



Harbinger

February 2023
Volume 155 Number 2

Page 2
Lutheran Worship

Page 3
Ash Wed / Lent

Page 4
Worship Help

Page 6
Youth News / Echoes

Page 7
Family Life

Page 8
Campus Ministry / FOJ

Page 9
Book Review

There are so many powerful moments in our lives that quickly fade away as we get busy and preoccupied with other stuff. Such things might not be more important, but for a while we assume they are and suddenly what was really meaningful is forgotten and disappears like a cloud that floats out of our sight over the horizon. When we slow down and remember what we have forgotten, we sometimes regain a sense of what is more meaningful and memorable than the windmills we are fighting or the shadows we are chasing. As an example, here is one such memory that came out of the blue and I finally am writing down so I never forget about it again.

Like many parents, on Christmas Eve, Roxanne or put out a plate with cookie and a glass with milk (or maybe scotch) for Santa so the kids in the morning would have visual proof that Santa had really been in our house, evidenced by an empty glass and cookie crumbs. When Abby was three, I came home after the midnight worship service to find everyone sound asleep. The note to Santa was on the table, but with a message different than usual. I discovered the next morning that Abby had dictated to Roxanne what the note must say: *“Dear Santa, Go away! I am afraid of you. Leave my gifts at my cousins’ house. Abby.”* She was at that stage where she was struggling with concerns about things that go bump in the night and being afraid of what she didn’t understand. I am glad I finally remembered this moment for its amusement value, while also reminding me how often in more adult ways we reject what we don’t understand or cause us fear. At the end of this month we will experience Lent, our reminder that Jesus took on the dark shadows and scary moments of life so we learn we are not alone and no longer need hide from what we fear. And the proof of his power and love was not an empty plate or cup, but an empty cross and tomb, so things that go bump in the night and cause mature adults to tremble are held at bay. Right?

Pastor Seeber

Zion Lutheran Church
2122 Bronson Blvd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
Telephone: 269-382-2360
Email: zion@zionkazoo.org
www.zionkazoo.org

What Makes Us "Lutheran?" / Part 4

Worship

Worship comes from the Old English and is used to define the worth and value of God in our lives. People have always sought to find appropriate ways to reach out to God.

The point of worship is to lift up to God the reverence and thankfulness we have for all God is. It is meant to sacrifice and surrender to God as a confession of our awareness that all we have is a gift from God. It puts the proper perspective in life now and later.

In the Old Testament times, worship was based on sacrifice as a response to God's gifts in our lives. The Law given to Moses made clear that every part of life is called to be an act of worship, or showing God and those around us his value and our lives.

Community worship consisted of sacrifice in the temple. The weekly visit to synagogue was a time to be in God in a special way for songs, prayers, and spiritual growth. The priests sacrificed, while rabbis taught and offered spiritual guidance and led prayer.

Jesus grew up respecting the traditions of his Jewish background but challenged followers to rediscover what they had forgotten. Remember the Sabbath was more than just keeping sacred laws, but allowing the weekly sabbath to help lead and form daily worship in how we lived and loved as response to God and his call to be lights to the world.

The early Christians worshipped as they always had with the synagogue as their model. Their time on Sunday (the new Sabbath because of Easter) featured psalms, prayers, readings from the Old Testament, and the epistles and Gospels circulated by Jesus' closest followers.

They baptized converts as well as children born into the faith. Holy Communion,

heeding the words of Jesus at the Last Supper was celebrated every week as they gathered together for worship. They understood worship as showing and remembering the worth or value of God in their hearts and lives.

By the time of the Reformation, worship had become very ritualized and formal. Everything was in Latin, so those who didn't understand, or couldn't read (including many priests) simply went through the motions and many misunderstandings and practices were introduced (probably well intentioned at first) that gradually made worship more of a spectator sport than a daily life style.

Luther and other reformers brought worship into the language of the people and restored a more biblical understanding. Liturgy means the work of the people and we follow a pattern of communal worship that seeks to engage and involve everyone. We begin with confession, to set the stage and ask God to forgive and prepare us for what comes next. Scripture and Holy Communion form the main part of congregational worship with the raising of songs of joy and prayers to God and for each other. The benediction sends us out into the world for our daily worship or response to God's love in how we live.

Even the architecture of our buildings used for worship are intended to balance the gifts of Word and Sacrament, as well as practical needs for growing in faith. We even have a pattern in the church year with seasons from Advent to Christ the King, colors, and the choices of readings to lead us through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost, as we focus on the life and gifts of Jesus as Christ. The rest of the year focuses on how we respond and grow in faith. By this pattern, including a three year cycle of scripture which covers much of the Bible, we glorify God and have opportunity to grow in faith. Baptism brings us into a family, and our gathering as a family brings strength and purpose as we return to daily lives.

ASH WEDNESDAY and LENT**Beginning February 22!**

Many traditions seem outdated, such as Lent. Whether a new experience or not, Lent is a powerful opportunity for your life of faith, and your preparation for Easter. It is a time for thoughtful reflection and spiritual growth.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a forty day journey to prepare us for Holy Week and Easter. The forty days are a reminder of what Israel learned in their forty years in the desert. It has the feel of Jonah's wait in the belly of a whale, Noah's boat ride, and Jesus' forty day temptation as his ministry began.

Lent remembers Jesus' loving journey to a cross and tomb, so that all the days of our lives will be flavored by his love for us.

Ash Wednesday is February 22**Noon and 6:30 pm.**

This is a somber day of repentance and trust in the saving love of Jesus. This is the darkest day of the year as we reflect on our brokenness and that Christ's sacrifice for us comes from a love we don't deserve and is given with no guarantee of a response. We are used to making a sign of the cross (with ash), saying "you are dust and to dust you shall return." This is both a hint of earth's power, and the victory of the cross.

Midweek services begin March 1st**Noon and 6:30 pm.**

We have used familiar books, movies, and stories to better visualize the meaning of the themes of Lent. This year we will use a familiar children's book, *Charlotte's Web* and you'll have to join us and see how this works! While our themes and meditations are based firmly in Scripture, stories such as this help us in practical ways to better understand what we have maybe made too difficult about faith to fully appreciate and understand. Join us for this interesting Lenten series.

(And pray that Pastor Seeber gets all writing done on time!)

And don't forget our Wednesday evening meals during Lent, prepared in our own kitchen and served in the Gathering Area.

"Breaking Bread and Washing Feet"

Your ministry staff will prepare for you a booklet of devotions to help you with your daily walk through Lent. It will feature a brief, daily devotion and a question or suggestion for follow through as you consider the loving ministry Jesus has called us into.

The meaning of Lent

Lent comes from a word meaning "spring." And what is Lent but the spring cleaning of our spiritual lives? We have all been slowing down more than we like, but this is different and an opportunity to do spiritual housecleaning to be ready for the passionate love of the cross and an empty tomb.

For hundreds of years, Christians have embraced traditions of **fasting, meditation, and works of love as the disciplines of Lent.** "Giving up" something during Lent is a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for us, and a wonderful tradition if *it truly is a sacrifice and helps in your meditation and contemplation.*

Many, chose also to add something new to life as an aid in this journey! Maybe daily devotions, or an hour each week devoted to some mission? Maybe more time for prayer and the discipline of joining with your faith family in Lenten worship?

And there will be opportunities to serve others through Loaves and Fishes and other outreach efforts into our community. All of this will help prepare us for the celebration of Easter morning. This year it would be great if ALL of our family will be able to join us on this special day!!! This also is an opportunity to welcome and invite others who have no church home! Just as the dawn precedes the sunrise, so Lent gradually leads us into the brightest SONSHINE of all time! Get ready!

Worship Help for Parents and Children

(It is OK for everyone else to read too! We'll keep finding other ways to help, but this page will deal with worship in the Lutheran Church.)

This month: HOLY COMMUNION

For Dads and Moms and younger adults: To discuss Holy Communion, we always begin with the Passover (Exodus 12) which was first celebrated on the night that Israel escaped from captivity in Egypt. The Passover meal was Israel's reminder of God's deliverance. The blood of the lambs marked the homes of the faithful. This miraculous rescue set Israel on the path to a land of Promise.

Jesus kept the Passover with his disciples on the night of his betrayal. But in the midst of the remembrance of past deliverance, He added something new! *"This broken bread I share is my body ... This cup of wine that I share with you is my blood."* And soon after that meal with his disciples, Jesus sacrificed his life for one and for all!

Jesus, the new Passover Lamb was sacrificed that all people might be set free. The waters of death were held back so God's people might be set on the path of life. From the earliest days of the Christian Church, Holy Communion was celebrated every time the congregation gathered together. There is no way to underestimate the importance of regular participation in the meal of the new kingdom. And so, our liturgy is centered around both Word (Bible) and Sacrament (Holy Communion). God's gifts are so much more powerful than anything we can create!

Holy Communion is a meal of remembrance, God's presence, and peace! This meal is a foretaste of the kingdom to come — a preview of coming attractions. It celebrates Christ in our midst. It is the wedding feast in which Christ marries himself to his Church. It is the family meal in which our Savior again and again comes to us in a most special way. In

this meal we receive the gifts of forgiveness and strength for our daily lives. This is a spiritual meal for our spiritual lives.

For several hundred years (in our recent past) Lutherans didn't take communion as often for fear of trivializing the meal. There was a concern that we would take it for granted if it was offered too often. We have rightly returned to an historic tradition of celebrating this meal every time we gather as one.

For Parents with young children: Talk about your traditions at home — like birthday parties and Thanksgiving meals. Why do you have a certain menu and routine for those annual events? Why are tables decorated and special attention given to the traditions year, after year, after year?

When those questions are answered, it is easier to begin talking about this special meal we call Holy Communion. It is holy because God has given it, and He is present with us in this meal in a special way. It is communion because it gathers God's family and makes us one with Him. Explain that the altar is like a table that the whole family gathers around (and since we can't all fit at once, we keep coming up until everyone has had a chance to sit at the table.)

The tradition in the last few centuries of the Church has been to wait until children are older for them to take communion. We begin at Zion in grade 6, but our younger children come to the table and receive a blessing, so they are not left out. This begins the opportunities that you, as parents, have to begin talking about communion with our children at home.

As soon as your kids express an interest or wonder when they can take communion is the time to start answering their questions and teaching them what communion means. And please, let us know if there are any ways we can help with that effort of love!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRATEFUL HEARTS THANKFUL HANDS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow...and so many blessings received from our recent bazaar! The final cash total of \$7,139.80, exceeding last year in excess of \$1,000!! The funds disbursed as follows: FOJ Pre-School (30%), Zion Youth Ministry (25%), Shalom (25%) and the Deacon's Conference (20%).

Additionally, remaining Attic Treasure household items were donated to Every Child's Head in a Bed, and Partners in Housing Transition, a St. Luke's Episcopal Church outreach. Books and puzzles went to Kalamazoo Public Library; hats and mittens donated to Bethany Christian Services; other needed items went to YWCA Domestic Assault; most remaining items were picked up by the Deacon's Conference. Jewelry is being delivered to Fisher's of Men Lutheran Church—Pt. Isabel, TX for their rummage sale.

Please keep the bazaar mission in your prayers as we plan for November 2023. Thank you to those already making donations. One request, a variety of books were received in 2022 and we found only 'novels' sell. This year, please limit book donations to NOVELS.

Thank you donors, volunteers and a very generous congregation, Linda Mayer

Matthew 5:16 ... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

BULLETIN BOARD: Check the Board when you're at Zion. We are keeping it updated with valuable information. In addition to Harbinger, YouTube, Zion Website, the Weekly Congregational email shares the most timely information. **If you are not receiving the email, please provide the office with your email address to be added to the email group.**

TAX INFORMATION: A potential tax savings opportunity exists for taxpayers who are older than age 70 ½. Consider gifting directly from your IRA to Zion Lutheran and/or your chosen charities. Gifts in this manner are not counted as taxable income to you. It may require asking for a check book for your IRA to make this easier or through an electronic transfer. This action lowers your taxable income and your income tax liability. We encourage you to discuss how to do this with your tax or financial advisor. Ask them about how to do qualified charitable donations (QCDs) beginning in 2022 and thereafter.

Dave Mayer would like to express a deep appreciation for all those brothers and sisters who prayed for him or had kind words regarding his recent shoulder replacement. "One can feel those prayers and thoughts and they are sooo meaningful and comforting. It is getting better day by day and my prayer of thanks to all." Dave

Zion Staff wishes to thank Zion's congregation for all the expressions of appreciation they received over Christmas. The cards, gifts, food and sentiments given to the Staff really made us feel valued and helped close out another year on a very high note. Thank you and blessings from your Staff.

Youth News

High School:

Bible Study

Sunday's at 9:15am

All Youth:

Winter Retreat

10 students will be on Winter Retreat Feb. 3-5. Keep us in your prayers for safe travel and a spiritual growth experience.

Middle School:

Confirmation Class

Sundays at 9:15am

Wednesdays at 6:15pm

Echoes

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

Don't underestimate the impact you have on someone else. Don't discount God's ability to work through you, despite your weakness. Sometimes those who seem the most lost become the strongest in their faith.

College seems to be a natural time for people to neglect their spiritual needs. The freedom to choose is great. But hearing from students who are making an intentional effort to grow in the faith life is so uplifting.

About 10 total students (and young adults) join me for a Zoom study. It's not always the same 4 or 5 each time but that's what makes it fun.

One student really connected with a chaplain and has been a solid core of leadership with his faith.

One student applied for a Christian servant event to Alaska.

One student explored area churches around their University with a friend.

There are many more stories of the Holy Spirit working in areas I would never think. Continue to plant seeds and love God by showing love to others.

Family Life

Family Ministry News

Family Resources

Looking for something to do during this cold, dark month? Check out:

www.rightnowmedia.org

<https://adventuremomblog.com/fun-things-to-do-in-west-michigan-in-the-winter/>

<https://www.discoverkalamazoo.com/blog/post/10-winter-adventures-kalamazoo-mi/>

ADDITION TO TECHNOLOGY

A couple months ago I used my phone to record a worship service as a back up to the live stream. I actually noticed anxiety as I reached for my pocket and felt the absence of my phone.

A couple weeks ago a couple of high schoolers were helping me (and doing a great job!) but every time I looked over at them when they had a free minute, their phones were in the hands.

The TikTok platform is designed to adapt to what your specific brain craves and will feed it with short but an infinite amount of videos.

We are seeing a “screen” addicted generation. When our heads are down in our phone, we miss the world around us. We see the world through someone else’s lens (literally) and we tend to see God less and less.

Encourage down time. Encourage rest time.

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT: JANUARY 2023:

With the Spring semester is underway, we are back into our weekly ministry events. Our Dinner and Discussion events take place on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00PM. My sense is that we will have between 6-8 students at our Monday event.

We will be volunteering again at the Kalamazoo YWCA on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00PM. Approximately 4-5 students will volunteer with the kids at the YWCA.

Recently, we had a Wednesday lunch at Solid Grounds for the WMU maintenance, facility and landscaping staff. 13 WMU staff members attended. These lunches are held twice a month. This continues building relationships with the staff. From what I know of other campus ministries, Solid Grounds is the only WMU ministry that has an intentional outreach to the maintenance, facility and landscaping workers.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) has resumed weekly meetings on Wednesday evening from 8:30-10:00PM at the Seelye Center. There are two community outreach events with the athletes that I want to share...

Right before Christmas break, 12 WMU women's basketball players and I went to Tree of Life to volunteer with the kids during their lunch/recess time. The principal of Tree of Life, Adam Sterenberg, called me over the weekend with a message for the team. Tree of Life was trying to start a basketball team. There were only 3 girls that signed up. After the women's basketball team spent the day at TOL, a number of girls were so moved by their time with the team that now, TOL has a full team of girls. Adam wanted me to relay to the basketball team they made a huge impact on the kids at the school. We are planning to volunteer at TOL after basketball season is over in March.

Also, the principal of Maple Street Middle School, Mr. Jeffrey Boggans, came and

spoke at FCA. In addition to serving as principal, he also serves as a pastor on the weekend. He talked to the athletes about the opportunity to come to Maple Street and serve as positive role models to his students.

7 WMU athletes have signed up to volunteer at Maple Street, and I am working with them and Mr. Boggans to begin this new outreach. Fridays during the lunch hour is going to be the best time for us to volunteer.

On either Thursday or Friday, I will be helping to call on shut-in members of Zion. I appreciate Pastor Tim giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. As I am getting older, it certainly is nice to have a chance to do ministry with a variety of ages.

Pastor Mark

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL

Enrollment for 2023-2024 at Friends of Jesus Preschool has begun! Please share the news to family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about this faith-based, family friendly preschool. Three and four-year-old classes are available.

Open Houses will be on Tuesday, February 28th from 6:30-8 PM and Thursday, March 16th from 10:30 AM-noon. You can also contact the preschool office to schedule a tour or pick up an enrollment form. More information can be found on our website at www.friendsofjesuspreschool.com. If you or someone you know is interested in this high quality, Christ-centered program, please contact Jen LaPorte at jen@zionkazoo.org or call us at 269-382-2360. Thank you for your support and spreading the word about this wonderful ministry.



Book review. "The Remarkable Ordinary." Frederick Buechner. Zondervan 2017.

Buechner is one of the most prolific and thought provoking Christian writers of the past several generations. This book contains two previously unpublished essays in which Buechner focuses on the ordinary moments of life, and how paying attention to what we so easily take for granted can lead to a loser walk with God and a strengthening of faith. This is a short book, but you will underline and reread sections over and over. Buechner's gift of the use of language in the exploration of faith and life is incomparable!

"With original reflections on faith and art, the wondrous nature of "ordinary" things, the eternal importance of each life story, and on how to read your life and see within it the workings of God, the message that runs through The Remarkable Ordinary is applicable to each and every human being: your life is sacred, and in each moment there waits an opportunity to connect with the divine." (from his website)

Buechner uses illustration from art and literature, and the disciplines of each to better help the reader with her or his own understanding and use of faith.

The subtitle of the book is "How to Stop, Look, and Listen to Life" and it only makes sense. For the purpose of both art and literature is to cause us to sit down for a moment, escape the busy and noisy world around us and allow someone else to guide you to a place you are often too busy to explore and reflect on.

A sample of his effort: *"And it seems to me the world is a manger, the whole bloody mess of it, where God is being born again and again and again and again and again. You've got your mind on so many other things. You are so busy with this and that, you don't see it. You don't notice it."*

As much as we hate to admit, sometimes we know Bible stories so well we forget to listen to them. We assume we know our own lives and world so well we don't pay attention. And Buechner encourages us in this book to do what we were taught in kindergarten, before we crossed from one side of the road to another. Stop. Look. Listen.

He writes: *"So we are told to love. We are told to listen. We are told to look. But a lot of the time we don't because we choose damn well not to, and because only a saint could do it all the time, I think. You have to choose who to listen to because if you listen to everybody and you look at everybody—seeing every face the way Rembrandt saw that woman's face—how could you make it down half a city block? You couldn't. If you listened to what everybody says to you, how could you survive a day? But we can do more than we do—more than we do, surely we could do that."*

I hope that is enough to wet your appetite for this book! He benefits from growing up in the Church not really having real faith. He had to explore and discover the power of God's love for him, and once he did, he spent a lifetime using his blessing of creativity to assist others in not taking for granted the faith that is the greatest gift of life

In one section he talks about prayer, and offers this practical example for guidance:

"It seems to me that one could do worse as a form for prayer at night, when you turn out the light and wait for sleep to wash over you like a tide, to think back over the news of your day, that particular day that's coming to an end. To remember not just the wars fought on a national scale, but also the wars all of us are engaged in ... and then ask yourself, how did your wars go today? Who were you fighting today? How did they work out? Was it worth it?"

This is well worth checking out! Pastor Seeber

February Birthdays

2/2	Xavier Wagner,
2/3	Gordon Berkousen, Danielle Field, Fritz Klug
2/4	Cole Cullimore, James Mayer, Justin Thiede
2/5	David Watson
2/6	Carol Lueck
2/7	Mike Martin, Matt Simmons, Lucy Tomer
2/9	Mike DeMorrow, Scott VandenBerg, Edward Witkoske
2/10	Judith Maki, Stanislav Tinigin,
2/11	Andy Bentz, Charlene Sauer, Jenny Woelzlein
2/12	Susan Curtiss, Amy Johnston,
2/13	Glen Kellam Sr.
2/15	Robert Besser, Dustin Bremer, Ron Hoffman, Cindy Spiess— Malmstrom
2/16	Lola Frazier, Kathy Pfeifer, Jason Woods
2/17	Doug Boodt
2/18	Sandra Krueger, Luke Stokes
2/19	James Hackenberg
2/20	Steve Butt
2/21	Dana Butt, Gabriel Carlson, Karen Kunze, Brittany Morrow, Gregg Powell
2/22	Lauren Alsvig, Dawn Fierke
2/23	Joanne Bowes
2/25	Janet Bremer, Mae Cutler, Abigail VanDyken
2/26	Alexander Dobbin, Doug Phillips, Walter Rettman

PARISH REPORT

Deaths

Mary Sperti	12/17/22
Shari Dean	12/18/22

NEW 5 WEEK BIBLE STUDY -

Begins Feb 22nd at 4:30pm

“Study on Prayer”

Enhance your Lenten Journey

All ages encouraged

An in-person study lead by

Aaron Grube, DCE

Worship Schedule

Saturday 5:30p/ Sunday 8am and 10:30 am
Classes at 9:15 am

Church Office hours:

Mon - Thurs 9am to 4pm
382-2360 / zion@zionkazoo.org

Pastoral assistance:

Pastor Seeber 501-3624 / Aaron 271-2848
Pastor Brelje 330-9538
Pastor Couch 598-8167

Weekly Online and Radio Ministry

Sunday 10:30 am worship live-streamed on
Facebook and YouTube

Sunday Radio Sermon WKZO 590AM 9:30a

Pastor Seeber Wednesday Bible Study 4:00p

Pastor Seeber Men's Class / Saturday 8am

(at Zion AND Zoom)



The wish list item for **February is Rice (box or bag)**. Donation bins are in the Lobby by the church office.

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 9:00 Sewing Group 4:00 P. Seeber Bible Study 4:15 Dessert First 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Confirmation Class	2 Groundhog Day	3	4 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship ← Youth Winter Retreat 3rd-5th →	
5 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship Youth Winter Retreat	6 6:30 Personnel	7 10:00 P. Brelje Bible	8 9:00 Sewing Group 4:00 P. Seeber Bible Study 4:15 Dessert First 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Confirmation Class	9 Noon Finance	10	11 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9 - Noon BOD Retreat 5:30 Worship	
12 Lincoln's B-Day 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship	13	14 Valentine's Day 10:00 P. Brelje Bible	15 9:00 Sewing Group 4:00 P. Seeber Bible Study 4:15 Dessert First 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Confirmation Class	16	17	18 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship	
19 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship	20 Presidents' Day 6:30 BOD	21 10:00 P. Brelje Bible	22 Ash Wednesday Noon & 6:30 Worship 4:00 P. Seeber Bible Study 4:30 DCE Prayer Study 5:15 Soup Supper 6:15 Confirmation Class	23	24	25 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship	
26 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship	27	28 10:00 P. Brelje Bible 6:30-8p PreSch Open Hse	NOTES:				

FEBRUARY 2023 WORSHIP LEADERS

	February 5	February 12	February 19 <i>Transfiguration</i>	February 22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	February 26
Head Ushers 8:00am	Matt Simmons Alan Sarver	Mark Schoonbeck	Brian Bauer John DuBois		Dave Newman Rich Rakow
Head Ushers 10:30am	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast	Ken Lundquist Dave Barak		Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien
Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm	Joanne Bowes	Roxanne Seeber	Mike Schlack		Roxanne Seeber
Communion Assistants 8:00am	Matt Simmons		Rita Linnenkugel	Noon 6:30p	
Communion Assistants 10:30am	Janis Dinda	Lorraine Hanna	Ryan Bickel		Garr Gast
Acolytes 8:00am	Eli Frazier	Myla Bierlein	Anna Schoonbeck	6:30p Sarah Skuratowicz	Noah Beniz
Acolytes 10:30am	James Mayer	David Hampshire	Mark Skuratowicz		Sydney Woods
Cantor	8a Vicki Holt	8a Vicki Holt 10:30a Vicki Holt	8a Karen Chapo- Stokes		8a Dennis O'Brien 10:30a Dennis O'Brien
Lectors 8:00am	Andrew Niedbala		Carol Daenzer		Andrew Niedbala
Lectors 10:30am	Janis Dinda	Alice Tomer	Jon Tomer		Alison Carlson
Alfar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm	Phil Reittman				
Alfar Ministry 8:00am	1. Carol Daenzer 2. Pam Leitz	1. 2.	1. Lynne Gerfen 2.	Noon – Dee Wentzel	1. 2.
Alfar Ministry 10:30am	1. Carrie Chapman 2. Vickie Asaro	1. Joe Zerbel 2. Larry Zerbel	1. 2.	6:30 Dee Wentzel Lynne Gerfen	1. 2.

Shaded Boxes indicate assistance needed. Please contact the office if you are available to assist.

Zion Financial Report for December 31, 2022

ZION: December Giving exceeded Spending by \$3,628
 YTD Giving is under by \$24,162; YTD Spending is under by \$12,878

Questions? Please email Don Klug at dakdwl@msn.com

Solid Ground: December giving exceeded spending by \$3,401 YTD
 Income under by \$52; YTD Spending over by \$2,023

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
Zion Giving & Misc.	76,091	70,244	-5,847	402,365	378,203	-24,162
EXPENSES						
Zion Staff Support	34,724	35,502	-778	221,134	223,653	-2,519
Office Operations	1,156	1,780	-624	9,291	11,724	-2,433
Church Property	9,582	8,941	641	54,947	54,930	17
Education Ministry	1,270	2,913	-1,643	6,350	8,044	-1,694
Evangelism/Missions	50	0	50	250	161	89
Worship Ministry	550	38	512	3,550	3,018	532
Other Ministries	135	231	-96	1,845	1,902	-57
Music Ministry	3,820	3,555	265	17,170	15,575	1,595
Finance Ministry	9,365	6,393	2,972	65,565	59,705	5,860
Zion Haus Ministry	1,133	316	817	7,931	2,024	5,907
Missions - General	7,820	6,948	872	42,259	36,676	5,583
Total Expenses	69,605	66,616	-2,989	430,292	417,414	12,878
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	6,486	3,628	-2,858	-27,927	-39,211	-11,284

SOLID GROUND						
Solid Ground Income	12,592	12,897	305	71,364	71,312	-52
Solid Ground Expenses	9,700	9,496	204	66,456	68,479	2,023
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	2,892	3,401	508	4,908	2,832	-2,076

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2022	12/31/2022	YTD Change
ASSETS			
Cash	70,269	68,989	-1,280
Investments	189,391	160,173	-29,218
Due To/From	3,430	-17,951	-21,381
TOTAL	263,089	211,212	-51,878
LIABILITIES			
Payroll	2,616	3,144	528
Dedicated Funds	121,187	107,972	-13,215
Unrestricted Funds	139,287	100,096	-39,191
TOTAL	263,089	211,212	-51,878

MORTGAGE LOAN	
Balance 12/31/2022	\$485,653.98
Monthly Payment	\$6,350.00
1x Gift	\$35,000.00

Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000			
Ins. Claim Water	\$3,217	Bazaar	\$7,393
Besser Benevolence	\$5,049	Future Debt	\$13,368
Zion Haus	\$2,062	Youth Ministry	\$4,933
FOJ Fundraising	\$11,664	New Staff	\$48,905

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

February

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 479
KALAMAZOO, MI

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith, Hope and Love

But the greatest of these is

LOVE.

- 1 Cor 13:13 -