



# Harbinger

June 2021  
Volume 153 Number 6

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Zion Lutheran Church  
2122 Bronson Blvd.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
Telephone: 269-382-2360  
Email: [zion@zionkazoo.org](mailto:zion@zionkazoo.org)  
[www.zionkazoo.org](http://www.zionkazoo.org)

Merle and Henrietta were 90+ year old members of my first congregation. They were frail and feeble and I would take communion to them at home. Merle was almost deaf and mostly blind. Henrietta could barely walk. Three days before Christmas Henrietta went to the hospital by ambulance. On Christmas Eve at about 2 am I was called to the hospital as she had died. With no family, I was asked to go tell Merle. So at 4 am on Christmas morning I was the angel messenger to tell Merle how alone he was really going to be. I will never forget sitting with Merle as I told him Henrietta had died. He sobbed. He cried. He trembled. And then I had to leave him alone as I returned to my family, and a congregation's hymns of Christmas joy. Looking back, I realize there was another cry on that morning I was too busy to hear. It is a sound often silenced by the hustle and bustle of our busy world, but one that is filled with beauty, power and grace. It was the sound of that most holy night in Bethlehem. The sound of which I speak is a birth cry. But that birth cry is different than any the world has ever heard. Its soothing tones began centuries earlier, building up momentum until its explosion on a starry night over Bethlehem. This birth cry shattered the darkness of a world in sin. It echoed through mountain and valley, past river and stream, into cities and desert places. This birth cry was announced by an angel to Mary, and reshaped through the lungs of a baby in a manger. This birth cry would reach its climax as those same lungs, full grown, would breathe their last and cry out from a cross and echo from an empty tomb, "It is finished!" When I sat with Merle I was too overwhelmed by his cry to remember the greater cry of a baby in a manger on that first Christmas Eve. Later we would talk about that and for both myself and Merle it changed the flavor of his tears and added another sound of hope to his grief. You have all had your own "Merle and Henrietta" memories and moments, and it is for those moments God has opened our hearts to the full joy of his love. No matter what season, the birth cry of a Savior changes every moment of our lives! Pastor Seeber

## June Worship Moves Into

### Summer Mode

**Saturday 5:30**

**Sunday 8am / 10 am**

Our Saturday evening and first service on Sundays will be in the sanctuary as usual.

There was such support and so many questions about our outdoor worship last year that we'll again have our 10am service outside again (weather permitting.)

*Sunday Parking Lot Worship at 10am is back!*

On those Sundays, bring a lawn chair and your sunglasses for late service. We'll also do drive through communion as last year. (If the weather is foul, we'll move inside and you can just leave lawn chairs and sunglasses in the car (ha!) Let's see how it goes!

### Families in Worship

One of the losses of the past year was the lack of fellowship and the unity of God's people gathering together. For too long we were kept away from each other.

A benefit was that many families had more time together and grew closer, but a downside was that our church family lost that closeness, for awhile. But now it is time for everyone to remember what it means to be the body of Christ — for that is what a congregation gets to practice being!

While all of us who have children or parents to gather with and help keep us from ever feeling alone, there are many of our church family who need everyone else to feel and welcome that gift each week in worship.

We have widows and widowers, single adults and college students who certainly worship to be touched by God, but also are blessed by

being surrounded by genetically unrelated people who are at the same time related by the gift of Baptism.

The benefit of coming together in worship is that God gathers us with a special family, and sometimes just seeing familiar faces and being near other warm blooded bodies is more of a gift than we ever imagine — until life causes us to live alone.

The life of a congregation certainly offers personal benefits to each of us, but don't fail to appreciate the gift that your physical presence in worship has for those around you.

What joy there is for an 80 year old widow whose grandchildren are far away to see little children sitting with Moms and Dads?

What a calming influence there can be for little children whose grandparents don't live in town but who get to know grandparents at Zion who take time to smile or be friendly!

And our college students who are often more alone than many of us might imagine, come to Zion seeking people of all ages to remind them of their years at home. Get to know these young people and don't be afraid to talk to them or invite them to share a meal.

COVID pushed us all away from each other, for awhile. Now it is time to start remembering why we were together in the first place; as families, as neighbors, and as members of Zion. Take time to make time for giving time, not just to get something out of worship but to give something simply by your presence!

Worship is such a special time for all of us! Together we are and become something we could never be alone. When we come together it is not only for our oneness with god, but our oneness with each other! We are the Body of Christ! Blessings and peace!

**CATECHISM REVIEW: Apostles Creed (part 3)**

The Second Article proclaims the gift of Jesus, an incredible miracle of grace! We do not believe in three “gods,” or one who keeps changing personalities. Instead, the God who created, also redeems this world, and daily fills it with his holy breath (Spirit.) Every culture struggles with how to get close to God. Every religion creates rituals and physical symbols or idols to help describe God or help us “get our hands” on God.

We believe the one, true God's love is so great that He chose to come and reveal himself to us in the Body of Jesus. He carried out his mission of mercy through His life, sacrificial death, and miraculous resurrection. We believe Jesus is both completely divine and completely human. As God's “Son” we confess Jesus is the earthly presence of the “DNA” of God. He was born as all humans are born, but His birth was a miraculous intervention of God in the life of Mary. She is his earthly mother, and the bringer of his human life, but Jesus is also God in the flesh.

The early disciples had a simple message that energized and changed their world. They simply told the story of Jesus — his miraculous birth, a perfect life of servant love, his undeserved death on our behalf, and the miraculous victory on Easter morning. Having accomplished his purpose on earth in that life, death, and resurrection, God withdrew his visible, physical presence from one time and place, so that He could be invisibly present in every time and every place. In the same way that God breathed in Jesus, His breath of life now lives in each of us and breathes through the biblical witness and the life of Christ's body on earth today, which we call “the Church.”

Article Three is about the Holy Spirit, the presence of God today. It literally means “holy breath.” In Genesis God created by breathing words: “Light! Sun and Moon! Fish

and People!” He breathed and creation happened. That same breath filled the life of Jesus with servant love, powerful actions, the proclamation of God's love, and victory over sin, death, and grave. That breath fills our lungs and life in Baptism, Holy Communion, Prayer, our reading of Holy Scripture, and the faith-filled love of those around us. That “Holy Breath” inspires us to forgive and encourages us when we are weak. God's Holy Spirit is the same force of Creation and Easter, and is the gift through which God shares Himself in each of our lives today.

Faith is simply a matter of letting God be our breath, our wisdom, and our strength. As people of faith, our call is to trust in that Holy breath, and share what is so freely given to each of us. Breathe in and breathe out! The Holy Spirit comes in and the Holy Spirit is the love we exhale and share. His live is our living. Faith is simply allowing God to be the power of all that we are, and do, and say.

God's love is so great that He will never let us go! As God lives in each of our hearts and minds in this earthly life, his promise is that we will live with Him forever. And so even when our frail and imperfect earthly breathing ceases, that Holy Spirit (that Holy Breath) will continue to be our life, and we will be one with God forever in the eternity of heavenly peace. This is Good News for a broken world.

In the Creed, we remember and restate what we believe. This is our mission statement, and power and guide for all that life is. Knowing who we are helps us to remember how we are to live (filled with that same servant love.) Over and over, like a steady heartbeat or the expanding and contracting of lungs, we live this faith. It comes to us as a gift and is shared in how we live as a gift for those around us. In this Creed we remember, we renew, and we proclaim what we believe. It helps us teach the faith and reminds us why we have so much to celebrate, by faith!

# Youth News

## **High School:**

### Summer Study

June 17 @ 3pm: Ritter's

June 30 @ 9am: Water Street  
Coffee, Oakland/Whites

July 12 @ 1pm: Culver's  
(Gull Road)

July 28 @ 11am: Panera  
(W. Main)

Aug 10 @ 6pm: Aaron's House

### Week of Projects

June 21-24 (5:30pm—???)

Bring your family too!

## **Middle School Youth:**

### Week of Projects

June 21-24 (5:30pm—???)

Bring your family too!

A get together is being planned,  
watch emails for more info!

## Echoes

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

From a member:

I have worked out with a group of guys for some 30+ years. One of the guys came up with the idea of calling the group, The Mustard Men. We would find things to do such as buying a meal and going down to Ministry With Community and serving it. There were other projects but that was one we did routinely. We got a blast out of it and it was very fulfilling for us. We unfortunately have not been able to be active in recent months but it will soon happen again. One of the guys even bought us shirts which we wear to these events and it shows the verse from Matthew (17:20) on the back:

*“For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”*

We are constantly being asked why do you call yourselves the Mustard Men. Any way one can spread the Good News!!

# Family Life

## Family Ministry News

### Calendar

**Check out summer family opportunities:**

**-Vacation Bible School in “family pods” will take place the week of June 21-24, 5:30pm!**

**-Middle School/High School families are invited for a week of service projects:**

**June 21-24**

**-Beach day in July (31st???)**

### **What is Truth?**

This has been the question society has struggled with over the past year (and much longer than that)! Pontius Pilate said these words when he questioned Jesus. He was in a situation in which he was being told one thing (very convincingly) and yet personally was experiencing the opposite! Jesus was no rebel rouser. He wasn't trying to take the throne! As his accusers kept feeding lies to Pilate, he finally asked out loud, “What is truth?”

We've been fed a lot of information in the past year.

Information from “experts” that contradicts other “experts.” We've seen stories on the news and in reports that is clearly one-sided. We read opinions on social media sites as if they were facts.

Yet, only one thing remains truly true: God's Word. As we continue to navigate such a polarized world, I urge you to return to God's Word. Seek out His teachings, learn from His stories, and see others the way He sees them. God's Word is truth. If you're yearning for truth, start there.

## Summer Opportunities

The week of June 21-23 is very busy!

We are providing multiple opportunities for you to get together with other families that you may not have seen in a LONG time!

1. Vacation Bible School with dinner at 5:30pm (for families w/kids age 3-11)
2. Middle School and High School family service projects with dinner 5:30pm
3. All congregational service project on Thursday, June 24 AT 4:30pm (dinner after)

RSVP to Aaron or the church office so we have the right amount of food!

**CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT:**

The group of young men that I have been working with just finished the 10 week Conquer Series and we will begin the Living Free series beginning in June. There will be 5 young men in this group. The Living Free Series is geared specifically for college aged men dealing with addiction issues.

I am continuing to have conversations with WMU students and faculty in the Music program as we prepare to launch a worship experience starting in September when the Fall Semester begins. It looks like we will have this event on Monday evenings at Dalton Hall on the WMU campus. One of the goals of this weekly event is to create an environment where non-Christian students in the music program feel welcome and comfortable attending and playing as part of the worship experience.

I have had an initial conversation with the Catering manager at the new Chick-fil-A on West Main and Drake about the possibility of using Solid Grounds to cater Chick-fil-A on Tuesday and Thursday during the lunch hour. Some initial thoughts and ideas are to set this up where the proceeds would go directly to care for the needs of the hungry in our community. Some early thoughts are that if we were to cater Chick-fil-A out of Solid Grounds beginning in the Fall semester, this would be an outreach to both the university community and also to the Kalamazoo community as well. I will be talking with the Michigan District about the possibility of seeking a grant as seed money to begin this endeavor, as well as using the Maier Campus Endowment, and possibly the Zion Endowment for funding for this new outreach. Before COVID, we had a trial event where we catered

Chick-fil-A out of Solid Grounds and it was received favorably. I want to use the summer months to have conversations with the Ministry team, students, and Chick-fil-A to get feedback about this potential new outreach.

As we look ahead to the upcoming academic year, there are so many unknowns about what students will be looking for and how best to reach them. The ideas that I have shared are some ideas of ways to reach students as we will be entering a "new normal" when the Fall semester begins in September.

God's blessings to you all!

Pastor Mark



## Worship Help for Parents and Children

(It is OK for everyone else to read too!)

### “Scripture Readings and Sermon”

For Dads and Moms and other adults:

Like any book the Bible is full of words. These words are God’s gift of revealing his plan of creation, his parental disappointment when people “sin” or turn away from Him, and his loving plan to bring us back. Since we can’t see God, He uses word pictures to help us “see Him” more clearly.

When we talk about the Bible being “The Word of God” we must be careful. The Bible proclaims the Living Word, which is Christ Jesus, but the Bible is not God. The words in the Bible come from God, but those words are not “God.” We must always be clear that we worship the God of the Bible, not the book we call the Bible. The writing in the Bible was gathered over many hundreds of years as faithful people put remembrances, teachings, and stories passed from generation to generation into writing. God guided this process, as the writers were inspired by His Holy Spirit. These words have life and inform our lives of faith, worship, and hope for eternal life with God.

The use of Holy Scripture is rooted in Judaism. In Jesus’ day a reading from the Law or Prophets, was followed by explanation of that text by a rabbi (or “teacher.”) We follow this same routine in the Christian Church, adding the New Testament. As the “Word” is proclaimed, we are touched by God just as surely as in Baptism and Holy Communion.

Each week we read from the Old Testament, an Epistle, and the Gospel. Until 1973 we used a 1 year lectionary. There is now a 3 year series of readings for Sundays & festivals designated as “A,B,C.” Each year most of the Gospels are from one writer. “A” is Matthew. “B” is Mark. “C” is Luke. Selections from John are included within each series. This year we use Series A. The three readings are chosen to reflect the

same theme. They are based on the season of the church year, and speak to needs of all times. Sermons are usually based on one or all of those readings, The sermon seeks to “open the text” so that it is relevant and useful for us in our daily lives of faith. Whether we read the scriptures or talk about them in a sermon, our prayer is that whoever proclaims God’s words will be open to the Holy Spirit’s guidance (just as those who listen, should have the same prayer.)

For Parents with Younger Children

Too many words can confuse. And attention spans can be short (for children too!) Just as adults do better reading and hearing when they have some familiarity with the text (i.e. Bible study!) so children do better with words they understand and questions they want to ask. Our children’s bulletins seek to help the children find a theme that the readings might convey. The illustration on the cover of the bulletin also helps focus on a theme for the day. This pattern of A-B-C helps introduce them basic themes and words about faith.

We are always looking for ideas from parents for what we can do to help. Parents should never assume their children aren’t hearing — and asking questions afterward will help you to answer questions or make applications on their level. When you hear something in a text or sermon that might apply in your own family life — jot a note down and use that to begin a conversation in the car or around the dinner table. The bags with crayons, books, and even puppets aren’t simply to keep kids busy ... they often will act out what they are hearing or draw something that reflects what they are hearing. “God’s Word” is never wasted, *it is just that sometimes we get in its way!* Sunday School helps parents to begin a lifelong growth in being changed by God’s Words. The living Word is Jesus, and God’s Word from Scripture helps bring Jesus’ love and practical call into our lives. Let us know how else we can help you with your words about “the Word.”

Pastor Tim

# LETTER OF THANKS



Dear Pastor Seeber (and all staff at Zion Lutheran Church),

This has been a long time coming, but I wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the Zion Lutheran Church Endowed Scholarship you granted me for my journey here at Valparaiso University. Knowing that I have always had a supportive community my whole life, no matter where I am, means the world to me. Growing up at Zion Lutheran Church has taught me numerous life lessons, and this scholarship in a way represents how I am taking those lessons with me for the rest of my life, because it reminds me to show gratitude to those who have made an impact on my life. It is especially meaningful to me considering that I transferred here from a school that wasn't really for me. The friends and memories I have made will stick with me forever, and I'm learning so much beyond the classroom.

I'm currently a sophomore majoring in both computer science and music, both of which represent my passions. I've been playing trumpet for a long time now, and I play in the Chamber Concert Band here, and the fact that there are so many opportunities to be involved with music is so meaningful to me, and meeting people with a shared interest allows me to expand my horizons even more. With computer science, I have always been interested in electronics, and I would love to pursue a career in software development one day. If I could somehow combine both fields, that would be really amazing! I'm currently involved in a Virtual Reality Glove Project, specifically the programming team. I'm learning a lot there and I can use that experience to find more opportunities for the future! Beyond that, I'm involved with music like I mentioned earlier and I attend service at the Chapel of the Resurrection often. I volunteer very often, being a Spoken Word Leader for Morning Prayer, and I was an Acolyte one time as well. Being able to attend service in such a beautiful sanctuary allows me to continue to grow my faith, something that will stick with me for a long time.

Once again, thank you so much for your support through the scholarship. It means everything to me, and I look forward to my continued adventures here in Valparaiso!

Graham Butler

**Book Review:** Desert Solitaire; A Season in the Wilderness. Edward Abbey. The University of Arizona Press. 1968.

I read this book about 20 years ago and have never forgotten it. For anyone who enjoys nature, solitude, and the contemplation that silence and lack of distraction allows, this will be familiar and comfortable reading.

Abbey's style had been compared to Thoreau's "Walden" and Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac." It also makes me think of Annie Dillard's "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek" as a similar type of observation of nature.

This was Edward Abbey's first book and has become a classic. He was a seasonal ranger in Arches National Park in 1956 and 1957. The park at that time received very few visitors and so much of his time was spent alone. The journals and notes that he wrote during that time were saved and ten years later he used them as the basis for this book. This book is the result of so much time spent "all alone."

Our climate of concern for the environment, makes this a timely novel. Abbey's work reflects on the relationship of natural and "civilized" world and his observations and comments are most insightful. There are some political musings as well about the lack of concern for protecting our natural wonders, and the over-commercialization we tend to slide into without even realizing it.

In some ways the primitive approach to preventing forest fires seems so archaic today, but this was before satellites, cell towers, and microwave relays that are so prevalent in our communications today. One of his roles was to climb into one of those old fire towers that used to dot many of the national and state forests at that time. He would sit for hours, all alone, just watching should there be any hint of the start of a forest fire. His job was to call in immediate help from a plane dropping water or

firefighters to keep a small fire from destroying a forest. He also spent time rafting or hiking and many of the chapters include observations and events that happened along the way. Here is a sample:

*"Absorbed in these thoughts, wind in my eyes, I round a corner of the cliff and there's a doe and her fawn not ten yards away, browsing on the cliffrose. Eating flowers. While she could not have heard of scented me, the doe sees me almost at once But since I stopped abruptly and froze, she isn't sure that I am dangerous. Puzzled and suspicious, she and the fawn at her side, madonna and child, stare at me for several long seconds. I breathe out, making the slightest of movements, and the doe springs up and away as if bounced from a trampoline, followed by the fawn. Their sharp hooves clatter on the rock. "Come back here!" I shout. "I want to talk to you." but they're not talking and in another moment have vanished into the wind. But why should I disturb them further? Why should I lead them to believe that anything man-like can be trusted? That is no office for a friend."* [31]

This book can be appreciated on so many levels. A concern for the natural world is obvious. Allowing someone to guide us into a place we have not been, and see what we might not ever see is always helpful. For people of faith who understand God's gifts of creation this is a reminder of what we often are too busy to see or too far removed from to appreciate. I am intrigued by the image of someone standing guard over a forest. The idea of someone accepting a lonely post for the sake of keeping an entire forest safe has overtones of God's faithful presence on our behalf. This is a book to read slowly and savor well. It makes me want to go places I have not yet been and experience more closely the creation which is all around us but I am often too busy to see or understand. Whatever your interest, this is worth the read.



- 6/1 Alyson Hampshire, Maren Hampshire, Robert Rosenthal, Jeff Schommer, Ruth Stokes
- 6/2 Morgan Freeby, Lynette Gumbleton, Jon Tomer
- 6/3 Jason Emig, Elda O'Brien
- 6/4 Briley Vander Veen
- 6/5 Cynthia Krill, Paul Mayer,
- 6/6 Vicki Holt, William Ohland, Amy Woznick
- 6/7 Rolland Preuss, Sam Proos, Philomene Rettman
- 6/9 Margo Bridges, Christopher Hurry
- 6/10 James Siek, Joshua Vickery
- 6/11 Candace Buetow, Marcia French,
- 6/12 Hanna Brege, Kim Stoner, Kimberly Stiegemeyer
- 6/13 Marilyn Fager, Renae Morgan, Michael O'Connor
- 6/15 Phyllis Huberty
- 6/16 Tricia Dinda, Roberta Thomas
- 6/17 Susan Buchtrup, Nancy Heineman, Philip Parr Jr., John Skuratowicz
- 6/18 Pam DeMorrow, Paul Gilbert,
- 6/19 Lori Coates Hay, Larry Harding, Eric Schmidt
- 6/20 Megan Collins, Donya Dobbin, Tom Proos, Sarah Schierbeek
- 6/21 Benjamin Bickel, Michael Hovde, Dillon Wollberg
- 6/22 Joye Mayer
- 6/23 Natalie Asaro, Tessa Butt, Kathleen Jordan, Daniel Woodford
- 6/24 Barbara Witkoske
- 6/25 Patricia Anne Madison
- 6/27 Ryan Bickel, Angela Bowers, Scot Miller
- 6/28 Cynthia Cosgrove, Bobbie Dorow, June Ver Sluis
- 6/29 Daniel Wilson
- 6/30 Megan Brennan, Heidi Fuhrman Patricia Kaukola-Weber

## PARISH REPORT

### Deaths

Ruth Norton	1/15/2021
Ila Pioch	5/3/2021

## **Staff Anniversaries**

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

Pastor Seeber	6/01/1987
Pastor Brelje	6/01/1994
Michelle Devine	6/19/2006
Rebecca Craft	6/07/2012
Grayson Nye	6/01/2015

### **Thank you to the Prayer Ministry group and**

**all of the others** who kept me in their thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. I truly appreciated all the cards I received from so many of you. Special thanks to the Staff for pitching in. It's been a blessing to be a part of the Zion Family for almost 15 years now. Michelle Devine, Building Manager

## **KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES**

The wish list item for **June is Healthy snacks with low sugar and sodium.** Please put donations in the gray tubs under the church office window. Thank you!

Accepting donations for this year's **BAZAAR .....**

Looking for crafts and attic treasures to make this year's Bazaar better than ever. Next collection date is:

**Wed, June 9th 9a—11a**

**Drop off by Sanctuary Doors**

## Miscellaneous Announcements

### CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

To All Zion's members:

As the Michigan District of the LCMS gathers information about Zion, so they can match us up with potential new pastor candidates, they are asking us to complete a survey.

Here is the link to the Congregational Survey that each member is invited to complete online: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ehr18z7gkmmck9qm/start>

If you are unable to use the online version please contact Marta at the church office and we will make arrangements for you to submit your answers in a way that you are comfortable.

The survey will be available starting on **23 May and ending on 15 June**. This information is very important for the District in guiding Zion to select our next lead pastor so we need your input.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

The Zion Board of Directors

**CALLING ARTISTS!** We would like to reestablish our Christian Art Ministry this fall. If you have or wish to create visual art that might edify and strengthen our family's life of faith, please talk to Pastor. If you are acquainted with Christian artists in the community who might be interested in displaying such art here at Zion, let us know.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY!** We would like to reestablish Stephen Ministry this winter as part of our healing care. If you might be interested in being trained as a leader, or have been and would like to help Pastor Seeber get Stephen up and running again, talk to him.

**CROSSWAYS!** A 60 week journey through the Bible to help understand how it all fits together and gain familiarity with the background and themes of each book. Pastor Seeber is considering teaching again, but maybe as a virtual class (via Zoom) so that people could participate each week at a time of their choosing. This is a big commitment and to find one time that fits all is difficult, so maybe this is a new way to share CROSSWAYS! again, either for the first time or as a review.

#### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

***Annual Report of Ministries of Zion will be published in mid summer and provide a very thorough report of all that has been accomplished over the past year!***

# JUNE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 FOJ Min Zoom	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 2:30 Aaron Devotion	<b>4</b> Pastor T Devotional	<b>5</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>6</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>7</b> 6:30 Personnel	<b>8</b> 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Fam Min Zoom 6:30 Sml Grp Zoom	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Noon Finance 2:30 Aaron Devotion	<b>11</b> Pastor T Devotional	<b>12</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>13</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>14</b> Flag Day	<b>15</b> 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Pastor T Zoom	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 2:30 Aaron Devotion	<b>18</b> Pastor T Devotional	<b>19</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>20</b> Father's Day 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>21</b> June Solstice (GMT) 6:30 BOD	<b>22</b> 1:00 Aaron Devotion	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 2:30 Aaron Devotion	<b>25</b> Pastor T Devotional	<b>26</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>27</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 1:00 Aaron Devotion	<b>30</b>	<<<< Vacation Bible School Week and HS / MS Service Projects >>>>		



May 2021							July 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31												

## Financial Report for April 30, 2021

**ZION:** April Giving is over budget by \$272. Expenses are under budget by \$650.  
April ended with a Net Gain of \$7,934. YTD Net Income Gain is \$35,988, over budget by \$25,550.  
YTD Contributions are under budget by \$53,616.

**FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL:** Income is under budget by \$7,922. Expenses are under budget by \$11,505. April Net Gain is \$568. YTD Net Income Gain is \$3,507, under budget by \$1,439.

**Solid Grounds:** Income is under budget by \$248. Expenses were over budget by \$2,587.  
April Net Loss is \$3,163. YTD Net Income Loss is \$4,312, under budget by \$8,438.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
<b>INCOME</b>						
Zion Giving & Misc.	66,125	66,397	272	660,375	606,759	-53,616
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Zion Staff Support	28,072	29,601	1,529	316,093	314,230	-1,863
Office Operations	1,435	942	-493	16,185	13,788	-2,397
Church Property	6,373	6,441	68	83,042	73,036	-10,006
Education Ministry	1,335	670	-665	12,165	5,951	-6,214
Evangelism/Missions	0	0	0	550	100	-450
Worship Ministry	1,125	1,363	238	6,400	5,377	-1,023
Other Ministries	200	108	-92	2,800	1,507	-1,293
Music Ministry	3,225	2,625	-600	29,150	18,680	-10,470
Finance Ministry	10,348	10,367	19	113,752	74,135	-39,617
Zion Haus Ministry	400	149	-251	4,400	4,566	166
Missions - General	6,600	6,197	-403	65,400	59,401	-5,999
Total Expenses	59,113	58,463	650	649,937	570,771	-79,166
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,012</b>	<b>7,934</b>	<b>-922</b>	<b>10,438</b>	<b>35,988</b>	<b>25,550</b>
<b>FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL</b>						
<b>INCOME</b>						
FOJ Income	8,490	568	-7,922	119,301	8,805	-110,496
FOJ Staff Support	10,935	0	-10,935	98,855	3,737	-95,118
FOJ Operations Expenses	570	0	-570	15,500	1,561	-13,939
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-3,015</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>3,583</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>3,507</b>	<b>-1,439</b>
<b>SOLID GROUND</b>						
Solid Ground Income	9,076	8,828	-248	109,294	103,494	-5,800
Solid Ground Expenses	9,404	11,991	-2,587	105,168	107,806	-2,638
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-328</b>	<b>-3,163</b>	<b>-2,835</b>	<b>4,126</b>	<b>-4,312</b>	<b>-8,438</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>						
	6/1/2020	4/30/2021	YTD Change			
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash	78,336	76,977	-1,359			
Investments	137,222	188,183	50,961			
Other Assets	10,944	10,288	-656			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226,502</b>	<b>275,448</b>	<b>48,946</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Payroll	5,829	5,162	-667			
Dedicated Funds	87,136	97,253	10,117			
Unrestricted Funds	133,537	173,033	39,496			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226,502</b>	<b>275,448</b>	<b>48,946</b>			
<b>MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE</b>	<b>\$737,371</b>					
Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000						
Youth Ministry	\$10,212	FOJ Estate Gift	\$3,592			
New Staff	\$50,000	FOJ Fundraising	\$11,518			
Ins. Claim Water Damage	\$5,190	Benevolence/Wise	\$4,476			



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Zion Lutheran Church

June

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