



Looking Up | Reaching Out

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Harbinger

August 2023  
Volume 155 Number 8

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A friend in California writes me every month to see how I'm doing. I had thought perhaps moving to Michigan those letters would end. Not sure why I was thinking that. "The move" (as I refer to it), along with all the changes it's brought, made me think nothing would be the same as it was.

My thinking was a bit overly dramatic, obviously. Of course I received my monthly letter from my friend Billy with his questions about how we like Kalamazoo, the new church and his comments on the state of both the Reds (my team) and the Dodgers (his team).

I wish I were more like Billy. His steady faithfulness and ongoing friendship are a huge blessing to me. Billy's letters aren't long, but they definitely are an encouragement. His most recent letter gave me a feeling of normalcy that I needed more than I realized. I'm not a great letter writer (or newsletter article writer, as you are finding out) and I write Billy once for probably every six letters he writes me. (I did write back to him after this most recent letter, I'm happy to say.)

Billy's faithfulness is a reminder to all of us as the people of God are called to be encouragers. We who have been so blessed with so much, we are blessed to be a blessing.

In Genesis chapter 12, the Lord calls Abram to pick up and move. "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." The purpose of Abram's move was to glorify God and be a blessing to God's people. God says to Abram,

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Every physical and spiritual blessing we have is rooted in the blessing that is Jesus. All peoples on earth are blessed in the gospel of Christ, in the good news of His love for us. Like Abram, like Billy, you and I are called to be a blessing to others throughout our lives and our days. See 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

Thank you for the continued encouragement I see you daily give to your fellow church members, including my family and me!

Pastor Mike

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

We annually celebrate the anniversary of the congregation in July. This year marks the 155th anniversary of the beginning of our family of Zion.

In 1868, local businessmen finalized plans to begin Zion as a Lutheran congregation. No church hierarchy or pastors were involved! Five families felt a Lutheran congregation was necessary in downtown Kalamazoo and at a kitchen table they organized Zion, so they could worship, grow in faith, and raise their children in the faith. This was, in itself, an act of faith!

The original church structure was located on Pine Street and attached to a one-room schoolhouse. A brick sanctuary was built in 1923. Over the years the congregation grew and ran out of street parking. The property was sold to Bronson Hospital in 1955 when more space was needed.

Our present sanctuary was built at that time, with an educational wing added in 1962. Recent renovations and expansion were completed in 2009. A variety of pastors, DCE's, teachers and musicians have helped to lead ministry over the years. And thousands of people of all ages and walks of life have carried out ministry as part of Zion's character and fabric.

Zion has a history of an ecumenical, multi-faceted and energetic approach to ministry. The educational, scientific, and artistic strengths of this community have always been part of the diversity and strength of Zion. Such a variety of gifts are revealed in Zion's personality and its dynamic and varied ministry efforts.

We have always been a strong emphasis on worship, outreach, and Christian education for all ages. When it was decided not to have a parochial school, a commitment made to a strong ministry for children, youth, and families. Having a library, Director of Christian Education on staff, strong youth programs, and a preschool showed that commitment.

Beginning in the 1940's outreach ministries such as Braille, Lutheran World Relief Sewing, Campus Ministry, WKZO radio, and worship at the State Hospital are evidence of our members' passion for outreach and human care. Many new outreach efforts have been added such as our regular support of Loaves and Fishes, Ministry

with Community, The Gospel Mission, the Deacons Conference, YWCA, servant events, and Little Dresses for Africa.

Music has always been central to Zion and we have been blessed with musicians, choirs, and even assistance from WMU and other area musical efforts. And the volunteer efforts of all of our members have continued to make Zion

For many years Stephen Ministry and Pastoral Care visitors assisted pastors in one on one ministry with members. We continue to find new ways to continue such support. Midweek dinners and funeral luncheons have become mainstays of our support for our families. Our Prayer and Prayer Shawl Ministries have recently added even more ways for members to share Christ's love with each other when difficult moments arise.

Fifty years ago an Endowment Fund was established to support ministry an annual budget would never be able to finance. This has provided church worker scholarships, mission support, creation of new ministry efforts, and major support for upgrades to property, music, worship, as well as support for Friends of Jesus Preschool, WKZO radio ministry, and Campus Ministry. Over the years, well over one million dollars for mission and ministry support has been gifted for this mission.

We remain faithful to our Lutheran heritage, but allow God's Holy Spirit to lead us through the gifts He shares. Zion's history will always be related to its vision, which is not about buildings but building the body of Christ. Our property, people, and resources are gifts God entrusts to us today, so others in the future will be touched by Zion's ministry.

Jesus created no institutions, built no buildings, and copyrighted no programs. He changed people's lives so that we can be one with Him and agents of healing and hope for the lives we touch. Zion is blessed with building, grounds, and programs, but it is the people of God who are essential to what Zion is and will become!

Zion has always sought to joyfully live in the present while anticipating a blessed future. We have been blessed to be a blessing!

## CATECHISM REVIEW: BAPTISM (part 1)

To discuss Holy Baptism, we must first understand the origins and meaning of the Sacrament. Baptism is from a Greek word meaning "to wash, sprinkle, or immerse with water." (It is the water, and not how it is administered that is crucial!) Everything begins with water, and without water nothing can be.

Genesis begins with the waters of chaos that God tamed as he issued his first words of creation. In the same way, Baptism is the creative energy of God alive in our midst. Water is the essence of life; a natural agent of cleansing. Holy Baptism is a sacred moment in which water, the life of Jesus, and God's miracle of grace are all in full force.

Many cultures use water as a ritual of cleansing or rebirth. In the Jewish tradition, converts were baptized as a sign of leaving an old life behind. John the Baptist gathered his people in the Jordan River and baptized them as a sign that they were getting ready to receive and follow the Messiah. As they came, dripping wet, out of the Jordan, John pointed them to their new, good news! Jesus joined John's crowd in that same moment, as he stood in the water, to announce the beginning of his earthly ministry of grace.

Jesus wasn't baptized because he was sinful, but to tie himself to the people he came to serve. The Jordan was their source of life, and Jesus stood with them as he brought his life to serve theirs, just as he stands with us in the water of our own Baptisms! From day one, we are never alone!

The Lutheran Church has two sacraments — Communion and Baptism. Sacrament is from a Latin word meaning mystery. Luther defined sacrament as having three elements. It is an action instituted by Christ. It uses a visible element (like water) connected to God's Word in Scripture. It shares grace in a unique way.

The Biblical witness is clear: God created a perfect world, but our rebellion has broken the loving connections between us and God, as well as with our neighbors. All of creation is touched by sin, and the ultimate sign of that brokenness is death. By grace, God draws us back to Him.

Baptism begins our journey back to God. It is initiated by God, not by us. In Baptism, we

celebrate how God restores our relationship with Him, and destroys the power of sin and the tomb. Baptism is God's grace on display!

As Jesus prepared to withdraw his visible, physical presence on the Day of Ascension, he shared these words: "Go! Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19-20) This command made Baptism the welcome rite of the Christian church.

Acts 16 records a story as Paul was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel in Philippi. As he prayed behind bars, there was an earthquake and prison doors were thrown open. The jailer was going to commit suicide, fearing a mass escape. Paul and Silas stayed behind and convinced the jailer God was behind this moment. The jailer asked how he could know that. Paul said, simply, "Believe!" The jailer embraced Christ, and Paul baptized him and his entire family, and then they shared a meal. From the beginning, Baptism has been the sacrament of initiation into the faith.

Baptism and faith are always connected. Baptism announces the relationship of faith. Baptism alone does not guarantee someone will always believe or that they are immunized against sinning or even rejecting God. It simply proclaims God's will in saving rather than abandoning his people. Baptism begins a lifetime journey.

The role of the Church is to help each Christian family grow daily in understanding what the journey is all about. The role of the Church is to be the place where all the baptized gather as "one body" to worship, to support each other, and to reach out, that others might leave the darkness of life without God and know the grace which Jesus Christ has come to bring.

For this reason, Baptism is a public moment in worship, for not only are we celebrating new life in Christ, but we are celebrating another member of a bigger family of faith. Together we remember who we are and how God's love changes us. Baptism does not bring us into a solitary relationship with God but introduces us to a family that transcends all time and space. It is the Genesis of our faith journey!

### Thank you from Pastor Seeber

Roxanne and I were overwhelmed by the love and support shown for us in the reception for me after worship on May 21. It was an emotional and joy filled time to be surrounded by so much care and support. I cannot find the words to adequately express how important all of you are to me and my family. I am thankful for all of you!

Time indeed flies quickly. It is remarkable to consider all that has happened since I accepted the call from Zion in 1987 to be Pastor of Adult Education and Outreach. You gave me the chance to serve and wound up serving me through some very difficult moments in my own life. I will always be grateful for the healing that has come to me through the gifts of your faith.

Now, in retirement, I transition to a part time role under the leadership of our Senior Pastor, Mike Saylor. He is our pastor and a loving shepherd who will lead our congregation into a powerful and fruitful future. As an assistant to him, my role will be geared toward teaching, writing, and serving wherever needed most.

Thank you again for all that you mean to me and my family, and for all that you have done for us and with us over many years together. I look forward to continuing to serve Christ and Zion in a less visible and different way as we move forward. This congregation is more unique than many might sometimes realize. It is easy to take for granted what we get used to, but Zion is a special place because of God's children of all ages.

Again I thank you for the patience and forgiveness you have so easily shared when I have needed those gifts from you. I thank you for your faithfulness to our Lord and Savior, Jesus. And I am so thankful to be a part of a congregation so full of energy, joy, and friendliness as we seek to serve as we have been served first.

I thank God for all of you daily, and know you will give Pastor Saylor the same love and support you have given to me. I appreciate your willingness to allow Roxanne and me to continue to be part of this family we call Zion as we continue to minister for the sake of Christ Jesus.

Grace, mercy, and peace! Pastor Tim

### Some thoughts about change ...

This spring, Roxanne and I were blessed to take a six day cruise around the coastline of Italy. We stopped at one city each day, spending about a half a day in each. We are more used to river cruises in Europe where we were able to spend an entire day (and sometimes evening as well) in each town. But rather than 20 miles between each stop on the Rhine, this cruise covered more than 200 miles between stops. That meant we had much more time onboard for reading, sitting, listening, special programs, and too much food. It took a few days to get used to a different type of travel, with more leisure than we had anticipated.

I gradually understood this change to be a blessing in disguise. It was a wonderfully different cruise than I was used to, and I needed to adapt. It came as I am changing from my full time schedule of the past 47 years to one that will be different. That quiet time to rest and reflect helped me realize how different life will be. There will be the same number of hours in each day, but new and different ways to fill them, and a different vision for how I share the gifts and responsibilities of my life. I can continue to be just as active but in different ways. Such changes touch all, and much as we struggle when we adapt and adjust, change is one of the greatest gifts of our lives.

It is so easy to get into the same routines, to be driven by schedules rather than passion, or keep seeing what we have gotten used to and nothing new. A new job, a retirement, a new child, a new home, reading a new book, or visiting a gallery you have never been in before are all changes that can intimidate, confuse, or be exciting moments in which we grow. Change is always scary but also exciting. Perspective and practicality are always tools which can color how we react and move forward. Change is inevitable and necessary for growth and new life.

Many of you have found excitement in such changes, while others are still trying to deal with what came out of the blue. I am somewhere in between. For all of us, what we do with change is one of the most delicate and important issues of life. As we use times of change to remember our call to love as we have been loved and wash feet as our feet have been washed, we have a head start in getting ready for whatever comes next!

## All Youth:

Summer Hangouts are started up for all Middle School and High School students. Anyone entering 6th grade all the way up through those leaving 12th grade are invited to various locations at various times this summer. If interested in receiving information on our next meet up, please email Aaron at [dcegrube21@gmail.com](mailto:dcegrube21@gmail.com) for the schedule.

## Middle School:

Confirmation Camp is a 2 day orientation for incoming 6th-8th graders. At “camp” we learn about the process of Confirmation as well as have some fun and get to know each other better. Camp this year takes place at Zion on August 8th and 9th from 9am-1pm. For more info, contact Aaron at [dcegrube21@gmail.com](mailto:dcegrube21@gmail.com)

**Note:** Incoming 6th graders  
Meet with Pastor Saylor  
August 6th @ 6:30p.m. for  
1st Communion Class ....  
& Ice Cream

## Echoes

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

Service...possibly the number one way we can show God at work! I was pretty bummed about not having any high school students interested in a typical week long service project/mission trip. In fact this is the first year since I've been at Zion we haven't gone on a summer trip. But then came the opportunity for a week of service...for the whole congregation, not just high schoolers. You can see the stats on a different page in this newsletter but we were really able to help locally, including our own members.

In the weeks/months planning this I had projects lined up that cancelled or organizations that no longer needed the help. The week of the service I had volunteers back out or have something come up...which led to the conclusion that no amount of planning would ever truly prepare me for how God can work. When it was all said and done, projects were completed, our congregation served, and our congregation was served. If you were one of these servants, great job! If you were not able to serve with us, plan on helping out August 9th at the food packing event. Anyone of any ability can help!

Come witness God at work!

# Family Life

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

## Upcoming Schedule

Our Sunday School pause continues in August, however, here are some events to look forward to:

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

**September 10: Sunday School Resumes!**

**September 10: Church Picnic**

### WHAT KIDS NEED FROM US

I recently downloaded an article from Tim Elmore regarding some initial research on Gen Alpha (kids up to age 11 or so). Besides carving out a niche in the research world, Tim Elmore is practical and understands ministry! He is also EXTREMELY down to earth. In this current article he writes: "As parents, we must remember we are leaders. Our families are our teams." He goes on to discuss what our "team" needs most from us...Context, Application, and Belief. I'll let you read the whole article yourself if interested but applied to spirituality, those three areas read like this:

**Context:** We live in unbiblical times. Applying Biblical principles might be difficult BUT they are important even when the world we live in doesn't agree. In the context of God's story, we have a purpose and a Calling to be His children.

**Application:** Offer beneficial steps to help your kids from feeling overwhelmed. The simplest: margin. Allow the brain some downtime...God called it Sabbath.

**Belief:** There's a purpose to believing in God. Instill the life-changing, transforming power of God into your child's routine. Being a follower DOES make a difference!

<https://info.growingleaders.com/an-early-introduction-to-the-alpha-generation>

**CAMPUS MINISTRY**

With Melody scheduled for surgery July 31st, I am proactively planning the Fall semester..

WMU begins Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Solid Grounds will hold a cookout the next evening, Thursday August 31<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, WMU's first home football game is that night. Students that live in the dorms walk right past Solid Grounds on their way to the stadium.

We will be grilling hot dogs and have both water and Gatorade available to give to students as they walk past Solid Grounds. This will give us a chance to promote our events for the Fall semester.

Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, is the kickoff for our weekly fundraisers for victims of human trafficking. During the lunch hour on Wednesdays in Sept and Oct, we sell Popeye's chicken sandwiches outside at Solid Grounds as a fundraiser for the work of the Kalamazoo YWCA and the shelter that they run for victims of human trafficking in SW Michigan. This fundraiser gives us the chance to raise both funds and awareness of the sad reality of human trafficking right here in the Kalamazoo area, it also gives us a chance to meet and connect with WMU students, faculty and staff.

Then, Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our Monday evening Dinner and Discussion events at Solid Grounds.

I am working with a student who is actively involved in our Tuesday evening volunteer event at the YWCA to explore ways to recruit and involve more WMU students in our volunteer efforts and getting more involvement in a servant capacity.

Thank you to all of you for your love and your prayers and your care for both Melody and me during this difficult season in our lives. Your love and support is a gift and blessing from God to both of us!

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

**FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL**

It is hard to believe the start of the pre-school year is only one month away! We will continue to enroll students throughout the school year, but this month is our last push before classes begin. Please continue to spread the word about our 3- and 4-year-old classes and our before and after care offerings.

During the month of August, FOJ will collect **snack donations** to get the school year started.

Bins for snack collection will be near the main office and the preschool office.

**Items needed are:**

Applesauce, Graham Crackers, Pretzels, Cheerios, Kik or Chex Cereal, Animal Crackers, Ranch Dressing, Mild Salsa, Rice Cakes, Veggie Sticks, 100% Fruit Juice, Nutri-grain bars, crackers—whole wheat, whole grain or multi-grain, and canned fruit/fruit cups in water or 100% juice.

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

## Helping Others Ministry School Donations

Display table is set up in the hallway for donations which benefit area schools and Friends of Jesus Preschool. Sales have already started.

For questions, please call Jayne Mayer 375-8342

Items needed:

- \*spiral bound notebooks
- \*2 pocket folders
- \*scissors
- \*rulers-12 inches
- \*pencils, (regular and colored)
- \*erasers
- \*crayons/washable markers
- \*glue-sticks and bottles
- \*pencil sharpeners
- \*mechanical pencils
- \*water color paint sets
- \*construction paper
- \*gallon ziplock bags
- \*Kleenex
- \*ANY OTHER ITEMS YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE

Thank you, Zion, for reaching out with Jesus' love and putting smiles on the faces of many school children.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY UPDATE:

Meeting location has moved to:

Five Lakes Coffee Shop on West Main  
across from Timid Rabbit Costume Shop.

Meeting schedule remains the

3rd Saturday of the month from 2-4p.m.

Shawls and lap throws are needed..

## KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

The wish list item for **August is Whole Grain Pasta**. Please place donations in the gray tubs in the Lobby

Thank you!

## SMALL GROUP FALL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPT 24TH AT

KRILL'S HOME

Small Group members and anyone interested will gather for

Fall fun, fellowship, hayrides, desserts,  
and a bonfire.

Save ~ the ~ Date

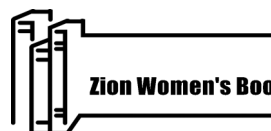
More info to follow

## Zion's Adult Choir

After a restful summer break, Zion's Adult Choir is getting ready for another season of singing and making music together. More singers are encouraged to join. Beginning mid- September, Rehearsals are every Thursday starting promptly at 7:00; ending at 8:00.

Do you enjoy singing with a group, blending voices in harmony and learning new music, consider joining.

Zion's Choir sings approx. once per month during the 8 & 10:30 services. Contact Roxanne Nieboer, Director at [Roxanne.nieboer@gmail.com](mailto:Roxanne.nieboer@gmail.com) or 269.501.2772



Zion Women's Book Group

Next Meeting  
Tuesday, 8/15  
@ 2:00p.m.

Book: "The Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead



**Book Review.** “Kingdom, Grace, Judgment: Paradox, Outrage, and Vindication in the Parables of Jesus.” Robert Farrar Capon. Eerdmans. 2002

Three books (Parables of the Kingdom, Parables of Grace, and Parables of Judgement) are combined in this one volume. For anyone who wants to wrestle with Jesus’ parables, this is a wonderful, thorough, and readable book.

Capon was an Episcopal priest and was both a scholar and a gifted writer. He did not lecture or insist he alone had all the answers, but his work on the parables helps us to wrestle with the amazingly simple stories Jesus told. Such a commentary helps us unravel Gospel truths.

Here is a sample of his style: *“If the world could have been saved by providing good examples we could respond to with good works, it would have been saved an hour and twenty minutes after Moses came down from Sinai”* [Grace. Page 63]

We all have different learning styles, but just having the answers to a question is never enough. Anyone can memorize answers, but when you come to an answer by a process, you are more likely to not only remember but how to use what you have learned. Capon is a master at guiding you to open our heart to the Holy Spirit that Jesus’ stories become your story as well!

One of Jesus’ teaching styles was to tell stories, as he wanted his audience to come to a point where they learned what his message was. We tend to remember short stories well, and in doing so, we have the tools at our fingertips to help others learn what we have learned.

This quote helps you understand his process. *“One of my convictions about interpreting Jesus’ parables is that it is always a mistake to say too quickly what we think is their ‘main point.’ Had he wanted to give us glittering generalities, he could no doubt have unburdened himself of them in plain Aramaic and avoided the bother of having to make up artful stories. But in fact he did tell stories; and since he was no slouch at crafting them, we should spend more time than we do on their details.”* [book jacket, “The Parables of Grace.”]

This is not a book to read in one sitting. It is meant to be used after you have read a parable from the Gospel and are ready to go back through

it so that its vitality is more fully unpacked as you begin to unwrap the gift(s) each parable contains.

Jesus lived in a world where people were often illiterate and even if not, there wasn’t much to read. And so, stories were of utmost importance in learning. Jesus parables reveal the truths he wanted his audience to consider, but wrapped them into a story. For, unless you consider each part of the story you will never understand the reason behind the story and then the lesson Jesus is ready for you to discover.

My mother’s evening family meals were as complex as a story. Our plates would be filled with separate items of different texture, color, and shape, unlike baby food where everything is mashed together. A meal would consist of meat, vegetables, potatoes or bread, fruit and maybe even cheese. It was only still one meal but had many parts. We also knew we were to eat everything on our plate, for to leave anything behind was to miss the full blessing of the meal. (Beside that, we would not be eligible for desert!)

How often have we heard or read one parable of Jesus, and assumed we were ready to move to the next, assuming we have learned all there is to learn, even though it is likely we have never digested every portion of this meal of Jesus?

We are even guided in understanding a parable by the title inserted into your version of the Bible. (Such headings are not in the text, but added by those who print Bibles.) For instance the heading “Prodigal Son” tempts one to focus on a young lad who lost his inheritance.

But there are other aspects to the story, like the father, the older son who wastes his father’s love, and the banquet at the end. Capon helps you to read a parable as if you were reading for the first time, and helping you to clean your plate before you are ready for dessert (or the point Jesus was waiting for you to get to.)

As we read any parable as if for the first time, we are more apt to experience a flavor, taste, or meaning always there, but possibly too subtle to notice. That is the surprise of the Gospel! And every parable help better understand the change Jesus has brought into the world.

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8/1 Roberta Geissel, Amanda VanderHorst, Sandra Witek, Meggan Wollberg
- 8/2 Rebecca Bauer, Matthew Devine, Carol Folck, Beth Freeby, Jacob Newman, Joshua Zerbel
- 8/4 Kathleen Huston
- 8/5 Natalie Gogan, James Huberty, Greta Jendralski, Timothy Seeber, Kevin VanderVeen, Carolyn Vestal
- 8/7 Curt Chapman, Colton Woodhams
- 8/8 Cynthia Bierlein, Lisa Brennan, Susan Bruns
- 8/9 Gary Bruns
- 8/11 Willeen Ehlich, Louis Tinigin
- 8/12 Greg Gerfen, Rita Malvitz, Michelle Naylor, Melissa Noseworthy, Evan Schoonbeck
- 8/14 Kenneth Lundquist, John Malmstrom, Kurtis Scheffler, Pam Wesley
- 8/15 Dave VanderMeeden, Ashley Weber
- 8/16 Steve Anderson, Andy Harding, Jil Larson, Hannah Wendling
- 8/17 Ethan Boettcher, Ashtin Eichaker
- 8/18 Larry Blochard, Madeleine Kolk,
- 8/19 Barb Schulze
- 8/21 John Freeby, Aaron Grube, David Laurin, Helene Seaver
- 8/22 Bonnie Borak, Daniel Burnard, Andrew Watson
- 8/23 Kate Phillips, Nick Sward
- 8/24 Sheryl Stephan
- 8/26 Jackson Couch, John Roggow, Paisley Woodhams
- 8/27 James Dinda, Cherie Dorman, Millie Field, Charles Fierke, Jenna Freudenburg
- 8/28 Jack Fredericks,
- 8/29 Gunnar Fredericks
- 8/30 Phyllis Emig, Erin Hampshire, Brent Miltzer, Jessica Parr, Abby Seeber, Debbie Weber
- 8/31 Sally Bulgarelli, John Buetow

### Staff Anniversaries

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

Aaron Grube	8/01/2012
Denise O'Brien	8/01/2014
Pastor Mark Couch	8/01/2001

### Zion Art Ministry – The Zion Collection

During August, art from our own collection is on display in BLENDS helping to celebrate the history of the congregation. Included are several large relief wood carvings, highlighting the life an ministry of Jesus, prints in German from the sacristy, a brass crucifix and presence light used at one time in worship, some cross stitched view of the Zion window, and several prints for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary



**Carol and Benno Rosin** wish to thank all members of their Zion family for the prayers, cards, food and amazing support after Carol's accident. They are simply overwhelmed, grateful and ask... God to bless you all.

## COFFEE HOUR RETURNS

### SEPTEMBER 10TH

### AFTER THE 8:00am SERVICE.

Looking for a few more volunteers to assist. The donuts are picked up from Sweetwaters on Stadium Drive and the coffee is started by 8:00. With enough volunteers, you would only need to assist once every couple of months.

Contact Bev Snow at 269.345.2211 or [cakepan34@charter.net](mailto:cakepan34@charter.net)

### Parish Report

**Deaths**  
 Jan Davidson 6/29/2023

# Congregational Servant Event!!!!

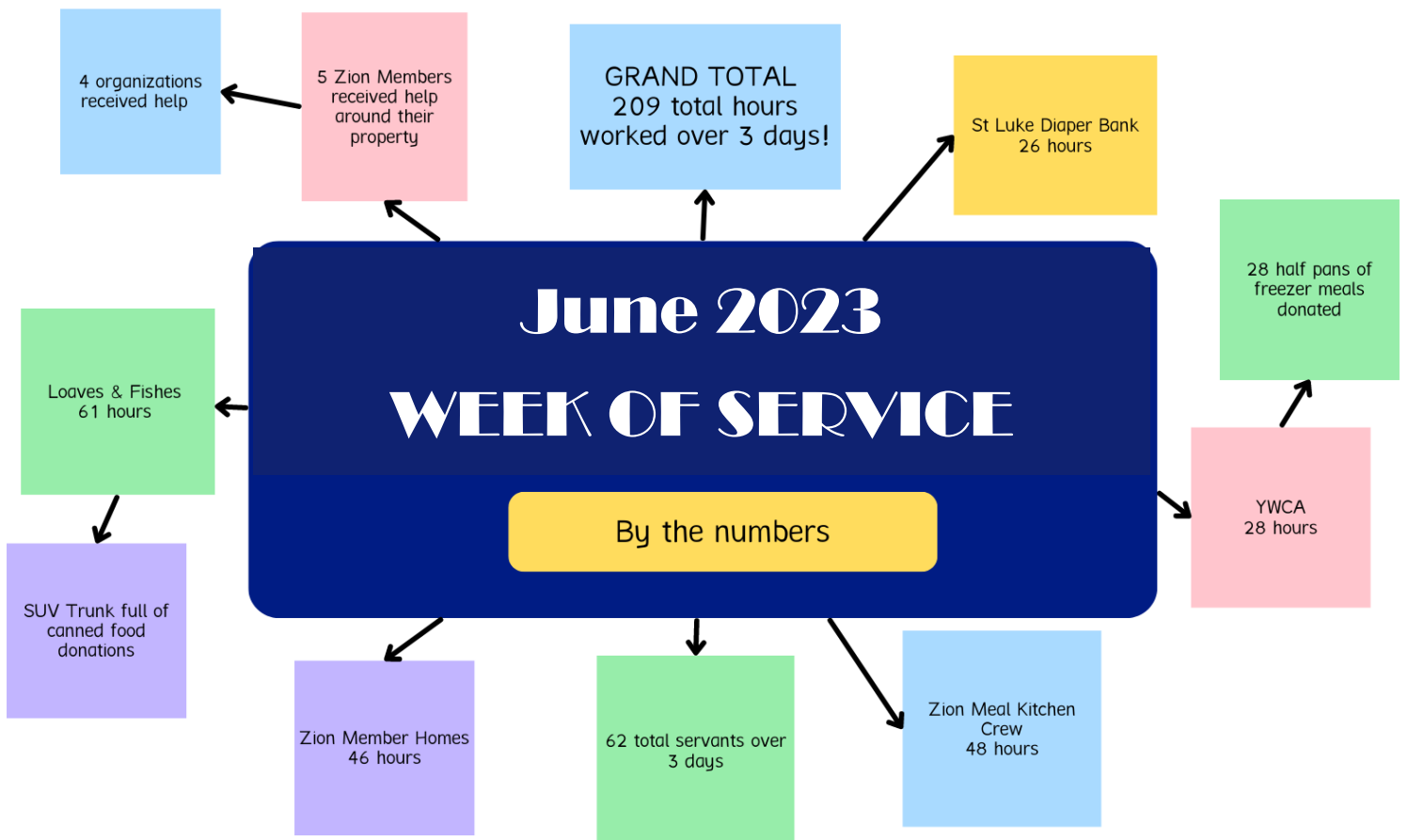
## Food Packing

Wednesday, August 9th at 5pm

An intergenerational congregational servant event!

Let's help feed our community!!!

Join us August 9th at 5pm for a quick dinner and an assembly line of meal packing. Thanks to an endowment grant we will pack and donate 25,000 meals to the Kalamazoo community and surrounding areas. All ages will have a job to do at this event that requires A LOT of helping hands. Please sign up on the kiosk or contacting the church office.

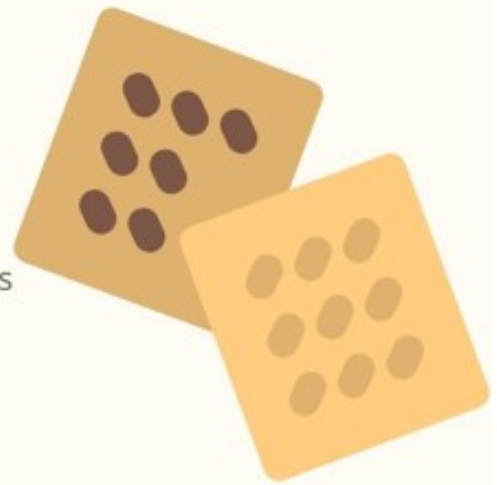


**FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL**

# SNACK DRIVE

## **Most Needed Items:**

- Applesauce
- Graham Crackers
- Canned fruit or fruit cups in water or 100% juice
- Whole wheat, whole grain, or multi-grain crackers
- Nutri-grain bars
- Cheerios, Kix, or Chex cereal
- Pretzels
- Animal Crackers
- Ranch Dressing
- Mild Salsa
- Rice Cakes
- Veggie Sticks
- 100% fruit juice



## **Contact:**

**Jen LaPorte**

**jen@zionkazoo.org**

**269.382.2360**



**Friends of Jesus  
Preschool**

# AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 Sewing	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>6</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Tailgate 6:30 6th graders and parents meeting	<b>7</b> 6:30 Personnel	<b>8</b> 9-1 Confirmation Camp	<b>9</b> 9:00 Sewing 9-1 Confirmation Camp 5:00 Congregation Servant Event	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>13</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 2:00 Book Group	<b>16</b> 9:00 Sewing	<b>17</b> Noon - Finance	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>20</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Tailgate	<b>21</b> 6:30 BOD	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 Sewing	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>27</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 Sewing	<b>31</b> Sept Grant Request Due By Today		
		Notes				

## AUGUST 2023 WORSHIP LEADERS

	AUGUST 6	AUGUST 13	AUGUST 20	AUGUST 27
<b>Head Ushers 8:00am</b>	Brian Bauer John DuBois	Dave Newman Rich Rakow	Matt Simmons Walt Kohnke	Steve Weber Dave Mayer
<b>Head Ushers 10:00am</b>	Ken Lundquist Dave Barak	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast	Ken Lundquist Dave Barak
<b>Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm</b>	Ted Maxson	Kathleen Jordan	Joanne Bowes	Judy Adlam
<b>Communion Assistants 8:00am</b>	Mike Schlack	Dave Newman	Matt Simmons	Ted Maxson
<b>Communion Assistants 10:00am</b>	Lorraine Hanna	Steve Nuyen	Garr Gast	Ryan Bickel
<b>Lectors 8:00am</b>	Andrew Niedbala	Carol Daenzer	Andrew Niedbala	Carol Daenzer
<b>Lectors 10:00am</b>	Rollie Preuss	Jayne Mayer	Dave Mayer	Alison Carlson
<b>Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm</b>	1. Mary Lou Wright 2. Lucy Maxson	1. Arlene Masek 2. Diana Moulton	1. 2.	1. Arlene Masek 2.
<b>Altar Ministry 8:00am</b>	1. 2.	1. Larry Zerbel 2. Joe Zerbel	1. Larry Zerbel 2. Joe Zerbel	1. Carol Daenzer 2. Nicki Klein
<b>Altar Ministry 10:00am</b>	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2.	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2. Carrie Chapman	1. Linda Mayer 2. Jayne Mayer	1. Vickie Asaro 2.

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

**ZION:** June Spending exceeded Giving by \$14,234

YTD Giving is under by \$1,604; YTD Spending is over by \$2,910

Questions? Please email Rhonda Newman at [rnewmancpa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rnewmancpa@sbcglobal.net)

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
<b>INCOME</b>						
Zion Giving & Misc.	65,711	64,107	-1,604	65,711	52,107	-13,604
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Church Property	9,350	14,250	-4,900	9,350	14,250	-4,900
Education Ministry	1,900	426	1,474	1,900	426	1,474
Evangelism/Missions	75	0	75	75	0	75
Finance Ministry	6,395	6,373	22	6,395	6,373	22
FOJ Expenses	278	0	278	278	0	278
FOJ Staff	873	0	873	873	0	873
Missions - General	4,326	6,717	-2,391	4,326	6,717	-2,391
Music Ministry	1,720	2,565	-845	1,720	2,565	-845
Office Operations	1,967	982	985	1,967	982	985
Other	166	281	-115	166	281	-115
SG Expenses	890	2,472	-1,582	890	2,472	-1,582
SG Staff	9,448	9,752	-304	9,448	9,752	-304
Worship	490	799	-309	490	799	-309
Zion Haus	447	113	334	447	113	334
Zion Staff	37,106	33,610	3,496	37,106	33,610	3,496
Total Expenses	75,431	78,341	-2,910	75,431	78,341	-2,910
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-9,720</b>	<b>-14,234</b>	<b>-4,514</b>	<b>-9,720</b>	<b>-26,234</b>	<b>-16,514</b>

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2023	6/30/2023	YTD Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	120,658	86,339	-34,319
Investments	160,547	160,547	0
Due To/From Endowment	-12,713	5,456	18,170
Dedicated Funds	-73,123	-73,026	97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195,369</b>	<b>179,316</b>	<b>-16,053</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current Liabilities	5,850	-4,132	-9,981
Unrestricted Funds	189,519	183,448	-6,072
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195,369</b>	<b>179,316</b>	<b>-16,053</b>
<b>MORTGAGE LOAN</b>			
Balance 6/30/2023	\$457,243		
Monthly Payment	<u>\$6,350.00</u>		
Additional Principal	\$0.00		

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

FOJ Fundraising	\$7,635
Youth Ministry	\$9,126
New Staff	\$40,858
Solid Grounds	\$3,406

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

August

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT NO. 479  
KALAMAZOO, MI

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



SAVE \* the \* DATE

September 10th at 11:30a.m.