



# Harbinger

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July 20, 1969, family moving day. We relocated from an urban rental home we had been renting to a Fort Wayne suburban home; a home my mother owns to this day. If July 20, 1969, sounds vaguely familiar to most of you, it should. That was the day Neil and Buzz landed on the moon. One of my earliest memories is my parents unloading and plugging in the television first. While it was a black and white model, we had the luxury of a having a roof antenna and a perfectly clear picture of the not so clear and downright blurry images of Neil Armstrong coming down the ladder and making the small step for man and the giant leap for humanity.

Like many who witnessed the first moon landing and then the six out of seven successful Apollo moon missions that followed over the next three years (Apollo 13 being the famous exception) all those men walking on the moon (a total of 12) inspired a fascination in me of all things space related. After the Apollo missions, we had the space shuttle to stoke our imaginations of a spacecraft that travels to space and lands like an airplane. When the space shuttle Challenger exploded on January 28, 1986, I, like many millions, was devastated. Yes, spaceflight was dangerous, but I never expected a tragedy killing seven astronauts.

My interest in the space shuttle and space program was lost. Forward to February 1, 2003, I'm the new pastor of an Ohio church. A member called to inform me the space shuttle Columbia had broken up on reentry and all lives were lost; I didn't even realize there was a space mission. The program eventually ended in 2011 after a total of 135 missions and carrying to orbit the modules and materials needed to construct the International Space Station, which remains in operation. In fact, the final space shuttle mission was to the ISS, delivering parts and supplies. One of the astronauts on that flight was Doug Hurley.

Almost a decade later, on May 30, 2020, during the COVID-19 lock down, the very same Doug Hurley was one of two astronauts launched on a brand-new rocket built not by NASA but by the space company SpaceX. This new space capsule successfully took two astronauts on a test mission to the ISS, where Doug would retrieve the American flag he had left there 10 years earlier. After a decade of the United States purchasing rides to the space station from Russia, we are now able to send astronauts into space, and since have sent 42 people either into orbit or to the ISS for a crew rotation.

NASA is preparing to send astronauts back to the moon through its appropriately named Artemis moon program. (In Greek mythology Artemis is the twin sister of Apollo.) We find ourselves in the midst of a new era of space exploration (I haven't even mentioned things like the recently launched Webb Space Telescope and the incredible images of deep space we are seeing for the first time!) and it's quite possible those of us under 60 might just witness the next generation's Neil and Buzz as they land on Mars for the very first time within the next 20-30 years.

What's the point of all this? First, I love this new space age and am ready to talk rockets with you as much as you want! Second, and more importantly, no matter where humanity might travel in the heavens, we travel through God's creation. Jesus is the Lord of heaven and earth. My friends, looking into the vastness of outer space we are reminded of the greatness of our God.

***By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command... - Hebrews 11:3***

***The heavens declare the glory of God... - Psalm 19:1***

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## THE REFORMATION of the CHURCH

Every year's celebration of The Reformation is an important moment in time. It will not be noticed or celebrated by all Christians, and will certainly not generate much news on the internet. Yet, it is an important reminder of what happens when tradition, earthly wisdom, control, and selfishness become more important than a scriptural faith.

The reformation should be a continuing movement as each part of Christ's Church on earth must regularly examine whether or not our priorities, dictates, and practices enhance or ignore the simple truth of the Gospel.

Martin Luther was a catholic priest and professor of theology. He did not seek to form a new denomination or church body, but sought a conversation with the leaders of the Church about how the Church had gotten so far off track in forgetting its scriptural basis. When he posted 95 statements on the Castle Church in Wittenberg, in October of 1517, his goal was to begin a dialog. Instead, because he was a threat to the status quo, he was branded as a heretic and an outlaw.

Many wonder why that matters today, but unless we understand what the Reformation was all about, we might fall prey to the same earthly mistakes that caused the Church to drift so far from the simple truths of the Gospel.

Because we are imperfect and tainted by the reality of sin, everything we touch is likewise imperfect and not always full of God's love. It isn't that we don't try, but we are not perfect. Being a priest, pastor, layperson, or leader of any branch of the Church does not exempt anyone from the frailty sin brings upon us. And that has often led decisions and traditions within the Church, or by the inattentiveness of congregations, to slowly allow the Church to drift off course. By the time of Luther, forgiveness could be purchased for the right amount of money, many priests misused their authority, people of faith couldn't read the Bible, and many were guided by superstition and fear than the love of Jesus Christ.

Eventually, Luther and others helped steer the theology and practice of the Church back to basics. Because his actions were inspired by the power of Scripture, his life was transformed and the Church was reformed in so many ways. The

Bible was translated so all could read it. Christians re-learned that forgiveness is a gift of God and not a product to be purchased. Worship was understandable and used music and language that involved every member of every congregation. The forms of worship (or liturgy) became more personal and less of a mystical routine. God's grace is not dependent on our actions, but in response, our living should reflect the light of Jesus' love.

The Reformation changed the relationship of Church and State, so that the Church no longer controlled government and kings and princes did not control the life of the Church. The printing press and public education became useful tools. Public education and lifting up the role of women also became hallmarks of Luther's reform. Most important of all, faithful people learned all called to be priests and disciples and witnesses of God's love in every moment of our lives.

Today non-denominational churches are the rage, but there should be no embarrassment in saying our congregation is Lutheran as if that were somehow a different religion. Wouldn't it be great if could learn to say we are Lutheran Catholic. Roman Catholic, or Reformed Catholic (as we understand "catholic" to mean "universal." We are all Christian, but have allowed different backgrounds and ways of explaining the mysteries of faith to separate keep us apart. But that should not take away from the joy of this moment in time. We remember the Reformation as it got the Church back on track. And it is important to remember how.

For 500+ years, the Church has remembered its roots in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We have been kept faithful in our understanding that faith and faith alone keeps us close to God's love. We have been encouraged, as we read scripture and join in worship, education, prayer, and acts of servant love that the Church is one, and each of us is called to be a light to the world. Our recent changes in worship online and in parking lot remind us that the essence of the Gospel is what is important, not the rules or traditions of people! As we celebrate this month the anniversary of THE Reformation, we might consider how best to make this a daily lifestyle and vision for each and every Christian.

*Faith alone! Grace alone! Scripture alone!*

## Catechism Review: Holy Communion

### Part One: "Context"

Context is crucial for the important actions and moments in our lives. Birthdays and Christmas, for instance involve the gathering of family, the sharing of gifts, and the gift of a special meal. It is the context that gives meaning to the actions of those rituals. The context for Holy Communion is found in the Passover of the Old Testament. Without understanding that meal, there is much that is overlooked or not completely digested in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As we prepare our children for their first taste of this meal of the kingdom, we begin by telling them the story of the Passover. The reason is one of context. Jesus and his disciples (on the night that he was betrayed and handed over to be crucified) were celebrating the annual Passover meal. Jesus ended that meal by adding something new and using that to cement in their memory what he was doing for them and for us.

Several thousand years ago, the children of Israel spent 400 years as slaves in Egypt. (10 generations!) One day God sent Moses to tell them, *"for the first time in your lives you will become free people. And that freedom will begin a journey that will lead you to a new home where you have never lived before."*

Anticipating a quick and hard journey, Moses told them to prepare a special meal. It would provide the subsistence necessary for a long journey, but also would have symbolic value to assist in their freedom. This meal would become a ritual that they would celebrate over and over again so that they would never forget how God had delivered them from slavery and set them on the journey to the "Promised Land." The first Passover would be a miracle for the ages, and is the context for the Sacrament of Holy Communion that is central to our congregation's time of worship, renewal, and refreshment for our daily faith journey that will one day lead us home.

There were various visible elements of the meal: a lamb was sacrificed and its blood was spread on the wood around the door of their homes, so

that as the first born of Egypt would die, this Last Plague would "pass over" the homes and lives of God's chosen ones.

And the lamb that was sacrificed became the strength for the journey that was before them. When it was time to go they would have to move quickly, with the energy necessary to walk miles and miles through the dry bed of the Red Sea and into the sand of the desert. These Passover lambs would exchange their lives so that the dads, moms, and children would be given strength for the journey and marked as people of faith, untouched by the angel of death. (In Baptism, by the way, we do a similar marking with the water in the sign of a cross, as a sign of deliverance, and a reminder of how death passes us over by God's grace.) There were other aspects to the meal too: bitter herbs to remember the suffering in Egypt, an apple mixture to remember the mortar they mixed to build pyramids as slave laborers, salt water to remember their tears of suffering, and unleavened bread, as there was no time for normal bread baking, while several glasses of wine were blessed with a special prayer.

As Jesus gathered his disciples, preparing to become the Perfect Passover Lamb, how appropriate that He chose the Passover meal to begin that journey. The themes of an escape from slavery, thanksgiving for such a miracle, death of sacrificial lambs, and a meal of deliverance were all forefront in the disciples' hearts and minds. And then Jesus said, *"Now for something new! We aren't simply remembering, but building on the past to better understand the future! This Bread is MY BODY! This wine is MY BLOOD! And every time you eat and drink you will do so with ME in mind. I am with you always!"* And so, this is the context with which we will begin to talk about this meal of grace.

Pastor Seeber

## Youth News

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

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

Wednesdays at 6:15pm

### Bible Study

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

### Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, October 1 from 3-6pm  
(transportation help might be needed!)

### Costume Wars

Sunday, October 22 in between services (all youth)

## Echoes

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

After talking with a number of people in customer service as well as experiencing an overwhelming amount of apology when an order has to change or is delayed, I've realized something: People don't know how to treat others with respect. As God's people we have an opportunity to be loving, forgiving, and understanding when issues arise or change has to happen.

The next time you have someone out to set something up or even repair something—whatever the interaction with a stranger completing a service (EVEN AT A RESTAURANT), remember to be kind. Be loving. You might be the only friendly smile or non-complaint ridden order they have all day! They don't need to know you're a Christian either. Just be loving towards them and don't be a burden. Sit back and watch God work through this simple means of recognizing and appreciating those who serve you.

**Upcoming Schedule****October 21: Family Fall Fest 4-6pm****Wednesday's: Midweek Kids 6:15pm-7:15pm****Sunday's: Sunday School 9:15am****End of October: Watch for Operation  
Christmas Child Shoeboxes to appear!**

# Family Life

**FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS****SEASONS OF CHANGE**

A recent thought took me back to last year and trying to remember the family routine we had established. I could remember most details but still, it seemed so far off. Then I tried to recall the previous year and all the hardships of afternoon drop offs, days of working with a baby in the office, and juggling all sorts of commitments and appointments.

It's funny how the routine changes every year. What was a stressor last year might not be one this year. New additions to schedules might not last forever.

Autumn has begun. As we transition out of summer mode and back into school mode, we need to transition our faith lives as well. Excuses will always be available as they are for any facet of life. But those too can change.

God gave us the amazing ability to adapt and change—as does His created world. In fact, change is necessary. As our season of change happens at Zion, we need your effort to assist in this change. We need your helpful adaptations to help bring Christ's love to a hurting world. We hope to see you soon!

## Friends of Jesus Preschool

Thank you for the many school supply and snack donations. They are greatly appreciated!

We are finding and settling into our groove here at Friends of Jesus Preschool and are looking forward to the many exciting events and activities happening this fall.

By the time you are reading this, we will have hosted Grandparents' Day and enjoyed a get-together at Schultz Fruitridge Farms. We are eagerly anticipating Fall Fest and Halloween parties later this month!

We have welcomed two new teachers to our team, Ms. Sinotte, who is the lead teacher for the 4-year-olds, and Ms. Doerschler, who helps with After Care. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them!

As a reminder, enrollment at Friends of Jesus Preschool is ongoing, so we will continue to accept applications throughout the year. If you or someone you know has a child turning 3 in the near future, please tell them about the wonderful opportunities Friends of Jesus has to offer.

Thank you!

Jen LaPorte, Preschool Director

## CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT

On Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we held our first Dinner and Discussion event of the Fall Semester. These evening Dinner and Discussion events go from 6:00-7:30PM. Dinner is first and the last 45 minutes are devoted to our Bible study/topic discussion.

Two students living at Solid Grounds led the discussion since I was still in Ann Arbor. 5 students attended the event. Four of the students were returning students and one was a new student. 2 students who regularly attend our Dinner and Discussion events that were not able to attend. I met with two new students at WMU. One is a freshman majoring in music therapy and one is a first year Master's student majoring in Medieval studies. Both of them are interested in joining our Monday evening events, so we could have a group of 8-10 students on Monday evenings. Additionally, I continue to connect with new freshmen from orientation which may result in more attendance.

Our Tuesday evenings at the Kalamazoo YWCA from 6-7pm have resumed with kids whose mom's are victims of domestic abuse. We'll know soon how many kids to plan for and if there are increased opportunities for additional volunteers.

Our Thursday volunteer event at Maple Street Middle School during the lunch hour will start back in the Spring Semester which will begin in January 2024.

I continue to explore opportunities to involve students with the Kalamazoo Refugee Resource Coalition (KRRC) to help serve refugees families settling in the Kalamazoo area. The new director of KRRC is originally from Pakistan. He finished his Master's degree at WMU and has attended numerous events at Solid Grounds over the years.

Thank you again for your amazing support and love for both Melody and I during this season of our lives. You are a blessing from God to us!

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

### Halloween Word Search

Q M T J V M P L P L S W R Y N Y  
S B R L E F W H X B V C L P K W  
P H P Q V F T O S H T F X H X H  
O B F H D J I J N O T E L E K S  
O R Q C A N D Y I F U Q I O O B  
K G H O S T S L K J J E N D O S  
Y M Z L G J F C P H E K Y J X Y  
I T E C O S T U M E S L A H X A  
V G A X B K L M U M M Y H A K S  
E A A B L Z S T P P I B U L H M  
D M W F I T P A R T Y Q G L C U  
A E Y Q N U G E S S L H Z O T S  
S S B J E C C R F F K X P W I Y  
T R I C K U P T J A S L Z E W E  
F T Z Q W P X B J Q A B I E U W  
M T V C R J K U D T M U S N H O

BOO  
GAMES  
HALLOWEEN  
PARTY  
SPOOKY  
WITCH

CANDY  
GHOSTS  
MASK  
PUMPKINS  
TRICK

COSTUMES  
GOBLIN  
MUMMY  
SKELETON  
TREAT

## SPECIAL MESSAGES

**Special Thank You from Dee Wentzel...** Dear Zion Family: I cannot begin to express my deep appreciation for all your prayers, food, visits and cards while I have been recuperating from my accident. June through August were especially difficult, and while the recovery is ongoing, many of you helped me through so much including transportation while I was unable to drive. God has been by my side through all the hospital stays guiding the hands treating my wound. Zion's church family is awesome. Very special thank you to all our Pastors. Each visited me in the hospital and at home. Additionally, some of our members, literally saved my life. And, Aaron's young adults servant event relieved a great burden attending to outdoor needs. I have been blessed in so many ways throughout this ordeal. Blessings and Love, Dee.

Thank you, Zion, for your generous donations of school supplies for Community In Schools Kalamazoo and our own Friends of Jesus Preschool. We delivered a truck load to CISK and they remembered our generosity from last year. They were again very appreciative. Also, Jen is very thankful for her requested items for FOJ. Thank you for your faithfulness in making this school collection project a success... **Jayne Mayer**

Thank you everyone for your cards, prayers, love and support I received during my surgery and recovery. I am greatly appreciative and it means so much to have the support and being uplifted during some painful moments. Gratefully, Michelle Devine

**CALLING ALL CANNERS...**We have been blessed with canning jars (see the display in the hallway). Please feel free to take some for yourself and then share a few of your bounty with the bazaar. We are grateful for any donations you are willing to make.

### Help Wanted!!!

-Archivist/Historian to help organize and track Zion archives

### Volunteer / Ministry Opportunities

-Volunteers are needed and greatly appreciated in support of the many activities helping Zion to be a wonderful place to praise and glorify God. Now may be a perfect time to lend a hand or a voice in one of the activities: Lectors, Communion Assistants, Sound Board, Ushers, Altar Guild, Choir, Musicians, Sewing, Kitchen helping to enrich our moments together. If you are interested in serving in any of these roles, please email: [zion@zionkazoo.org](mailto:zion@zionkazoo.org) or call the Office at 382-2360.



## GRATEFUL HEARTS / THANKFUL HANDS

**NOVEMBER 18th 9:00 am-2:00pm**  
(Mark your calendar)

Zion will again open its doors to the community for our annual bazaar. Please help us spread the word to family, friends and neighbors. We are hoping for a record turnout!

The food section of our bazaar is always a winner! Cookies, cakes, pies, breads, muffins, fudge, scones, spiced nuts, flavored pretzels, chocolate covered pretzels and canned goods are all eagerly anticipated! Please package items in small portions, nicely packaged and in a way our customers can see what the item is. Also, please identify your package, for example, pumpkin bread, chocolate chip cookies or gluten free. BAKED GOODS should be at Zion by Friday, November 17th, if possible. If not, please have them in the kitchen by 8:00 Saturday morning.

Volunteers will be needed after the late service on Sunday, November 12th to move tables into the Gathering Room and to bring the boxes of crafts and attic treasures upstairs. This can go quickly with many helping hands. We also need strong arms promptly at 2:00 on the 18th to take tables down at the close of the bazaar.

You will soon notice a table in the main hallway with a sampling of items we receive. Each week new items will be added. All donated items can be placed in the designated spot in the workroom.

A sign up sheet for volunteers will be posted on the kiosk. You are welcome to help out an hour or two or all day. It is a fun day AND lunch will be provided. Please prayerfully consider helping out on bazaar day.

Special thanks to all who have already submitted items. We always receive the nicest compliments on having such quality items available!

Please contact Jayne Mayer with any questions-375-8342.

## ART MINISTRY in BLENDS

### EVERY PICTURE IS A STORY

*Photos from Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Austria*

*by Pastor Seeber*

Jesus understood, better than we, how people remember and learn. That is why he utilized parables, which are simply word pictures. He shared what was common and known to his audience to draw them into conversations with him about faith, hope, and love.

In each parable, it is the picture Jesus planted in a listener's mind that helped him to get into their hearts.

These pictures are shared for you to consider as potential parables for our journey of faith. There is nothing more or less unique about these than others I have taken.

Take time to consider Jesus might have used any of these images as parables or images to lead one deeper into a discussion or examination of faith.

What stories might be in any of these images for you? Maybe nothing. Maybe everything. But every picture is a story, and it is possible, just as in a parable of Jesus, that a faith image, story, or truth might be lurking or revealed.

These are like seeds a farmer might throw onto the ground, in hopefulness that something might grow.

*Editor's Note: We are truly blessed to have an incredible amount of talent/gifts within our congregation and for those allowing Zion to exhibit their work. Please enjoy the journey of faith currently displayed in Blends.*



**Book Review. “Brand Luther; How an Unheralded Monk Turned His Small Town into a Center of Publishing, Made Himself the Most Famous Man in Europe — and Started the Protestant Reformation.”** Andrew Pettegree. Penguin Press. 2015.

I have read much about Luther, but never from this perspective. This historical biography offers great insight into how and why Luther was so successful. Paul Maier teaches how historical and cultural settings at the time of Jesus’ birth were perfect for the spreading of the Gospel to an entire world. This approaches Luther’s time from a similar perspective.

It is intriguing how certain people, can have such an impact for others (equally gifted) often have so little traction. The idea that a single monk, in one of the smallest towns of Germany, could have such an impact on the entire western Christian world, is one such moment. This book explains how the advent of the printing press, and a gifted artist like Lucas Cranach, used those modern inventions to such advantage.

This is not a quick read, yet for anyone interested in history, Lutheran theology, the facts of the Reformation, it is a fascinating addition to the study of Luther and his times. In our world where branding has such an important role, the idea of Luther as a brand was disconcerting before I read the book. And yet, now I see how it makes sense.

Luther was not a product yet the printing press became a vehicle to clarify his theological statements and keep the primacy of the Gospel, rather than human traditions and politics, in the forefront of the Church. As his work was written in the vernacular, rather than Latin, it allowed lay people to become involved in a discussion and understanding of how Scripture is the rule, norm, and source of all of the faith of Christianity.

The biographies of Luther I have read have dealt with the facts of his life, his theological insights, and how that all played out in the struggle with the hierarchy of the Holy Church. This book was very helpful in raising some of the practical issues of how he presented his ideas, and how they were so readily accessible to a wide audience at a time when the world was being changed by the new communication medium of the printing press.

**“ Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World.”** Eric Metaxas. Viking Press. 2017.

Many of you have read Eric Metaxas’ biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and know that he has spent a lot of time on research and is able to write in a very engaging style. He has done the same with his biography of Luther and offers a book that anyone interested in the life and times of Luther will enjoy. He adds many new insights.

In a New York Times review from 2017, Carlos Eire writes, “The Luther portrayed here is a hero who single-handedly slays the dragon of the Dark Ages, rescues God from an interpretive dungeon, invents individual freedom and ushers in modernity.” That might be a little overstated, and yet Luther did indeed raise the role and status of women, encouraged education for boys and girls as a means of providing and educating and informed Christian culture.

The story of Luther is well known by many pastors, but probably not many people in the pews. This is a good introduction to better understand what happened during those crucial years. How Luther emerged as from being an obscure professor in the new university at a small town of Wittenberg, to being one of the most known personalities of his time as he took on the power and wealth of Rome is a fascinating tale.

Here is a sample from chapter one: *“he world into which Luther was born was the world that had existed unchanged for many centuries ... Luther was born in the final year of the reign of Pope Sixtus IV, one of a series of six popes at once so comically bungling and tragically scandalous that it was almost as though this sextet had deliberately placed their collective corruptions in a papier mache monster, hung it from a tree, and begged an Augustinian monk to take a dozen or so good whacks at it. But for the name his parents had given him, there is nothing in the childhood or the upbringing-or even the early adulthood-of Martin Luther to suggest him as a candidate for the extraordinary life that followed.”*

Metaxas has a way of bringing readers into a difficult subject, in a very engaging manner. If you have never read a biography on Luther, this one will not disappoint you. - Pastor Seeber



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/1 Erin Shiltz  
 10/2 Olivia Leitz, Terry Nelson  
 10/3 Sarah Skuratowicz, Ryan Tomer,  
 Lindsay VanderVeen  
 10/4 Vicki Gilbert  
 10/5 Vickie Asaro  
 10/6 Melody Couch, Kathy Frank ,  
 Matthew Mayer, Andrew Niedbala,  
 Karleton Woodford  
 10/7 Shirley Ponte, Melissa VanderMeeden  
 10/8 Andrew Bickel  
 10/9 Judith Finnegan, Evangeline Grube  
 10/10 Siarha Tangeman  
 10/11 Kelly Bowes  
 10/12 Vanessa Burnard  
 10/13 Denise O'Brien, Liz Powell  
 10/14 Jennifer LaPorte  
 10/15 David Hampshire  
 10/16 Linda Mayer, Mark Schoonbeck  
 10/17 John DuBois, Alexander Kiessling,  
 Chuck Wendling  
 10/18 Barb Nutsch, Barbara Phillips,  
 Monica Slesinski  
 10/19 Charlotte Green, Erin Harding,  
 Julie Ream, Amy Wilkins  
 10/21 Cameron Brege, Kaleb Fill, Lisa Frazier,  
 Joey Rehkopf  
 10/23 Jennifer Squiers, Chris Wilkins,  
 Thomas VandenBerg  
 10/24 Neloise Vliestra  
 10/25 Peter Fager, Mark Hampshire,  
 Stephen Kiefer  
 10/26 Landon Ewers, Lori Doorlag,  
 Adam Hay  
 10/27 Max Geib, Linda Stieve, Kenneth Toy  
 10/28 James Mayer  
 10/29 Julie Woods  
 10/30 David Borak,

### Endowment Fund Celebration -Over \$1,000,000 in Grants have been distributed

**Purpose of the Endowment Fund Ministry:** To share the blessings from the Endowment Fund and Helm Music Fund to those that have need and desire to spread the good news of Christ.

**Process:** The Endowment Fund Committee manages the funds that have been donated to the Endowment Fund or the Helm Music Fund and distributes the proceeds via grants that have been submitted to the committee.

**Payoff:** As you can see below, a considerable benefit has been shared by several different categories related to Zion Lutheran Church.

**Zion Endowment Grants: Property \$290,793**

**Zion \$278,886 Outreach \$206,052**

**Scholarships \$178,393 Helm Music \$45,528**

Let your gift benefit others for years to come.

Contact Rollie Preuss for more information

**Lutheran World Relief update:** The quilts and baby bundles are ready to go. Aaron and students will transfer the boxes from the sewing area for delivery to St. Micheal. They ship from Maryland to Africa, Latin America, and Asia-Mexico countries. LWR continues to respond to major disasters and humanitarian crises around the world. Zion's Sewing Sisters are blessed to be part of this

### Zion Women's Book Group

October is 'pick your own book' month. The group will be determining the readings for the next 11 months, shortly.

The group meets at **2:00pm on the 3rd Tuesday** of each month. New members are always welcome.

### KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

The wish list item for **October is Soups & Stews.** Please place donations in the gray tubs under the Office windows. Thank you!



# Costume Wars... Season 11

**Join us for year eleven of our Youth Costume Wars! Support the youth as they start fundraising for the summer servant event. As in past years we are asking you to bring spare change and paper money to donate/vote for your favorite costume! This year you'll also be able to donate online! We hope you'll support us and interact with the students as they dress in Bible themes on Sunday, October 22nd in between services. If you cannot be here but would like to donate, check out our online giving and select "Youth." Thanks!**



# OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 3-6p Youth Scavenger Hunt	<b>2</b> 6:30 Personnel	<b>3</b> 10:00 P. Brejle Bible St.	<b>4</b> 5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship
<b>8</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>9</b> Columbus Day	<b>10</b> 10:00 P. Brejle Bible St.	<b>11</b> 5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	<b>12</b> Noon - Finance	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship
<b>15</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>16</b> Boss's Day 6:30 BOD	<b>17</b> 10:00 P. Brejle Bible St. 2:00 Book Group	<b>18</b> 5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 4-6p Childrens Fall Festival 5:30 Worship
<b>22</b> 8:00 Worship 9:00 Costume Wars 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 P. Brejle Bible St.	<b>25</b> 5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship
<b>29</b> Reformation 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Halloween 10:00 P. Brejle Bible St.				
		Deadline for Endowment requests				
		Notes				

## OCTOBER 2023 WORSHIP LEADERS

	OCTOBER 1	OCTOBER 8	OCTOBER 15	OCTOBER 22	OCTOBER 29 Reformation
<b>Acolytes 8:00am</b>	David Hampshire	Ashlynn Leitz	Hayden Williams	Beatrice Mayer	Mark & Sarah Skuratowicz
<b>Acolytes 10:30am</b>	Sydney Woods	Mark Skuratowicz	Eli Frazier	James Mayer	David Hampshire Sydney Woods
<b>Head Ushers 8:00am</b>	Brian Bauer Stan Leitz	Dave Newman Rich Rakow	Alan Sarver Walt Kohnke	Dave Mayer Mark Schaanbeck	Brian Bauer John DuBois
<b>Head Ushers 10:30am</b>	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak
<b>Cantor 8:00am</b>	Linda Stieve	Vicki Holt	Dennis O'Brien	Karen Stokes-Chapo	Linda Stieve
<b>Cantor 10:30am</b>	n/a	Vicki Holt	n/a	Karen Stokes -Chapo	Danielle Field
<b>Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm</b>	Judy Adlam	Kathleen Jordan		Ted Maxson	Mike Schlack
<b>Communion Assistants 8:00am</b>	Jim Mayer	Dave Newman	Mike Schlack		"Pastors"
<b>Communion Assistants 10:30am</b>	Garr Gast	Steve Butt	Steve Nuyen	Lorraine Hanna	"Pastors"
<b>Lectors 8:00am</b>	Jayne Mayer	Carol Daenzer	Andrew Niedbala	Dave Mayer	Aaron Grube
<b>Lectors 10:30am</b>	Jon Tomer	Alice Tomer	Rollie Preuss	Jill Hamilton	Aaron Grube
<b>Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm</b>	1. Mary VandenBerg 2. Phil Rettman	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2.	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
<b>Altar Ministry 8:00am</b>	1. Jayne Mayer 2. Linda Mayer	1. Nicki Klein 2. Vicki Holt	1. 2.	1. Nicki Klein 2. Vicki Holt	1. 2.
<b>Altar Ministry 10:30am</b>	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2. Cindy Krill	1. Toni Holt 2.	1. Carrie Chapman 2.	1. Toni Holt 2. Dee Wentzel	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2.

**Please Note:** There are several opportunities in October unscheduled indicated in gray. Please contact the Office if you are available to assist. Thank you!

**Zion Lutheran Church  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 21, 2023**

*We aspire to be a welcoming and growing community in Christ, providing daily opportunities to live, learn, and share His love.*

At the August Board of Directors Meeting, the following were discussed and acted upon:

**Reports - Highlights**

**Senior Pastor:** Pastor Mike has been preparing for Fall worship and classes, planning for Staff Reviews with the Personnel Ministry, and pondering plans for Solid Grounds and its mission in the future.

**DCE:** The Congregational Picnic and Ministry Fair will be September 10. Small groups 4-week sessions will start that week as well with 4 options for adults. Pastor Mike and Pastor Tim will have classes Sunday mornings and Pastor Mike will have a class Wednesday evenings. The Servant Event went very well with 90 volunteers helping pack food.

**FoJ:** Jen shared there are 9 students enrolled. She and her staff are excited to start the school year.

**Finance:** Rhonda noted that giving went through the typical summer slump which is normally recovered as more return in the fall. Expenses have been within reason. It was suggested that all payments to musicians be moved to Salaries rather than the individual ministries.

**Property:** Ron noted the lights will be completed soon - with Preschool the priority for the project. The team will meet with a liaison from Kalamazoo Public Safety to discuss security issues at Zion.

**Live-streaming Ministry:** Fritz noted the new live-streaming equipment is being order so that it will be ready to go when the fall worship schedule resumes in September.

**Continuing Business:**

**Vote to install Pastor Tim as Assistant Pastor:** The Board of Directors approved Pastor Tim Seeber as Assistant Pastor at Zion to reflect his new status and responsibilities.

**New Business:**

**Possible Vicar and Deaconess at Zion:** Pastor Mike shared he knows a couple, Jack and Savannah, who are studying for the ministry and will be serving their vicarage (Pastor) and internship (Deaconess) next year. They could be a great fit for Zion. The Directors moved and supported a motion to pursue options for possible placement of the two candidates at Zion.

**Review of process:** The Board of Directors will review the policies and processes regarding facilities use at Zion, the Annual Report, and Congregational Archives.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Dinda

Next meeting: September 18, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Zion Financial Report for August 31, 2023

ZION: July Spending exceeded Giving by \$20,202

YTD Giving is under by \$16,759; YTD Spending is over by \$2,178

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
<b>INCOME</b>						
Zion Giving & Misc.	66,484	52,957	-13,527	197,312	180,553	-16,759
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Church Property	9,350	10,623	-1,273	28,050	38,307	-10,257
Education Ministry	1,300	632	668	4,200	4,627	-427
Evangelism/Missions	75	0	75	225	0	225
Finance Ministry	6,395	5,907	488	19,186	19,169	17
FOJ Expenses	2,178	749	1,430	3,126	749	2,378
FOJ Staff	4,052	0	4,052	5,579	0	5,579
Missions - General	5,565	5,401	164	15,327	16,939	-1,612
Music Ministry	2,170	1,890	280	6,015	6,875	-860
Office Operations	786	2,035	-1,249	3,939	3,749	190
Other	641	0	641	973	681	292
SG Expenses	890	898	-8	2,670	4,581	-1,911
SG Staff	9,448	9,334	114	28,344	28,003	341
Worship	490	365	125	1,680	1,275	405
Zion Haus	447	357	90	1,341	648	693
Zion Staff	32,154	34,968	-2,814	104,591	101,822	2,769
Total Expenses	75,941	73,159	2,782	225,246	227,424	-2,178
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-9,457</b>	<b>-20,202</b>	<b>-10,745</b>	<b>-27,934</b>	<b>-46,871</b>	<b>-18,937</b>

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2023	8/31/2023	YTD Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	120,658	95,630	-25,028
Investments	160,547	162,277	1,730
Due To/From Endowment	-12,713	-25,186	-12,473
Dedicated Funds	-73,123	-72,531	592
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195,369</b>	<b>160,189</b>	<b>-35,179</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current Liabilities	5,850	2,446	-3,403
Unrestricted Funds	189,519	157,743	-31,776
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195,369</b>	<b>160,189</b>	<b>-35,179</b>

**MORTGAGE LOAN**

Balance 8/31/2023	\$447,595
Monthly Payment	\$6,350.00
Additional Principal	\$0.00

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

FOJ Fundraising	\$3,519
Youth Ministry	\$9,209
New Staff	\$36,226
Solid Grounds	\$9,468

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

October

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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October 29th