



Harbinger

September 2024
Volume 156 Number 9

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Here at Zion, the summer began back in May with a question, as our friend Greg Finke asked us,

“What is Jesus doing in your life?”

This simple question opens the door for you and me to talk about God’s daily presence in each of our lives and recognize that, even when things might not be going so great, God is great. He remains faithful and merciful and full of compassion.

And this question allows us to look at others in a new way. “What is Jesus doing in the lives of those around me?” The answer is the same: He remains faithful and merciful and full of compassion toward them, even those who might not know Him yet. That’s where we come in, of course, as the Lord gives us opportunity to answer the question as we live a life that recognizes Jesus at work in us. If we can see Jesus at work in our lives, it won’t be long before those around us see Jesus at work as well. And over the summer, this has been what’s happening here at Zion. Because over the summer, we’ve had visitors. Lots of them!

Visitors who attend our worship services do so for many reasons, but ultimately, they come because Jesus is doing something in their lives. As we proclaim Him, people will be drawn to Him. As we tell the story of what Jesus has done on the cross, of what He is doing in our lives, we can expect visitors to join us in our worship of Him.

My summer ended the other day as we drove our daughter to Chicago in preparation for her new year at college. Placed along the highway between the countless billboards advertising law firms that specialize in truck accidents, was one billboard that had a simple message:

Jesus is the answer.

“Jesus” is what Jesus is doing in our lives! He is present among us, within us. He seeks to fill us with His forgiving Spirit and divine peace as we gather around His Word and Sacraments. Come experience His presence...and say hello to a visitor or two!

-- Pastor Saylor

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www.zionkazoo.org

Education Plan

Sunday

Adults

9:15am Pastor Mike's Bible Study -
Spiritual Formation

9:15am Pastor Tim's Bible Study

9:15am John & Candy's Parents
Class/Small Group

9:15am Linda's Small Group

Children and Youth

9:15am Sunday School PK—5th
Grade

9:15am Youth Bible Study 6th-12th
Grade

Tuesday

Adults

10am Pastor Brelje's Bible Study

Wednesday

Adults

6:15pm Pastor Mike's Bible Study -
Paul's Letter to the Romans

Children and Youth

6:15pm Midweek Kids PK-5th
Grade

6:15pm Confirmation Class 6th-8th
Grade

Saturday

8am Pastor Tim's Men's Group
Zoom

Other

Opportunities

College & Beyond Zoom

Triple B Men's Group (Backyards,

Youth News

Any student entering 6th-12th grades is invited to attend unless specifically noted! Friends are also invited!

Bible Study

Join us every Sunday morning for Bible study at 9:15am in the Youth Room!

Confirmation Classes

Starting September 4th, students in 6th-8th grades will meet every Wednesday from 6:15pm-7:30pm.

Church Picnic

Join us for the church picnic on September 8th! We will start at 11:30am with fun and games before sitting and having lunch together.

Youth Night

We might have a Bible study. We might do something offsite. We might just sit around and hang out! Every other week, join us for a Youth Night. This month we will meet the 15th and 29th from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Glimpses of Glory

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

Awareness and intentionality. Those are the key areas Greg Finke talked about at his seminar here in May. How aware are you of God working? Do you seek out those opportunities to be loving? Do you notice those times that might be uncomfortable but God is calling you to love your neighbor?

For the past 2 months a group has been meeting to share stories, practice being intentional, and discuss having a regular awareness of those amazing opportunities. In sharing, we have discovered the absolute true joy in doing what we were created to do: love one another.

Watch for a special event coming soon when we will gather together to share stories of God at work, get ideas, and recap some of those great moments we had at the Greg Finke weekend. A lot of great things are being thought up right now! We hope you take part in this ministry of Joining Jesus.

Upcoming Schedule

- Sept 4: NEW Mid-Week Kids 6:15 pm -7:15pm**
- Sept 8: Annual Church Picnic and Ministry Fair**
- Sept 8: Sunday School Resumes at 9:15 am**
- Sept 30th - Zion Papa John's Fundraiser**

NEW IDEAS AND NEW FACES

As Zion begins a time of staff restructuring in the children's ministry department, Jen LaPorte, Friends of Jesus Director and Deaconess Intern Savannah Engelder are incredibly excited to bring new ideas as well as fresh faces and energy to the Mid-Week Kids activities. The structure of the Mid-Week Kids event will be very similar to last year's but new ideas will be incorporated. The kids will now have an opportunity to learn about Jesus in more focused age groups, as well as worshipping and having fun with all of the teachers and other students. There are even some new prizes and books involved! We are excited to see how much the kids and their families enjoy this new approach.

The typical schedule for Mid-Week Kids will be:

5:15 Dinner

6:15 Opening

6:30 Go to Classrooms

7:00 Closing

7:15 Head Home

SOLID GROUNDS

Brothers and Sisters of Zion, Peace!

The school year is upon us at Western Michigan University. Very soon, students will again fill the sidewalks and school buildings. The harvest is certainly plentiful, and right in our backyard!

This year, the ministry team of Solid Grounds will be addressing individuals with the Gospel through a variety of avenues. We will again have our weekly dinner and discussions on Monday nights. All will be welcome to discuss meaningful and thought-provoking topics, with the understanding that Christ is our all-in-all.

A couple of new additions we have this year will be weekly Pizza Evangelism and a Prayer and Praise fellowship. Once a week, Vicar Jack and Deaconess Intern Savannah will walk Western's campus, pizzas in hand, and see how conversation over food can lead to a Gospel impact. Also, after about a month of the school year has gone by, Solid Grounds will begin to host a fellowship event where students are invited to hear God's promises and respond with joyful praise!

We are looking forward to a year of opportunities. Let's have hope that the Holy Spirit will carry Jesus forgiving words to the ears and hearts of Western Michigan!

Please, keep Solid Grounds in your prayers as we seek to proclaim God's Gospel to the students of Western Michigan University.

Peace in Christ,

Deaconess-Intern Savannah
& Vicar Jack.



FRIENDS OF JESUS



The new school year has begun! A big welcome to all our new and returning Friends of Jesus Preschool students and their families. We have so much in store for this year! I am also very happy to welcome back all of our teachers and staff. Deaconess intern Savannah or "Mrs. Savannah" as the children call her will also be helping in the preschool this year—we are blessed and excited to give her a taste of our preschool world!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our snack drive. Your donations enable us to offer morning and afternoon snacks to all preschool students at no charge to families. Thank you for the amazing support!

We have some exciting events at Friends of Jesus this month, including our ever-popular Grandparents' Day on September 26th and 27th. The Zion congregation is also invited to participate in our Papa John's Fundraiser Event on Monday, September 30th. Using the promo code "ZIONZA" at any Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Portage, Niles, or Grand Rapids location will get Zion Lutheran Church and Friends of Jesus Preschool 20% back from all carryout and delivery purchases!

Please continue to pray for all of the students and staff at Friends of Jesus as we begin this new school year!

Gratefully,

Jen LaPorte, Director

ART BY JUDY FINNEGAN

Judy is a longtime, active member of Zion. She is very humble and quiet concerning her interests and talents, but her creative gifts are incredible, as we have seen in her many displays at Zion. Judy quilts, makes paper, plays a mandolin, and is gifted in the use of watercolors, oil paintings, and has made many pencil drawings as well. Her Stations of the Cross series has often been displayed during Lent. Along with her humility is her quiet sense of humor. Along with Joanne Smith and Cindy Krill, she is responsible for helping to develop our Art Ministry at Zion. She has displayed her work many times in our Blends Gallery as well as in many other places throughout the Kalamazoo area.

The 1st four pieces are "Meditations on Creation."

The 5th piece is a "Meditation on a Magic Carpet."

ARTIST'S STATEMENT on "MEDITATIONS"

Inspired by the kimonos of Itchiku Kubota, with music of Phillip Glass playing in the background, I embarked on what I figured would someday result in adventures with a paper cutter. A substantial hole in a large piece of paper due to a studio accident initiated the project.

It grew.

COFFEE HOUR NEEDS YOU!

Our wonderful fellowship time after the 8:00am service needs dedicated volunteers to help get started and continue from the first Sunday after Labor Day. Duties mainly are setup before and cleanup afterwards.

To help call Troy Cosgrove 269-266-2457.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

meets every 3rd Saturday from 2:00 to 4:00 & 5 Lakes on Main St.

All are welcome to stop by and share your talents or simply see the beautiful shawls that are being created. The group is always eager to share their work!



GRATEFUL HEARTS/THANKFUL HANDS

Fall is in the air which mean's Zion's bazaar will be here soon. Be sure and mark you calendar for November 16th!

Canners—share your efforts with purchased and donated jars available outside the office. Take a few and fill along with your canning to share back to the church and Bazaar. Canned goods and food items are BIG sellers!

You will notice a display table in the main hallway displaying crafts we have received. More will be added as items come in. We hope to see your contributions soon! All donated items can be placed in the designated container in the workroom. If you bring in craft items, please sign the sheet by the container designating what you crafted and a suggested price. This helps us immensely.

In the next few weeks a sign-up sheet will be placed on the kiosk. Please prayerfully consider helping out. You can work an hour or two or all day. It is a fun experience!!

If you have any questions regarding what we need or can use, please call Jayne Mayer at 375-8342.

Again, food items and canned goods are BIG sellers! As a congregation, it would be wonderful to use our hands and hearts to make this our best bazaar yet.

Spiritual Growth / Christian Education

Some assume worship is only for adults and Christian education is only for kids — the truth is both are necessary for all! As with any aspect of life, life-long learning is the key to continued maturity and growth. So just as worship is for all ages, so is our spiritual growth.

We might know the story of Moses and the Exodus or the parable Jesus told of a prodigal son, but unless we learn how those stories are really ours today, we fail to give the Holy Spirit the fertile ground in which to help us grow in faith hope, and love.

Faith is like a seed planted by God, which comes along with the nutrients and fertile soil for such a living gift to grow. God offers the warmth of the Son and the gentle breeze of the Spirit. Faith is a gift that is alive, but without proper care and nurture it can wither and die. We are not to be passive observers but active participants. God might plant and water but we are to be gardeners and stewards of the gifts God has given us!

Remember the parable Jesus told about a farmer who went out to plant seed? Some fell on rocks, some amidst thorns, and some on fertile soil. God plants but we are called to be the gardeners of God's gifts. Worship, Bible study, fellowship, and prayer are all fertilizers and injections of life into our faith. Faith is a gift we have the responsibility to care for and use! And we have multiple opportunities in this congregation to help each other in that process of growth.

Would you invest in a house and not take care of it? Or spend good money on a car or furniture and not take care of them? Why is it so easy to neglect the gift of faith, or give it a lower priority than going to the movies, taking a vacation, or enjoying a club or sports that seem so important at the time? Unless we remember "Whose" we are, and how God's guidance Why do we find it easy to spend time

And so, our efforts at fertilizing, nourishing, and nurturing God's gifts in our lives) begins at Baptism and continues until the day we are welcomed into the kingdom of Heaven. We celebrate Baptism in worship because of its sacramental nature, but also to reaffirm the beginnings of spiritual growth in our own lives.

Our Sunday children's classes have many aspects, but are all related to growing and nurturing a young faith. We want our children to become familiar with Bible stories, so when they reach confirmation age they have a background on which to build. As they grow older, they learn about and participate in the meal of Communion.

Our middle school ministry builds on this in ways conducive to their stage in life, helping them to discover how worship, education, and servant love are all tied into the lifestyle of faith. As they begin to face so many choices and decisions it is important to integrate faith into every part of their lives. Our goal is to help parents in that process.

As high school and college students move into the adult world, the continued nurture of faith is a gift that offers guidance and strength for the complicated choices of life yet to come. Adults deal with relationships, parenting, grief, estate planning, ethical and business decisions every day. Our spiritual growth assists in living spirit-filled lives. Why should any of this process stall or be ignored at any stage of life?

Who would plant a vineyard and when the grape vines finally start to mature not keep working so the harvest is all that it can be? Bible study, sermons, library, Harbinger, small groups, and so many other ways are all geared toward spiritual growth and a hallmark of the Lutheran tradition. That is why Luther translated the Bible, liturgy, and hymns into the language of his day. He wanted all of the faithful, not just priests and nuns to grow spiritually so they would be better equipped as disciples and witnesses of the love of God for all of his children.

Check the monthly calendar and weekly emails to see what might be suitable for your time and schedule! Prayer, Bible study, devotional reading, and wrestling with issues of faith are important for a maturing faith! Education in the Church is no different than in our profession or daily lives. We do need to keep growing! As with everything, it is a matter of priorities and new patterns in our living. We have many resources to offer.

Remember, a seed has been planted. How might you be more active in its growth?

Worship Help for Parents and Children

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

Colors, Candles and Crosses

How do you learn best — by words, diagrams, or by touching and doing yourself? We all encounter the world and learn in different ways. Much of our faith culture is passed along in the written and spoken word. But much is visual as well.

Early cultures shared history and traditions orally. Later those stories were written. At the same time cave paintings and illustrations on ancient buildings and walls speak to the importance of visual stimulation, remembering, and learning. (The artist was as important as the storyteller!)

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

Candles are a symbol of Christ as Light of the World. An empty cross proclaims the victory of resurrection; a crucifix reminds us of the Savior's passion and death. Stained glass windows or banners proclaim a message through color and symbol. Such visuals speak Gospel at so many different levels. We remember Jesus' words to let our light shine as we lift up a candle at the baptism of our infants!

Every Sunday the altar color proclaims a theme. Advent is blue (for royalty.) Christmas and Epiphany are white (for stars and angels, and a Light for the World.) Lent is purple (for passion and a royal procession to the cross.) Easter is white (for the dazzling hope of the resurrection.) Pentecost is red (for the fire of the Spirit.) The Pentecost season is green (for the growing time of the Church.) Colors bring to mind words about faith, and help set the mood just as candles chase away shadows and gloom.

Communion vessels are silver, and candles are lighted, because Holy Communion is our special meal of the family. We remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples and his presence with us as we gather around his table. This is a most precious meal and so it is fitting for the table is set

with our finest dishes. (Just as we do in our own homes for special meals like Thanksgiving, Easter, or Christmas.

The stark bareness of the chancel (no colors, candles or furnishings) from Maundy Thursday to Easter announce the lonely vigil of death which our Savior endured for us. The powerful colors of our stained glass proclaims the Biblical message from Genesis to Revelation.

Our other windows in the sanctuary are clear, so we are reminded of the world in which we live and are called to serve. We are surrounded by so many visual aids, and rather than take them for granted, why not let each be understood as a gift that enhances and enriches your lives of faith!

For Parents with young children

We have all felt overwhelmed with keeping children busy in worship, but what a blessing these visuals can be to help bring little ones into the power of our time of worship!

We have copies of children's Bible with pictures next to their book bags to help teach them the stories of faith. Children's bulletins allow them to draw pictures that reinforce a theme for the day. Why not have them pick a scene from the window to copy and use that to talk about that message for the day? Ask what color the pastor is wearing and talk about why colors change. Look at wood-carvings (from Jesus' passion) and use them to talk about what Jesus did out of love for us.

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

Pastor Seeber

Catechism Review for Adults (continued)
“CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION”
Part 2

ABSOLUTION is the key to faith! Our confession is followed by God’s Absolution. This two part beginning to worship prepares us for everything that happens next, not only in worship but in all of living. With a clean slate we are ready to hear of God’s love as well as taste its fullness and peace. “You are forgiven!” are the greatest words ever, and the essence of God’s relationship of grace.

To absolve means to free someone from the results of their action. That happens in court when a judge decides to waive a sentence that is deserved. That is absolution! That happens every time a child feels the power of love as a parent forgives a temper tantrum or a bad report card. Every parent feels the joy of such a gift when our children forgive us for our moments of anger or thinking our needs are greater than those of our kids. Absolution is the great escape, allowing us to move forward without the weight of what we can’t go back and change.

In our relationship with God, there is nothing we can ever do to make things right. There are no circumstances that free us from the obligation to love God and neighbor. When we break the trust or relationship we have as a gift from God we are guilty as sin. Period! That is it! Confession is being honest with ourselves and God; owning up to what we have done, and know better than to have done. Absolution is always a gift of love from the one who has control over the deserved punishment. There is no escape from guilt on our own. However, in the gift of grace, God announces that even though we are guilty and trapped by the brokenness of sin, He forgives us, enabling us to move forward in a new way.

That might not seem like a big deal, but it really is. Every time we sin we are rebelling against God. He has created us to live in a perfect relationship of love and praise for the wonder of his creative love. Every time we break that relationship, it is an attack on God and creation. Every lie, every time of gossip, every moment of using God’s name inappropriately, every time of saying “my time is more important than time with God” tears at the fabric of the seamless creation God intended from the beginning.

Sin isn’t just an inconvenience to God’s plan, but an outright rebellion against God. Such rebellion deserves death. But God’s love is greater than his desire to punish and is the point of Jesus’ becoming a living absolution.

John 3:16-17 shares Jesus’ words on this matter: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”* Jesus is “absolution-in-the-flesh!”

We know how good it feels when someone we have embarrassed or hurt says “I forgive you.” That doesn’t take away the pain we have inflicted, but means we don’t have to live with guilt hanging over us. The Bible is full of stories of absolution. One of the greatest was the story Jesus told about a wasteful son who came home to accept the punishment he deserved. His father raced out to welcome him home, and said “you are still my son!” That is absolution just as clearly as Jesus showed to sinners whom he invited to dinner and wayward disciples he continued to love.

When we confess our sins publicly in worship, the pastor speaks for God saying “you are forgiven!” It isn’t the pastor’s forgiveness but God’s! Likewise, in private confession the words come as if from God himself whether spoken by a pastor, spouse, parent, or friend. Confession and Absolution is a sacred moment, whether on a Sunday morning in worship, in private confession with a pastor, or when a loved one says “I forgive you.” in such moments we give voice to God’s gift of grace. It always becomes the starting place for a fresh start, and opportunity for growth!

Absolution is like Easter’s resurrection, because life is returned and guilt is erased. Every time of absolution is a time of new beginnings, a fresh start. Luther taught that beginning each morning with the sign of the cross was a fitting reminder of Baptism’s absolution. There is no better way to begin worship, a new day, or a new relationship. This is the heart of law and Gospel, as God restores what is broken. Absolution IS the Gospel in the present announcing God’s love is greater than the selfishness of sin. What a wonderful gift that changes the playing field forever! -tws

Choir Starts a New Season

After a restful summer break, Zion's Choir is getting ready for another season of singing God's praise. We would love to have more singers join us! We rehearse every Thursday night, starting promptly at 7:00 and ending at 8:00. If you enjoy singing with a group, blending your voice in harmony with others, and learning new music, consider joining us. We work hard but we also laugh and pray together. Our rehearsals begin September 19, and we will sing approximately once per month during the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services.

Questions? Contact Roxanne Nieboer, Director, at roxanne.nieboer@gmail.com or 269-501-2772.



Small Group Opportunity This Fall

Beginning in September, the Parents Small Group will begin its 14th year. This group is for parents of newborn through Age 14 children. We discuss parenting from a Christian perspective. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and develop relationships with people from your own age group. Please contact John Buetow at (269) 599-8031 with any questions.



Save the date for our Children's Ministry Fall Fest! Fun and activities will be geared towards families with children in 5th grade and younger. Snacks, crafts, and fun Fall activities await on October 12th from 2-4pm. Watch for more info!



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

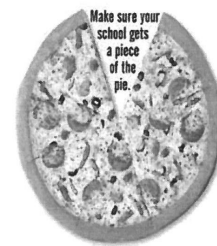


LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SEWING GUILD

While Zion's Sewing Guild is packing quilts and baby bundles for shipping, Venezuelans are receiving physical and spiritual help following the country's economic crisis.

PAPAJOHNS®
Better Ingredients. Better Pizza.

Dollars for dough Fundraiser Event



**Zion Lutheran Church
Monday 9/30/24**

**Use Promocode ZIONZA
When ordering online at Papajohns.com**

**You'll get 10% off your order
They will get 20% in return**

Valid at participating Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Portage, Niles,
& Grand Rapids, MI locations.

Not valid with any other specials or offers.

Valid for Carry out or Delivery. Limited delivery area and Fee apply.



CHURCH PICNIC & MINISTRY FAIR

WHEN

Sunday, September 8th

11:30am Games, Activities, Fellowship

12:00pm Lunch

WHERE

**Zion "Horseshoe" (turnaround
area by the Sanctuary)**



**ALL AGES
EVENT**

**NO NEED TO
BRING
ANYTHING BUT
YOURSELF!**

**COME SEE THE
VARIOUS
MINISTRIES AT
ZION AND
WHERE YOU
WANT TO BE
INVOLVED**

**Bouncehouse,
games, outdoor
seating**

**Fried Chicken and
sides**





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/1 Brad Glasser, Annette Nickel
- 9/2 Christine Eichaker, Hudson Leitz, Veronica Schoonbeck, Dee Wentzel, Austin Wordell
- 9/3 Cassidy Eastman
- 9/4 Nathan Adlam, Jackson Bierlein, Alex Schultz, Laura Tinigin
- 9/6 Laura Holt, Nathan Holt, Glen Kellam, Lee Kneer, Avery Leitz
- 9/7 Beth Fletcher, Ginger Skuratowicz
- 9/8 Laurie Anderson, Gail Nelson
- 9/10 Daniel Buchtrup, Deborah Klug
- 9/11 Adam Brege
- 9/12 Karl Dinda
- 9/13 Cyndi Bremer, Rebecca Pasman, Zachary Rollen, Piper Soppelsa
- 9/14 Steven Nuyen
- 9/15 Todd Hansen, Geeta Rossi
- 9/16 Erik DuBois
- 9/18 Brenda Rakow
- 9/19 Paul Bowes, Evie Linebaugh, Blake Scheffler, Michelle Turczyn
- 9/20 Yvonne Wordell
- 9/21 Paul Noseworthy, Sophia Saylor, Taylor Turczyn, Cheryl Zerbel
- 9/23 Fred Bierlein
- 9/24 Carol Beutler, Patty Kenter, Samuel Klein, Allison Weber
- 9/25 Isabella Greene, Roxanne Seeber
- 9/28 Genevieve Miller
- 9/30 Anthony Parente

3rd Tuesday of Every Month - 2:00pm at Zion
Presenter—Vicki Our Book for September:

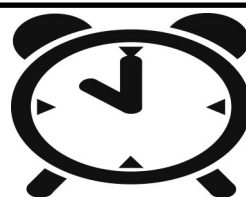
Woman's Daughter

By Kim Michele

Richardson



Zion Women's Book Group



Fall Worship Times

**Starts Sunday, September 8
10:30a.m. Returns to Sanctuary**

Staff Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following staff for their service to Zion (September):
Roxanne Nieboer 9/01/2011

We celebrate with our 3rd graders as they receive Bibles:

Hannah Carlson

Louis Tinigin



We celebrate with those taking their First Communion:

Ellie Bentz

Jackson Bierlein

Gabe Carlson

Zoe Tinigin

The Rosin Family thanks everyone that came and assisted with the storm damage they experienced. You are all a blessing!

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES



The wish list item for **September is Canned Meat.** Please use the gray tubs under the church office window. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 Comm Worship 10:00 LAST Outdoor Comm Worship	2 Labor Day Office CLOSED Preschool CLOSED	3 1st Day FOJ Preschool	4 9:00 LWR Sewing Guild 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Midwk Kids 6:15 Bible Study 6:15 Conf Class	5	6	7 5:30 Comm Worship
8 Grandparents Day 8:00 Comm Worship 9:15 1st SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship*New Time 11:30am Congregation Picnic & Ministry Fair	9 6:30 Personnel 6:30 Endowment	10 10am P. Breije Bible	11 Patriot Day 9:00 LWR Sewing Guild 6:30 Property 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Midweek Kids 6:15 Bible Study/Conf Class	12 12 Finance	13	14 8am Men's Zoom Bible Study 5:30 Comm Worship
15 8:00 Comm Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Comm Worship 5:30 Youth Night	16 6:30 BOD	17 Constitution Day 10am P. Breije Bible 2:00 Women's Book Group	18 9:00 LWR Sewing Guild 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Midwk Kids 6:15 Bible Study 6:15 Conf Class	19 6:00 Choir	20	21 8am Men's Zoom Bible Study 2pm Prayer Shawl 5:30 Comm Worship
22 Autumnal equinox (GMT) 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship	23	24 10am P. Breije Bible	25 9:00 LWR Sewing Guild 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Midwk Kids 6:15 Bible Study 6:15 Conf Class	26 6:00 Choir	27	28 8am Men's Zoom Bible Study 5:30 Comm Worship
29 8:00 Comm Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Comm Worship 5:30 Youth Night	30 Papa John's Fundraiser Day! use code ZIONZA when ordering					

September 2024 WORSHIP LEADERS

	Sept 1 *Last wk 10am service	Sept 8 *Start 10:30am Service	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29
Head Ushers 8:00am	Steve Weber Fred Bierlein	Ted Maxson John DuBois	Fred Bierlein Richard Rakow	Walter Kohnkel Donya Mosher	Troy Cosgrove Mark Schoonbeck
Head Ushers 10:30am	Garr Gast Steve Stokes Joe Zerbel	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak Bob Folck	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien Brent Butler	Eric Carlson Dave Alsvig Dan Buchtrup	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast Steve Stokes
Acolytes 8:00/10:30am	N/A	8am Ashlynn Leitz/ 10:30am Eli Frazier	8am Beatrice Mayer/ 10:30am David Hampshire	8am Nikko Quezada/ 10:30am Grayson Field	8am Jackson Bierlein/ 10:30 Mark Skuratowicz
Cantor 8:00/10:30am	N/A	8am and 10:30am Karen Stokes Chapo	8am Linda Stieve/ 10:30am Debbie Kipp	8am and 10:30am Vicki Holt	8am Dennis O'Brien/ N/A
Communion Assist <i>Sat 5:30pm</i>	Kathleen Jordan	Joanne Bowes	Ted Maxson	Judy Adlam	Kathleen Jordan
Communion Assist. 8:00am	Matt Simmons	1. 2.	Greg Gerfen		Dave Newman
Communion Assist. 10:30am	Dana Butt	1. 2.	Dee Wentzel		Sue Bickel
Lectors 8:00am	Carol Daenzer	Jayne Mayer	Dave Mayer	Andrew Niedbala	Greg Gerfen
Lectors 10:30am	Janis Dinda	Alice Tomer	Erin Hampshire	Alison Carlson	Rollie Preuss
Altar Ministry <i>Saturday 5:30pm</i>	Mary Lou Wright	Melissa Noseworthy Diana Moulton	Paul Noseworthy Melissa Noseworthy	Mary Lou Wright Diana Moulton	1. Mary VandenBerg 2.
Altar Ministry 8:00am	1. Nicki Klein 2. Lucy Maxson	Joe Zerbel Larry Zerbel	1. Linda Mayer 2. Jayne Mayer		1. Linda Mayer 2. Jayne Mayer
Altar Ministry 10:30am	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. Vickie Asaro 2. Jeannette Meyer		1. 2.

***PLEASE NOTE: Gray boxes indicate no communion that Sunday. If there is an empty space and you are able to help please call the office at 269-382-2360 to add your name. Thank you.**

Zion Financial Report for July 31st, 2024

ZION: June Spending exceeded Expenses by \$ (19,009)
 YTD Spending exceeds Income by \$ (33,756) *24/25 Budget included a deficit of \$55,011.67
 YTD Giving is under the budget by \$ (16,074)
 YTD Spending is over the budget by \$ (10,143)

Questions? Please email Rhonda Newman at rnewmancpa@sbcglobal.net

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
FOJ	8,528	7,731	-797	17,055	10,231	-6,825
Soild Grounds	7,050	5,261	-1,789	14,100	21,361	7,261
Zion Giving & Misc.	61,900	64,430	2,530	123,800	107,726	-16,074
Total Income	77,478	77,422	-56	154,955	139,317	-15,638
EXPENSES						
Church Property	10,252	13,023	-2,772	20,503	19,436	1,067
Education Ministry	890	1,003	-113	2,380	1,252	1,128
Evangelism/Missions	75	0	75	150	0	150
Finance Ministry	6,460	6,405	55	12,920	12,820	100
FOJ Expenses	861	1,509	-648	1,721	2,062	-341
FOJ Staff	9,876	10,817	-941	19,753	20,729	-976
Missions - General	6,000	6,412	-412	12,000	10,837	1,163
Music Ministry	2,145	1,746	399	3,885	3,661	224
Office Operations	1,955	2,198	-243	3,777	6,132	-2,355
Other	170	212	-42	340	763	-423
SG Expenses	1,083	1,392	-308	2,167	2,291	-124
SG Staff	8,814	8,663	151	17,628	17,325	303
SG Zion Mission Support	-3,348	-3,573	225	-6,696	-5,993	-703
Worship	500	478	22	1,000	1,573	-573
Zion Haus	446	655	-209	892	1,212	-320
Zion Staff	35,255	45,490	-10,235	70,510	78,973	-8,463
Total Expenses	81,434	96,430	-14,996	162,930	173,073	-10,143
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-3,956	-19,009	-15,052	-7,975	-33,756	-25,781

BALANCE SHEET	6/30/2024	7/31/2024	YTD Change
ASSETS			
Cash	107,662	78,654	-29,008
Investments	165,243	165,551	308
Due To/From Endowment	-25,807	-18,929	6,878
Dedicated Funds	-111,780	-89,218	22,562
TOTAL	135,318	136,057	739
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities	6,982	26,882	19,900
Unrestricted Funds	128,336	109,175	-19,160
TOTAL	135,318	136,057	739

MORTGAGE LOAN

Balance 7/31/2024 \$393,374
 Monthly Payment \$6,350.00
 Additional Principal \$0.00

Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000

Youth Ministry \$11,603
 New Staff \$57,859
 Midweek Dinner/Kitchen \$3,747
 FOJ Fundraising \$4,893

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

September

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

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KALAMAZOO, MI

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Fall Worship
Schedule**

BEGINS

September 8th

10:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary



**CHURCH PICNIC AND
MINISTRY FAIR**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH AT
11:30**