnenkugel	Matt Simmons
Communion Assistants 10:30am	Steve Nuyven	Dee Wentzel	Garr Gast	Steve & Dana Butt	Karen Stokes
Lectors 8:00am	John Buetow	Carolyn Daenzer	David Mayer	Jayne Mayer	Andrew Niedbala
Lectors 10:30am	Jill Hamilton	Erin Hampshire	Alice Tomer	Chris Wilkins	Alison Carlson
Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm	Melissa Noseworthy Marx Vandenberg			Diana Moulton	
Altar Ministry 8:00am	1. Carol Daenzer 2. Jayne Mayer	1. Carol Daenzer 2. Jayne Mayer	1. Linda Mayer 2. Jayne Mayer	1 2.	1. 2.
Altar Ministry 10:30am	1. 2.	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.

FY 2023 BUDGET

ZION LUTHERN CHURCH Budget	2023	2022		
	Proposed	Budget	Over/Under	Comments
INCOME				
Total Zion Income	740,025.00	715,000.00	25,025.00	Increase 3.5% to cover expenses
EXPENSES				
Zion Staff Support	377,362.00	384,721.00	-7,359.00	Decrease after health plan change savings & wage increases
Office Operations	15,270.00	14,430.00	840.00	Increase - supplies cost increase
Church Property	96,355.00	88,100.00	8,255.00	Increase - repairs of HVAC system & utilities cost higher
Education Ministry	12,700.00	11,000.00	1,700.00	Increase - program changes & cost increases
Evangelism/Missions	500.00	500.00	0.00	No change
Worship Ministry	6,150.00	5,950.00	200.00	Increase - streaming & copyright costs
Other Ministries	3,270.00	2,510.00	760.00	Increase due to rising costs of Portals of Prayers
Music Ministry	31,755.00	29,100.00	2,655.00	Increase due to pay increases
Finance Ministry	112,400.00	112,400.00	0.00	No change
Zion Haus Ministry	13,400.00	3,235.00	10,165.00	Increase due to repairs needed
Missions - General	72,892.50	64,086.00	8,806.50	Increase due to 10% of tithing of total giving
Total Expenses	742,054.50	716,032.00	26,022.50	
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-2,029.50	-1,032.00	-997.50	
SOLID GROUND				
Solid Ground Income	117,704.00	121,656.00	-3,952.00	Decrease due to fewer renters & parking income
Solid Ground Expenses	114,896.84	116,296.00	-1,399.16	Decrease after health plan change savings & wage increase
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	2,807.16	5,360.00	-2,552.84	

Financial Report for March 31, 2022

ZION: March Giving is over budget by \$13,611. Expenses are over budget by \$2,954.

March ended with a Net Gain of \$12,990. YTD Net Income Gain is \$10,681, over budget by \$12,010.

Questions? Please email Joni LaPointe at jbaocg215@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL: Income is under budget by \$2,706. Expenses are under budget by \$5,336. March Net Gain is \$2,533. YTD Net Income Gain is \$4,640, over budget by \$11,788.

Solid Ground: Income is under budget by \$1,661. Expenses are over budget by \$1,376.

March Net Loss of \$236. YTD Net Income Gain is \$4,285, under budget by \$1,723.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
Zion Giving & Misc.	64,625	78,236	13,611	601,450	623,396	21,946
EXPENSES						
Zion Staff Support	32,117	30,225	-1,892	320,987	310,652	-10,335
Office Operations	1,053	564	-489	12,025	13,131	1,106
Church Property	7,725	11,242	3,517	75,550	96,200	20,650
Education Ministry	1,100	839	-261	8,800	9,100	300
Evangelism/Missions	50	0	-50	400	500	100
Worship Ministry	488	1,018	530	4,975	5,518	543
Other Ministries	405	217	-188	2,225	2,415	190
Music Ministry	3,500	3,650	150	22,600	22,904	304
Finance Ministry	9,370	10,027	657	93,700	87,294	-6,406
Zion Haus Ministry	284	452	168	2,717	4,682	1,965
Missions - General	6,200	7,012	812	58,800	60,319	1,519
Total Expenses	62,292	65,246	2,954	602,779	612,715	9,936
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	2,333	12,990	10,657	-1,329	10,681	12,010
FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL						
INCOME						
FOJ Income	4,675	1,969	-2,706	37,298	5,068	-32,230
			0			0
FOJ Staff Support	4,102	0	-4,102	37,966	231	-37,735
FOJ Operations Expenses	670	-564	-1,234	6,480	197	-6,283
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-97	2,533	2,630	-7,148	4,640	11,788
SOLID GROUND						
Solid Ground Income	12,806	11,145	-1,661	104,572	101,304	-3,268
Solid Ground Expenses	10,005	11,381	1,376	98,564	97,019	-1,545
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	2,801	-236	-1,425	6,008	4,285	-1,723
BALANCE SHEET						
	6/1/2021	3/31/2022	YTD Change			
ASSETS						
Cash	86,738	115,727	28,989			
Investments	188,271	189,186	915			
Other Assets	8,046	4,891	-3,355			
TOTAL	283,055	309,804	26,549			
LIABILITIES						
Payroll	5,030	3,097	-1,933			
Dedicated Funds	132,481	145,843	13,162			
Unrestricted Funds	145,544	160,864	15,320			
TOTAL	283,055	309,804	26,549			
MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE	\$606,589					
Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000						
Youth Ministry	\$10,141	Ins. Claim Water	\$5,778			
New Staff	\$50,000	FOJ Fundraising	\$11,518			
Future Debt	\$8,571	Benevolence/Wise	\$5,478			
		Insur.Checks	\$12,773			

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

May

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 22nd at 11:45 a.m.