

8/29 email to congregation

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

10:00 Outdoor service is planned to continue through Sept 3rd; we'll return inside on Sept 10th. Remember we switch 2nd service back to 10:30a.m. service on Sept 10th

Wed dinner and classes (Midweek Kids PK-5th grade, confirmation 6th-8th, adult study on Isaiah with Pastor Mike) start up **Sept. 6 at 6:15pm. Dinner is available at 5:15pm.** A 4 week small group cluster will start Sept. 13 at 4:30pm. **Menu for 9/6** is Hot Roast Beef Sandwiches, Layered lettuce salad, fruit and chips.

Zion Small Groups are focused on being in God's Word and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. **Starting September 10th/13th**, (Sundays & Wednesdays at various times) for four weeks we will be discussing the Gospel lesson of the week, guided by questions from Pastor Mike/Aaron. This is a 4 week commitment with the possibility of a new small group forming around these discussions. Please fill out this form if you wish to be part of this 4 week small group discussing the Gospel readings: <https://forms.gle/RT8fPgdSj8iaM2qi9>

Annual Church Picnic: Join us for an afternoon of fun and celebration! **September 10th at 11:30am** we will have our annual church picnic along with a ministry fair to help with a visual of all the ministries at Zion. Food, beverages and desserts provided. We need a good headcount for the order so please sign up on the kiosk or call the church office! **Deadline to sign up is Sept 3rd.**

Small Group Harvest Festival is Sept. 24th! Find more information including a sign up on the kiosk

Little Dresses for Africa ministry is in need of pillowcases and sheets. Also, cotton and flannel material is welcome. Donations may be placed in the drop box located in the workroom next to the office.

Thank you to everyone making donations to the Friends of Jesus Snack Drive! We will continue to collect snacks through the end of August. Specific needs include applesauce, canned fruit or fruit cups, ranch dressing, mild salsa, rice cakes, veggie straws, and 100% fruit juice.

HELPING OTHERS MINISTRY SCHOOL DONATIONS Please see the display table in the hallway. These donations benefit schools in the Kalamazoo area as well as our Friends of Jesus Pre-school. Items needed are: spiral bound notebooks, 2 pocket folders, scissors, rulers, pencils (regular and colored), pencil sharpeners, mechanical pencils, erasers, crayons, washable markers, glue (sticks and bottles), Kleenex, construction paper, gallon Ziploc bags, and watercolor paint sets.

Feel free to also donate items that are not on this list if you see good deals. If you have any questions, please contact Jayne Mayer at 375-8342

REMINDER: members can turn in donations at any time for Helping Hands / Grateful Heart Bazaar. This can include garage sale items or craft donations. Also, regarding book donations, this year we are only accepting novels.

Friends of Jesus Preschool is now offering wraparound childcare beginning Fall 2023. As an addition to its preschool programs, Friends of Jesus will now offer before care beginning at 7 AM and after class care until 5:30 PM. For more information, contact Director Jen LaPorte at jen@zionkazoo.org.

Food Gathering for LOAVES and FISHES! September is canned meat. Donations can be placed in the gray tubs outside the office.

Thank you for your continued financial support. Any additional, regular support would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you also for your prayers and the many other ways you are involved in and support our ministry!

To make an online donation, or to set up regular online giving, follow this link:
<https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/zionkazoo>

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend Sept 29th—Oct 1st

Best Western Plus, Kalamazoo (Lodging, meals and program \$275/couple)

Gain new understanding of yourself, your spouse while growing in love for each other and your marriage.

Resources for more information: GodLovesMarriage.org,

Mark & Jan Chilcott 269.998.6147 or Pete & Chris Wilkins 269.381.6324

Weekly meditations continue to be posted Mondays and Fridays on Zion's Facebook

WKZO radio ministry / Sundays 9:30am / WKZO

Church Office hours:

Mon - Thurs 9am to 4pm

382-2360 / zion@zionkazoo.org

For pastoral assistance:

Pastor Mike 419-203-6770 / Pastor Couch 598-8167 / Aaron 271-2848

If you have been hospitalized, are newly confined to home or a residence facility, or have a new address or phone number, or email address, please call the church office and let us know!

Symbol in the Window: In our Gospel reading, Matthew 16:21-28, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things. On the Old Testament side of the window, left vertical half, in the third panel at the top you will see a rendering of the wall of Jerusalem.

Prayers: Karen Kellam upcoming surgery next week, Jim Mayer surgery on Tuesday.