



Harbinger

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Page 2
The Reformation

Page 3
Special Messages

Page 5
Youth News

Page 6
Family Life

Page 7
Campus Ministry

Page 8
Catechism Review

Page 9
Worship Help

In a seminary class on prophets, our professor began by asking if anyone had seen anything “out of the ordinary” that morning. It was an 8am class, so most of us were not even awake. What were we supposed to see? The room was silent, and he allowed the silence to grow. Finally a brave soul said, “I saw a white mushroom as big as a dinner plate!” Our prof smiled and started asking questions about the mushroom. Gradually we understood his point. A prophet could never share a message from God unless he or she first was open to God finding a way to break through the haze. Prophets weren’t holier or smarter than the average people of Judea, they were simply those who were watching and listening for God to speak. That only happens when someone is quiet, observant, expectant, and open to what God might be up to. His question had nothing to do with mushrooms but everything to do with faithful waiting. Every prophet was called out of the blue. They had not planned to be prophets, but somehow were open to God’s call. This is important for us, as we are surrounded by voices demanding to be heard or insisting they alone have the answers. If we are too busy listening to the world, making sure others hear us, or preoccupied with emotional responses or frustrations how will we ever sense the presence of God in our midst? It is in silence we hear and through patient observing that we see. Until we are hear God’s voice (which is often drowned out by an angry or fearful world) we can too easily be pushed and pulled by the tides of brokenness and fear. A prophet is one who shares what God has shared; and there is nothing worth sharing until God’s voice is recognized and embraced. Faithful living is not about knowing all the answers but in recognizing God’s voice and seeing the path He creates. How will you hear or see what God shares if you are not watching or listening for Him? It is not our words and wisdom but God’s the world needs more than ever. Learn from the prophets to allow silence and faithful waiting to become gifts of clarity, wisdom, and peace for you!

Pastor Seeber

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THE REFORMATION of the CHURCH

Every year's celebration of "The Reformation" is an important moment in time. Martin Luther never meant to form a new denomination, but sought a conversation with religious leaders 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. But why does this matter today?

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 or pastor or pope or faithful member of a Church does not exempt us from the frailty that sin brings upon us. And that has often led decisions and traditions of the Church, and laziness by members of congregations, to slowly pull the Church 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 more 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, and that is OK. But there should be no embarrassment in saying "we are Lutheran" as if that were somehow a different religion. Wouldn't it be great if could learn to say we are Lutheran "Catholic" or 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 and 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! Oct. 24 will be our celebration in worship at Zion. As we celebrate the anniversary of THE Reformation, we can best celebrate by making this a daily lifestyle for each and every Christian. And so:

Faith alone! Grace alone! Scripture alone!

SPECIAL MESSAGES

FROM BILL AND PRISCILLA MERCIER

WE THANK ALL IN OUR ZION FAMILY WHO HAVE SENT CARDS AND PRAYED FOR BILL DURING HIS RECENT ILLNESS .

SPECIAL THANKS TO PASTORS SEEBER, AND COUCH FOR MAKING VISITS TO BILL.

WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE EACH OF YOU AND ARE ESPECIALLY BLESSED TO BE BACK IN MICHIGAN AND AT ZION.

FROM THE SEEBER FAMILY

THE ENTIRE FAMILY IS SO APPRECIATIVE OF THE THOUGHTFUL CARDS AND MESSAGES SO MANY OF YOU SHARED AFTER MY MOTHER'S DEATH.

SHE HAS NOW EXPERIENCED EASTER FIRST HAND!

GOD IS GOOD AND ALL OF YOU SHOW THAT IN SO MANY WAYS.

THANK YOU AND BLESSINGS TO YOU!

PASTOR TIM

Thank you, Zion, for your generous donations of school supplies for Community In Schools Kalamazoo. We delivered 20 boxes and the people at CISK were simply delighted and said, "Perfect timing, as they were hearing of the needs of the children." As you can see many children from elementary to high school are smiling because of your desire to reach out with Jesus' love!!! Thank you for your faithfulness in making this school collection project a success...**Jayne Mayer**



GRATEFUL HEARTS / THANKFUL HANDS

Next month, November 20th, is the day we have been waiting TWO years for! While we are aware Covid conditions can change, we are carefully monitoring this situation. We are asking all participants to mask up to help keep everyone safe.

The display table highlighting our contributions will be set up the first week of October. We have received many wonderful items, however we are still hoping for more craft donations and especially canned goods. Attic treasures can also be brought in at any time. We still have many canning jars available if you need them. They can be found downstairs in the old kitchen.

We will be setting up for the bazaar on November 17th after the Midweek dinner. Many hands will make this go quickly! We need your help!

A sign up sheet can be found on the kiosk. Please consider helping even for an hour or two. It is really a fun, enjoyable day!

We will also need many hands for our clean up.

Please help us make this our best bazaar ever! Call Jayne Mayer with any questions ~ 375-8342.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR BAZAAR.



2021 Kalamazoo County Veteran of the Year Award Nominations!

The Kalamazoo Veterans Events Committee seeks nominations for this year's award.

The award honors the works of a county veteran whose contributions to veterans and their organizations go above and beyond. The committee recognizes veterans continued service and shows gratitude for their years in uniform.

Nomination deadline: October 21, 2021.
Nominee will be announced and presented at the Veterans Day Ceremony Thursday, November 11 at 2:00p.m. at the Robert L. Cook Veterans Memorial Plaza at Rose Park in Kalamazoo.

Submit nominations at

<https://forms.gle/gtn9dbNmhE6Rj3YT8>

or email to:

KalamazooVeteransEvents@gmail.com



Youth News

High School:

Bible Study

Every Sunday at 9:15am!

Scavenger Hunt

October 17th from 4pm—
7:30pm!

Costume Wars

October 24th 9am

National Youth Gathering

Interest Meeting #2 at 11:30am
on October 24th

Middle School Youth:

Confirmation Class

Wednesday's at 6:15pm and
Sunday's at 9:15am

Mini Lock-In

October 22nd from 6pm—11pm.
Sign up minimum is 12!

Echoes

God IS at work through people in our congregation...

Where are you serving?

What stories do you have?

Sharing your story might help someone else realize how they're allowing God to work through them too...or might give them an idea how to all God to work through them.

If you want to share your story, please message Aaron with a few paragraphs to include in this column.

dcegrube21@gmail.com

FAMILY LIFE

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Calendar

Oktoberfest for the congregation at Prudential Nursery on October 16th starting at 5:30pm. Family Ministry will be providing dinner (pizza) but please bring your own beverages. We also ask you to bring your own chairs/blankets. Thanks to the Krill's for hosting us again!

Operation Christmas Child is back! Collection day is November 14th!

FAMILY AS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Why should you “come” to church? What’s the point of being in person if everything is available online and access it in my available time? Where’s the value in making “church” a priority? Those are some difficult questions—ones we had before COVID but in different capacities. Learning about Jesus and what He’s done for us can be done on your own—and it should be done on your own...but not solely on your own. See, the value of a Church is in the community. When you are surrounded by others who believe in Jesus and know of His promises, you are stretched to learn more and share more. You are encouraged and find a source of comfort. Did you know your family can be that safe community as well? In fact, families were designed just for that! So don’t let Christian community slide to the bottom of your priority list. Keep it important and keep making the efforts!

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT:

Our first full week of ministry events and activities at Solid Grounds completed in early September and I am encouraged and thankful to God for the blessings. Here's our new chapter in campus ministry:

THE GATHERING: MONDAY 7:30-9:00PM:

The Gathering is music, conversation and community. Grayson Nye is leading the music and recruiting and inviting WMU music majors and groups to play. The conversation portion will focus on various topics and issues, as well as what the Bible says about each topic. The community aspect is to create a community where students can learn, ask questions, discuss and support one another. 22 students attended the 1st The Gathering. A diverse mix of students attended: 6 from the football and soccer team, 5 music majors, 3 students involved in sororities, 4 freshmen, and several international students from Pakistan.

We discussed promoting The Gathering and our fundraiser for victims of human trafficking. Alpha Chi Omega is actively involved in supporting victims of domestic abuse through the YWCA. Solid Grounds and Alpha Chi Omega will work to support one another.

FUNDRAISER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: TUESDAY'S 11:00AM-1:30PM:

Tuesday, September 14th kicked off the event selling Popeyes chicken sandwiches, chips, bottled water and a snack for \$7.00 to raise money and awareness about human trafficking. Profits go to the YWCA for victims of human trafficking. We set up in the parking lot of Solid Grounds near the sidewalk. Selling sandwiches is secondary. The primary goal is to raise funds and awareness of human trafficking and to send a message to the campus community that as a campus ministry, we value caring for the most vulnerable in our community. Great connections with students, faculty and staff were made.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES (FCA): WEDNESDAY'S 8:30-10:00PM:

In previous years, FCA met in the Seelye Center which is not available. Therefore, FCA is returning

to Solid Grounds. Between 40-45 WMU athletes attended the first meeting with guest speaker Jon Wassink, former QB of the Bronco's. There is a core group of between 6-7 WMU athletes that I have gotten to know well and are helpful in our events, and with serving in the community as Bronco Buddy mentors. I will be doing a small group spiritual growth time with those 6-7 student athletes one evening during the week, most likely on either Sunday or Thursday evening.

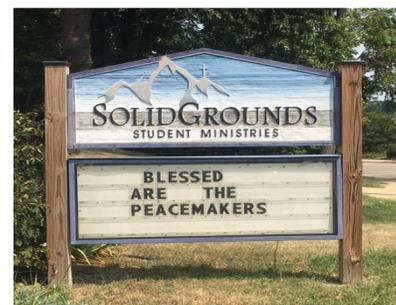
BRONCO BUDDY MENTORING/SERVING AT TREE OF LIFE SCHOOL EDISON NEIGHBORHOOD:

From 2011-2020, Solid Grounds was blessed to have our Bronco Buddy mentoring program with students at Tree of Life school. Close to 40 WMU students were involved each year. 18 months of COVID had a huge impact on Bronco Buddies. There were less than 10 returning Bronco buddy mentors this Fall semester. Only 4 will commit to serving as Bronco Buddies this year.

One of the things I have learned in the 20 years of serving in campus ministry is that there are seasons in ministry. The Lord blessed us with 9 wonderful years of Bronco Buddies, but I have sensed the season of Bronco Buddy mentoring, which we did on the 4th Sunday of each month is over. We will work with Tree of Life to see how we may best support their work with 4 of our students still wanting to volunteer.

This is a longer report! However, I've spent immense time and energy working with students and faculty putting efforts into motion for this Fall Semester. I wanted to share this new chapter in our campus ministry and express my appreciation for your support and prayers!

Pastor Mark



Catechism Review: Communion, (part two)

“In the Upper Room”

When Jesus and his disciples gathered for a “last supper,” they were celebrating the Passover. They were remembering another “last supper before Israelites were set free from the harsh realities of slavery in Egypt. In a meal that focused on Thanksgiving for the past, they would again remember WHO had set them free, and HOW God prepared them for the journey. They thought they were just remembering the past, but Jesus surprised everyone by adding a new twist. He broke a piece of bread and declared, “*My body broken for you!*” He shared the cup of wine “*My blood poured out for you!*” Later they would understand.

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

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

Jesus told his disciples, “*every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you will remember me.*” Even that is an interesting concept, for it sounds as if it is a memorial or just a device to make the past clear. For the Jewish people, to “remember” meant to tie themselves to what they gathered around. And so, if asked “how many people escaped Egypt?” the correct answer would be to say,

“we all did!” In a spiritual sense, to “remember” means we make ourselves ONE with WHOM we gather around. Or, to be more correct, we celebrate the One who gathers us in this sacramental time, as makes Himself one with us! Communion is unity with the Holy One! It is a sacred time that is timeless. It is holy ground as God comes and touches us in a miraculous way!

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

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

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

What happens in Communion? How can bread and wine and body and blood all be present at once? Theologians can try to explain miracles, but miracles cannot be explained. Faith is simply accepting what we cannot understand and allowing God to be God in our midst. Every time we gather we remember, for we too were in that upper room. And Jesus still, in an unexplainable way is physical present with us. As we touch and taste we know this is true and it is real!

Worship Help for Parents and Children

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

This month: **Colors, Candles and Crosses**

How do you learn best — by words, diagrams, or by touching and doing yourself? We all encounter the world and learn in different ways. Much of our “faith culture” is passed along in the written and spoken word. But much is “visual” as well. Early cultures passed along history and traditions orally. Later those stories were written. At the same time cave paintings and illustrations on ancient buildings and walls speak to the importance of “visual” stimulation, remembering, and learning. (The artist was as important as the storyteller!)

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

Candles are a symbol of Christ as Light of the World. An empty cross proclaims the victory of resurrection; a crucifix reminds us of the Savior's passion and death. Stained glass windows or banners proclaim a message through color and symbol. Such visuals “speak” Gospel at so many different levels.

Every Sunday the altar color proclaims a theme. Advent is blue (for royalty.) Christmas and Epiphany are white (for stars and angels, and a Light for the World.) Lent is purple (for passion and a royal procession to the cross.) Easter is white (for the dazzling hope of the resurrection.) Pentecost is red (for the fire of the Spirit.) The Pentecost season is green (for the growing time of the Church.)

Communion vessels are silver, and candles are lighted, because this is a most precious meal and the table is set with our “finest” dishes. The stark bareness of the chancel (no colors, candles or furnishings) from Maundy

Thursday to Easter announce the lonely vigil of death which our Savior endured for us. Our stained glass proclaims the Biblical message from Genesis to Revelation. Our windows in the sanctuary are clear, so that we are reminded of the world in which we live and are called to serve. We are surrounded by so many visual aids, and rather than take them for granted, why not let each be understood as a gift that enhances and enriches your lives of faith!

For Parents with young children:

We have all felt overwhelmed with keeping children “busy” in worship, but what a blessing these visuals can be to help bring little ones into the power of our time of worship! “Children's bulletins” allow them to draw pictures that reinforce a theme for the day. Why not have them pick a scene from the window to copy and use that to talk about that message for the day? Ask what color the pastor is wearing today, and talk about why colors change. Look at woodcarvings on the walls (from Jesus' passion) and use them to talk about what Jesus did out of love for us.

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

Pastor Seeber

Book Review: The Genuine Jesus; Fresh Evidence from History and Archaeology. Dr. Paul L. Maier. Kregel. 2021

It is a joy to have a resource such as Dr. Paul Maier in our congregation. For many years his sermons on Christmas Eve helped us all to understand the historical context of a story we think we know so well. His ability to lean on actual history and archaeological support have given even more life to the Good News of Jesus. His seminars have likewise been a joy to all who have been able to participate.

In addition to his role as campus pastor and a professor at Western Michigan University for so many years, many might not realize Dr. Maier is one of the most respected scholars who deals with the archaeology and history of the early Church. His guiding vision has been to use actual facts of history to provide clear evidence that the reality of Jesus and the message of scripture is real.

Many years ago he wrote three books, titled "First Christmas," "First Easter," and "First Christians." Over time they were revised and combined in one book titled "In the Fullness of Time." Ten years ago he began the process of adding more information, photographs, and revising the text and now has produced this wonderful revision which buttresses our faith by providing much insight and evidence from outside sources for the biblical texts we read so often.

This is a wonderful support for anyone who wants to learn more about the familiar stories of faith. It is a great resource and commentary for Bible study on the Gospels and Book of Acts. People and places which are so much a part of the Gospels come to life with the fascinating background that he provides in this new volume.

What I find fascinating is that his writing is so readable. Most books of this genre are so technical or scholarly that they are difficult to

read without falling asleep or being confused by scholarly language. Dr. Maier's writing style is so engaging and easy to read that it is difficult to put this down once you begin.

As Paul retells the stories of the Gospels and Acts, he does not make up facts or embellishments but uses actual information from the time and region to help add a color commentary to the texts we have read so often. And such insights bring greater understanding to our reading and study.

What is helpful in this book is that Dr. Maier not only explains from the Christian perspective what the Gospels and Book of Acts proclaim, but also addresses the criticisms that those who dispute the accuracy of scripture. And he refutes their claims with actual historical and archaeological evidence. He is not afraid to take on challenges to the accuracy of the New Testament which is quite refreshing.

We live in a world of doubters, sceptics, and unbelievers and this book is most helpful in better understanding how to deal with some of the claims and arguments of those who would disparage those of us who do indeed have faith in the proclamation of scripture.

I interviewed Dr. Maier many years ago and asked what would be the one thing he hoped people would remember about him. His answer came quickly and was very brief. He said, "That I was able to defend the faith."

All of us joke about what we want to do when we grow up and we have been blessed to have in our midst someone who has known from his early years as an adult that he wanted to use the facts of history to help understand and defend the Christian faith which has changed the world more than we often take time to remember, and provides meaning and hope in every time, and place, and context. This book is a most helpful tool for your reading and study of the New Testament.

Pastor Seeber

An excerpt about DREAMS by Frederick Buechner. From "Whistling in the Dark." Harper Collins.

"No Matter how prosaic, practical, and ploddingly unimaginative we may be, we have dreams like everybody else. All of us do. In them even the most down-to-earth and pedestrian of us leave earth behind and go flying, not walking, through the air like pelicans. Even the most respectable go strolling along crowded pavements naked as truth. Even the confirmed disbelievers in an afterlife hold converse with the dead just as the most dyed-in-the-wool debunkers of the supernatural have adventures to make Madame Blavatsky's hair stand on end.

The tears of dreams can be real enough to wet the pillow and the passions of them fierce enough to make the flesh burn. There are times we dream our way to a truth or an insight so overwhelming that it startles us awake and haunts us for years to come. As easily as from room to room, we move from things that happened so long ago we had forgotten them to things lying ahead that may be waiting to happen or trying to happen still. On our way we are as likely to meet old friends as perfect strangers. Sometimes, inexplicably, we meet casual acquaintances who for decades haven't so much as once crossed our minds.

Freudians and Jungians, prophets and poets, philosophers, fortunetellers, and phonies all have their own claims about what dreams mean. Others claim they don't mean a thing. But there are at least two things they mean that seem incontrovertible.

One of them is that we are in constant touch with a world that is as real to us while we are in it, and has as much to do with who we are, and whose ultimate origin and destiny are as unknown and fascinating, as the world of waking reality. The other one is that our lives are a great deal richer, deeper, more

intricately interrelated, more mysterious, and less limited by time and space than we commonly suppose.

People who tend to write off the validity of the religious experience in general and the experience of God in particular on the grounds that in the Real World they can find no evidence for such things should take note. Maybe the Real World is not the only reality, and even if it should turn out to be, maybe they are not really looking at it realistically. "

+++++

"Should I send flowers to a funeral?"

When death touches the life of someone we care about, flowers and cards are ways of saying "I care." Color and fragrance of life at the time of death can certainly cheer people up. A card from the store has someone else's words., often beautifully stated. But when you personalize the card by adding your words and thoughts I guarantee that is more likely to be saved and read again later.

Don't be afraid to be creative! If a family has indicated a charity that was meaningful for them, you might consider spending at least what you would have spent on flowers and make a gift to a church, ministry or institution that will touch other lives. Such a gift truly keeps on giving! Later on, when you have time you could write a letter or email and share a remembrance of how a loved one touched your life. That can be a cherished gift to assist in healing.

Even more important is to call or touch base a month or two later when everyone else has forgotten. Grief takes time, and your support can help in the healing. There are many ways to show your support, care and concern. When you personalize how you respond, your servant love will shine. There are no rules other than what God's love frees us to respond with, Whatever you do, let God's love guide how you reach out.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/1 Debra Jorae, Erin Shiltz
 10/2 Olivia Leitz, Terry Nelson
 10/3 Jack DeVries, Sarah Skuratowicz, Ryan Tomer, Lindsay VanderVeen
 10/4 Vicki Gilbert
 10/5 Victoria Asaro
 10/6 Melody Couch, Kathleen 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, Aiden Gogan
 10/13 Denise O'Brien, Elizabeth Powell
 10/14 Jennifer LaPorte
 10/15 David Hampshire
 10/16 Linda Mayer, Mark Schoonbeck
 10/17 John DuBois, Alexander Kiessling, Charles Wendling
 10/18 Barbara Nutsch, Barbara Phillips, Mark Seeber, Monica Slesinski
 10/19 Charlotte Green, Erin Harding, Elizabeth Perry, Julie Ream, Amy Wilkins
 10/21 Cameron Brege, Kaleb Fill, Lisa Frazier, Joanne Rehkopf
 10/22 Kathy Solberg
 10/23 Jennifer Squiers, Christine 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, Ruth Stoeffler, Kenneth Toy
 10/28 James Mayer
 10/29 Julie Woods
 10/30 David Borak,

Parish Report

MARRIAGES

Rosemary & Max Geib 08/28/2021
 Dan & Carolyn Zerbel 08/28/2021

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!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As we return to more church activities, volunteers are needed and greatly appreciated. Lectors, Communion Assistants, Greeters, Sound Board, Ushers, Altar Guild, Choir, Musicians help enrich our moments together. If you are interested in serving in any of these roles, please email: zion@zionkazoo.org or call the Office at 382-2360.



OKTOBERFEST



WHEN

**Saturday, October 16th
5:30pm—8pm**

WHERE

**Prudential Nursery
South 24th Street,
13038 Townline St
Vicksburg, MI 49097**

Sign up at the Zion Kiosk or online at:
<https://signup.com/go/YHBegqF>

**ALL AGES
EVENT—
CONGREGATION
MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS!**

**BRING A CHAIR
& YOUR OWN
BEVERAGE**

(ADULT BEVERAGES
ALLOWED)

**DINNER IS
PROVIDED**

**HAY RIDE!
LAWN GAMES!
BONFIRE!
GREAT FOOD!**

**JOIN US FOR A
FALL EVENING OF
FUN!**



Costume Wars... Season 9

Join us for year nine of our High School Costume Wars! Support the youth as they start fundraising for the National Youth Gathering. 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 24th in between services. If you cannot be here but would like to donate, check out our online giving and select "Youth." Thanks!



OCTOBER 2021

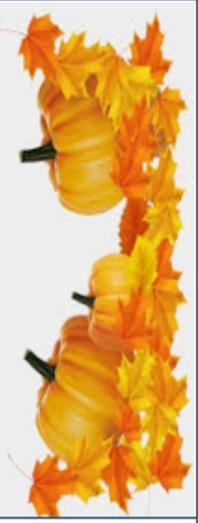
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:00 Men's Study Group 5:30 Worship
3 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship	4 6:30 Personnel	5 10:00 Brejle Bible Study 6:30 Seeber Bible Study	6 5:15 Dinner 6:00 Special Series	7 7:00 Choir Practice	8	9 8:00 Men's Study Group 5:30 Worship
10 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship SmlGrp 6:30-9:00CW	11 Columbus Day	12 10:00 P Brejle Bible Study 6:30 Seeber Bible Study	13 5:15 Dinner 6:00 Healthy Aging 6:15-7:20 SmlGrp DM 7:00 Bells	14 Noon Finance 7:00 Choir Practice	15	16 8:00 Men's Study Group 5:30 Worship 5:30-8p Oktoberfest
17 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 4p - 7:30 HS Scavenger Hunt	18 6:30 BOD	19 10:00 P Brejle Bible Study 6:30 Seeber Bible Study	20 5:15 Dinner 6:00 Care Giving 7:00 Bells	21	22	23 8:00 Men's Study Group 5:30 Worship
24 (CEF Both Svcs) 8:00 Worship 9:00 Costume Wars 10:30 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study SmlGrp 6:30-9:00CW	25	26 10:00 P Brejle Bible Study 6:30 Seeber Bible Study	27 5:15 Dinner 6:15-7:20 SmlGrp DM 7:00 Bells	28 7:00 Choir Practice	29 6p-11p MS Lock-In	30 8:00 Men's Study Group 5:30 Worship
31 Halloween 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship						

November 2021

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

September 2021

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



Financial Report for August 31, 2021

ZION: August Giving is over budget by \$8,983. Expenses are under budget by \$1,829.
 August ended with a Net Gain of \$5,205. YTD Net Income Loss is \$11,119, over budget by \$8,355.
 YTD Giving is down by \$10,920.

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL: Income is under budget by \$2,675. Expenses are under budget by \$4,767. August Net Gain is \$710. YTD Net Income Gain is \$1,039, over budget by \$7,121.

Solid Ground: Income is over budget by \$3,605. Expenses were over budget by \$508.
 August Net Gain is \$1,822. YTD Net Income Gain is \$1,604, under budget by \$1,026.

	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
Zion Giving & Misc.	55,125	64,108	8,983	169,075	158,155	-10,920
EXPENSES						
Zion Staff Support	31,422	30,117	-1,305	94,285	90,608	3,659
Office Operations	903	2,461	1,558	3,408	4,666	-1,258
Church Property	9,825	5,670	-4,155	21,275	17,280	3,995
Education Ministry	1,100	1,352	252	1,100	2,251	-1,151
Evangelism/Missions	50	0	-50	50	139	-89
Worship Ministry	488	300	-188	1,463	1,310	153
Other Ministries	155	462	307	440	701	-261
Music Ministry	1,750	1,625	-125	4,250	5,000	-750
Finance Ministry	9,370	9,367	-3	28,110	30,624	-2,514
Zion Haus Ministry	259	678	419	778	1,217	-439
Missions - General	5,410	6,871	1,461	16,700	15,480	1,220
Total Expenses	60,732	58,903	1,829	171,839	169,274	2,565
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-5,607	5,205	-10,812	-2,764	-11,119	-8,355
FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL						
INCOME						
FOJ Income	3,560	885	-2,675	4,800	1,629	-3,171
FOJ Staff Support	4,102	0	-4,102	9,252	231	-9,021
FOJ Operations Expenses	840	175	-665	1,630	359	-1,271
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-1,382	710	2,092	-6,082	1,039	7,121
SOLID GROUND						
Solid Ground Income	8,108	11,713	3,605	30,898	30,296	-602
Solid Ground Expenses	9,383	9,891	-508	28,268	28,692	-424
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-1,275	1,822	3,097	2,630	1,604	-1,026
BALANCE SHEET	6/1/2021	8/31/2021	YTD Change			
ASSETS						
Cash	86,738	100,188	13,450			
Investments	188,271	188,531	260			
Other Assets	8,046	1,994	-6,052			
TOTAL	283,055	290,713	7,658			
LIABILITIES						
Payroll	5,030	5,459	429			
Dedicated Funds	132,481	149,791	17,310			
Unrestricted Funds	145,544	135,463	-10,081			
TOTAL	283,055	290,713	7,658			
MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE	\$708,723					
Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000						
Youth Ministry	\$7,337	FOJ Estate Gift	\$3,346			
New Staff	\$50,000	FOJ Fundraising	\$11,518			
Ins. Claim Water Damage	\$6,546	Benevolence/Wise	\$4,476			
Future Debt	\$30,000	Capital Campaign	\$20,000			
Besser Ins. Checks	\$4,693					

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

October

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October 24th