



Harbinger

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Living in Kalamazoo for three months now is long enough to where it feels like home, but still new enough that each day I continue to learn things about Zion and the area. Most days I meet someone new, whether a member of the church greeting me after a service or a team member at Meijer helping me find something in the vast expanse of a store.

It's a curious balance. I'm at home, but it doesn't always feel like home. Yes, I'm in a house with my wife, our two college-aged kids, and all our stuff, but it doesn't have the memories and recollections of our previous home of two decades. Time is the answer I know. It takes time to build memories and routines. It will take time for Laura and me to create a life together here at Zion and within the community, and we are committed to doing that, of course.

We both believe Zion is God's will for us. That's why I accepted your Call, and three months in, yes, it's starting to feel like home. Routines and habits (hopefully good ones!) are being developed. Perhaps most importantly, relationships are being cultivated.

Many of you have gone to great effort to make us feel welcomed,. You've shared kind greetings after church, sent us encouraging cards and notes, and have prayed for us regularly. Many of you even took time to attend my Wednesday night summer Bible study. It was so nice to be able to get into that routine and to do something I was familiar with while in the midst of experiencing so much that wasn't familiar to me.

Zion is starting to feel like home to the Saylor family. Your affection and support have gone a long, long way in making that a reality. Once again, thank you for all you have done for us!

And since you are taking the time to read this article, it's most likely that Zion is your home, too. Work obligations or family vacations may have kept you away and If you haven't made it home recently, I'm hoping you can make it here soon. September is a great time to get back into that routine and to develop the good habit of reflecting on God's Word, receiving His Supper, and rejoicing in all the good things the Lord has done for us. New educational offerings for all ages starting up this month; the perfect time to come home. As Dorothy famously said, "There's no place like home!" By the grace of God, you and I are home at Zion. Can't wait to see you here!

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

Pastor Mike

Catechism Review: Baptism Part 2

Baptism is more than an event; it is our entrance into a lifetime with God. It is a celebration of God's gift of life, and the beginning of a relationship in the warm embrace of God's love. Baptism announces the purpose, blessing, and gift of a life to be lived. There are many ways to help us grow in the freedom it brings and taste the joy which it offers.

Baptism is more than just a necessary ritual; it is the beginning of a lifetime of faith and faithful living. For that reason, pastors meet with parents before the baptism of a first child, as it is a wonderful time to review the elements of this great sacrament. This reminds parents of their unique role in the faith life of their child and God's gift of family.

Children's Bibles and storybooks, Sunday School, Confirmation, sermons, youth group, servant events, and Bible studies are also ways of continuing to grow in the joy of this moment. When an older child or adult is baptized, we might spend even more time helping to answer questions and supporting one's faith journey.

There are many Bible stories that fill the gift of Baptism with deeper meaning. Rather than something we do once, all of these gifts help us to daily grow in the relationship that Baptism begins.

For instance, the story of Noah and Flood illustrates the saving power of Baptism. Just as flood waters destroyed evil that ruined God's creation, that same water lifted up the faithful and carried them into a new life. That is grace!

Exodus provides another illustration. As an infant, Moses was saved from death by floating in a river. As an adult, he led Israel out of slavery in Egypt, through a water crossing. At the same time, the power of that water destroyed the chasing armies of death! So much life begins with water.

After forty years in the desert, it was through another water crossing (the Jordan River) that the waterless life of the desert was ended as God's people entered a land of milk and honey!

At the moment of Jesus' death, John 19 records that blood and water flowed from Jesus' side on

the cross. And his death is referred to in John as an exodus event. Water, water, everywhere!

What powerful reminders these can be of how Holy Baptism frees us from death and carries us into daily journey with a risen Savior! Each time we celebrate a Baptism, we are reminded of our own escape, washing, and being filled with the waters of life. Baptism is a gift which announces our new life of blessing!

Baptism is not dependent on our faith, but is a powerful GIFT of grace, which means it is God's doing, not ours! (For that reason, in an emergency, any Christian can baptize!) From the beginning the Church baptized children born into Christian homes. That commits parents to the great responsibility of teaching their children of the saving power of God in their lives. It also is a responsibility of the congregation to assist and support parents in nurturing each life of faith!

The gift of the Church is that we are the Body of Christ in this time and place. Together we do for each other what sometimes is difficult for any of us to do alone. In other words, we are children and parents to each other and share in this joyful task of affirming our baptismal promise! Baptism brings us into a family and families do all they can to care for and nurture each other.

We have so many ways to help each other grow in the covenant of our baptisms and into active participation in the new family that God gives us as he gathers us together. More than we often realize, it is our example, or what children of all ages see in each of us, that can assist in faith.

When we remember the terrible scene of Jesus' crucifixion and death, we also remember that Jesus looked down at Mary and the disciple John. His words were, "Woman, this is your Son." And to John, "This is your mother!" In baptism, that same gift of a new family in Christ is ours as well.

Our liturgy for worship is based on the belief that Baptism begins our life in Christ. Through Baptism we are renewed, refreshed, nourished, and led into a new way of living that is based on servant love. Baptism is more than something "we do." Much more! It is one of God's great gifts that changes who we are, and how we live.

- tws

Some thoughts about the Lord's Prayer (by Frederick Buechner)

*In the Episcopal order of worship, the priest sometimes introduces the Lord's Prayer with the words, "Now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say..." The word **bold** is worth thinking about.*

We do well not to pray the prayer lightly. It takes guts to pray it at all. We can pray it in the unthinking and perfunctory way we usually do only by disregarding what we are saying.

"Thy will be done" is what we are saying. That is the climax of the first half of the prayer. We are asking God to be God. We are asking God to do not what we want, but what God wants. We are asking God to make manifest the holiness that is now mostly hidden, to set free in all its terrible splendor the devastating power that is now mostly under restraint.

"Thy kingdom come ...on earth" is what we are saying. And if that were suddenly to happen, what then? What would stand and what would fall? Who would be welcomed in and who would be thrown the hell out? Which if any of our most precious visions of what God is and of what human beings are would prove to be more or less on the mark and which would turn out to be phony as three-dollar bills? Boldness indeed. To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze.

You need to be bold in another way to speak the second half. Give us. Forgive us. Don't test us. Deliver us. If it takes guts to face the omnipotence that is God's, it takes perhaps no less to face the impotence that is ours. We can do nothing without God. We can have nothing without God. Without God we are nothing.

It is only the words "Our Father" that make the prayer bearable. If God is indeed something like a father, then as something like children maybe we can risk approaching him anyway."

(from his book "Whistling in the Dark")

AN UPDATE FROM PASTOR SEEBER

Many have asked how things are going and how I am doing. The short answer is "well!" It is a time of adjustment and a time of healthy change.

I am getting used to my new schedule and allowing someone else to serve in the role of Senior Pastor. I am enjoying the change in roles and the opportunity it allows me to have a taste of being retired while continuing to have regular responsibilities in ministry.

Roxanne and I are enjoying seeing each other more regularly, and I am getting used to the freedom to be able to visit family, worship like a normal person, travel more often, and have more time for photography, and writing. As we talked about so often, my ministry role at Zion will be more of support than leadership.

To support Pastor Saylor and give all of you the opportunity to get to know each other in his role as Senior Pastor, I have maintained a cloak of invisibility for the first few months as he assumes his new role and you are able to affirm your support of him in that role.

As we move into the fall program, I will be more visible than I have been over the past three months. My new role with Zion is part time for several days a week. My responsibilities will be writing, hospital and emergency visitation, some teaching, and whatever support is helpful for Pastor Saylor.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue to share the gifts God has given me in the support of this congregation and our community. My primary responsibilities are our radio ministry, weekly Facebook meditations, Harbinger articles, and one or two Bible studies this fall.

I have just finished writing the Advent worship series for December, and will coordinate an Advent devotional booklet written by Pastor Mike, Aaron, Pastor Mark, and myself. I will also be spending time in special projects such as our art ministry and hopefully more offerings for older adults. I am enjoying my new role and appreciate the opportunity you all have given me.

Blessings! Pastor Tim

What About Eulogies?

A friend asked why many churches do not permit eulogies at funerals, while others do. I felt it might be helpful to share our conversation.

Eulogy comes from two Greek words; “*eu*” means good; “*logia*” means “words.” So eulogy means good words. (Keep that in mind for later!) And so eulogy means good words shared about someone’s life.

The first issue in death is to face our grief with love. The price of love means death is a pain-filled moment. No matter how death comes, whether suddenly or slowly, the pain is the same.

Loss is never easy, but it helps to share why someone has been special in our life. It helps to have others affirm why our loved one was so special, as that validates our grief and reminds us that we are not alone. It helps to remember as a way of making sure we don’t forget.

A second issue, for people of faith is to confess that Easter as the only good word that can change the loss and finality of death. There is no way to sugarcoat death. It isn’t fair. It hurts. And an emptiness results. But for Christians, there is another story which changes this earthly story.

Easter is the primary focus of our faith. It is the best word we can use at the time of death. When earthly death comes, Easter alone can change tears of sadness into tears of joy. There is no word or news better than Easter! No reason for hope, faith, or joy in the face of the earthly pain of death. And these two themes wrap themselves around the rituals in our Christian and cultural encounter with the death,

We should always be mindful of the truth that we are saved, not by what we do, but by what Jesus has done for us! No matter how good anyone has been, death comes to all. Jesus’ teaching, and Paul’s explanation in Romans, is that faith alone is our hope. Faith, rather than earthly deeds, is what saves us and keeps us close to God’s loving gift of grace. Faith, not works!

For some reason, over time, some developed the false idea that that there are things we can do to merit God’s love or gain us a foothold on the gift of heaven. The earthly perspective is that the

better one is, the greater the chance God will respond with love. In other words, the better the life, the better the chance that heaven would be the reward.

The Reformers thankfully were able to steer the Church back to the scriptural reality that faith alone is what brings us into and keeps us in a relationship with God. Easter, rather than earthly accomplishments, is the key to finding hope, joy and peace in the face of death.

For that reason, in any Christian funeral or memorial service Easter is the most important issue to celebrate.

At the same time, we have a deepfelt need to bring the unique life story of a loved one into the context of Easter. A pastor’s task is to blend the gift of one’s earthly life with the miracle of Easter, so that a funeral is more personal and not just pious words. But that is also the gift for every Christian. That is our tradition. It isn’t easy, as death is painful for all, but we try.

Outside of faith a eulogy might be the only good word of the day, helping with earthly feelings of loss. Without faith in Easter, good words are the best one can do to feel better and death is still death. All have been to services full of good words but without the power of the gospel shadows will remain. A eulogy is not enough.

Finding a way to lift up the unique gifts of the life of a loved one is much easier when the last good word is Easter and not Death. There are many ways to accomplish this and meet the needs of people in the midst of deep grief. The Gospel must be personal in sermons. Family and friends should share stories, pictures, and memories both at the time of death and even more in the years that follow. But we must always say the best word of all is Easter, and Jesus’ loving promise that changes death into eternal life.

It isn’t that eulogies aren’t permitted, but the Good Word at death must always be the Gospel! It is good to remember the gifts and blessings of a loved one’s life. It is even more important to help each other when there are no earthly words capable of changing grief. The best good word of all was the first Easter message, “The tomb is empty! He is risen!” - Pastor Seeber

Adult Education

We have many opportunities throughout the week for adults to grow spiritually. Here is the lineup:

Sunday

9:15am Pastor Mike:

The Six Chief Parts

9:15am Pastor Tim:

Overview of Matthew

9:15am John & Candy: Parents Class *

9:15am Linda: Women of the Bible *

6:30pm-8pm Chuck's Small Group *

Tuesday

10am Pastor Brelje: Romans

wednesday

4:30pm Pastor Brelje's Small Group *

6:15pm Pastor Mike: Isaiah

6:15pm Dave's Small Group *

8:30pm EOW Young Adult Zoom

saturday

8am Pastor Tim: Men's Study on Zoom

*For 4 weeks starting September 10 we have small groups discussing the Gospel reading. Groups may

Children's &

Youth Education

We have multiple opportunities throughout the week for children and youth to grow spiritually. Here is the weekly lineup:

Sunday

9:15am Sunday School (PK-5th)

9:15am Bible Study (6th-12th)

wednesday

6:15pm Kids Midweek (PK-5th)

6:15pm Confirmation Class (6th-8th)

Family Activities:

October 21 from 4-6pm **Fall Fest**
(Newborn-12th)

December 17 from 11:30am-1pm

Christmas Party (PK-5th)

April 6 from 2-4pm **Spring Celebration**
(Newborn-12th)

Youth News

We will continue to meet as a combined Middle School/High School Youth Group. Any student entering 6th-12th grades is invited to attend unless specifically noted!

Friends are also invited!

Confirmation Class (6th-8th)

Wednesdays, starting
September 6th

Bible Study

Sundays, starting September
10th at 9:15am in the High
School Youth Room

Church Picnic

Sunday, September 10th at
11:30am—games, etc

Gameshow Night

Sunday, September 17th from
6-8pm—recreate popular
gameshows!

Echoes

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

I was listening to the Christian radio station (WCSG 91.3fm) a few months back and a listener called in with a request. She asked for anything concentrated on thankfulness. She was thankful for the good Samaritan who helped her daughter that morning with a flat tire. He helped her push her car into his driveway and then proceeded to change the tire. Cool right?

Well after the song another listener called in. It was the man who had helped the daughter change her tire!!!

During the day God is at work. But so many times we don't take Him up on the offer to do His work OR we don't recognize it. The fact that both the daughter/mom and the good Samaritan were listening to a Christian based radio at the same time is just more evidence of God at work.

It may not be in changing a flat tire but God wants to work through you to build His kingdom. As His child you have a job to do—work! Show His work! Not ONLY Christians help others. But ALL Christians should help others.

Family Life

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Upcoming Schedule

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

September 6: NEW Kid's Midweek (see below) 5:15pm-7:15pm

September 10: Sunday School Resumes at 9:15am

September 10: Church Picnic at 11:30am

NEW KID'S MIDWEEK

As we begin a new school year we are pleased to announce a new opportunity for spiritual growth! Wednesday nights starting September 6th we will be offering an evening of rotating fun for your Preschool-5th grade student. We'll start out all together in a VBS style opening (large group, singing and Bible story presentation) and then have the option for one of two specially focused breakouts. These will be offered back to back weeks in case a student wants to attend both!

Special breakout sessions will include art, music, exercise, drama, and more! Each week we'll focus on a different Bible story and use these different breakouts as opportunities to dive into the story more.

Better yet, we have a dinner offered each Wednesday night so you won't even have to cook! Here's the typical schedule:

5:15pm Dinner

6:15pm Opening

6:35pm Breakout

7:15pm Head home

We hope you'll join us for this fun opportunity!!!



Small Group Bible Study Members and those interested in joining a small group it's Fall Festival time

Sept 24th 2:00p—5:00p

Charlie & Cindy Krill's

Prudential Nursery

13038 S 24th St Vicksburg 49097

Spend the afternoon hanging out at Krill's nursery and beautiful farm. Bring your own chairs and enjoy time around a bonfire. There will be a variety of local cider and donuts to try.

If you wish, bring your own beer / wine.

There will be hayrides, cornhole games and sing-alongs.

Put yourself in an Autumn state of mind.

Sign up on the Kiosk
or call the church office.



**GRATEFUL HEARTS /
THANKFUL HANDS**

Prices are high! Inflation is up!

This is not true when it comes to Zion's bazaar! We will continue to have quality items at affordable prices! This will definitely be the right spot to begin your Christmas shopping!!

Please continue to help us support our Zion church and outside ministries by contributing to the bazaar. We accept anything but clothing and large pieces of furniture for our attic treasures.

Handcrafted items are so popular as well as baked goods. It's not too early to start thinking about cookies, breads and bars. For our canners, there is a limited number of canning jars available. If you have questions, please contact Jayne Mayer~375-8342.

As always, please place any donated items in the designated container in the workroom.

Any questions? Please call
Jayne Mayer 375-8342



For more than 75 years, Lutheran World Relief has responded to war, disasters, and emergencies by making quilts.

Zion's Sewing Sisters have been grateful to be a part of this outstanding project for 49 years. Presently we are making quilts. After a quilt has been assembled, and pressed, it must be tied.

We have many quilts to be tied. Last year, 220,000 quilts traveled to 19 countries. By air or by sea, the quilts are sent to their destination sites, sending God's love to families who need them. Our last sewing day for this year is Wednesday, Sept 27th. All of our work will be boxed and taken for shipping on October 14th. Feel free to come and help us on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. We will be waiting for you!

"Zion's Adult Choir will start rehearsing on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 7:00 p.m. New singers are welcome! Contact Roxanne Nieboer with questions: 269-501-2772."

Church Pals: Many years back we had a ministry that connected adults with our Sunday School kids. At least one such story remains...a now college sophomore received a birthday card from his church pal...he is always so surprised and encouraged that she remembers him. Would you be interested in being a part of restarting this ministry? We are looking for adults who want to spread some of Christ's love through a kind message, prayer, or Sunday School activity. We are looking for adults who want to invest in the ongoing ministry of the Church. Intergenerational friendships, mentorships, and encouragement from a variety of members in a congregation have led to students feeling more connected in the Body of Christ. If you are interested in being a part of this restart, please contact Aaron Grube or Linda Stieve.

Small Group: Join a small group for a 4-week commitment as we discuss the Gospel lesson each week. We have groups that meet Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday afternoon, and Wednesday evening. Sign up with a registration form or call the church office!

Or Use the QR Code



FRIENDS OF JESUS

We made it! Our first day of preschool will be Tuesday, September 5th, and we cannot wait to learn, grow, and share about Jesus. Thank you for all the support, kind words, and prayers throughout the months leading up to this day and throughout this school year! As well as the donated snacks and school supplies.

Enrollment at Friends of Jesus Preschool is ongoing, so we will continue to accept applications even once the school year has started.

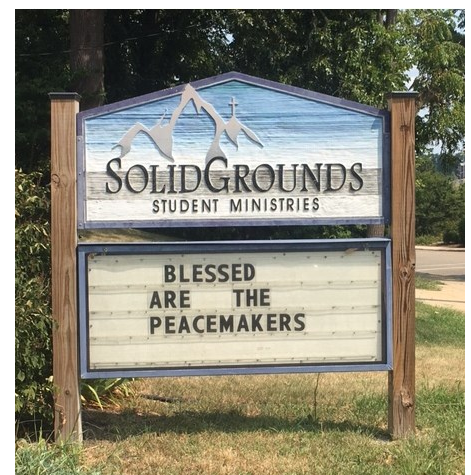
This first month of school we are excited to get to know our new friends and teachers, become familiar with school routines and host Grandparents' Day. For continuous updates about Friends of Jesus, follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FriendsofJesusPreschoolatZion.

Gratefully,

Jen LaPorte, Director

Solid Grounds report returns next month....

As Melody continues her recovery, the Couch family expresses gratitude for all the Love, Prayers and Support they have received and continue to receive. Thank you all!



CHURCH PICNIC & MINISTRY FAIR

WHEN

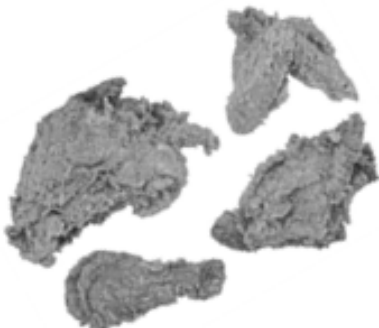
Sunday, September 10th

11:30am Games, Activities, Fellowship

12:00pm Dinner

WHERE

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



RSVP

**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**



**Please sign up on the Church
Kiosk or call the Office with
the number attending.**

**We want an accurate
headcount for the food order.**



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/1 Haven Besser, 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,
Alexander Schultz, Laura Tinigin
- 9/6 Laura Holt, Nathan Holt,
Glen Kellam Jr., 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, Sharon Preuss
- 9/13 Cynthia Bremer, Becky Pasma,
Zachary Rollen, Piper Soppelsa
- 9/14 Steve Nuyen
- 9/15 Todd Hansen, Horst Jendralski
- 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, Patricia Kenter, Samuel
Klein, Allison Weber
- 9/25 Isabella Greene, Roxanne Seeber
- 9/28 Genevieve Miller
- 9/30 Anthony Parente

Happy Grandparents' Day

Parish Report

Baptism:
Fletcher Nelson 8/13/2023

Staff Anniversaries

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

Roxanne Nieboer 9/01/2011
Marta Warren 9/13/2019

We celebrate with those taking

their First Communion:

Crosby Field

Ashlynn Leitz

Beatrice Mayer

Hayden Williams

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend

Sept 29th—Oct 1st

Best Western Plus, Kalamazoo

Resources for more information:

GodLovesMarriage.org,

Mark & Jan Chilcott 269.998.6147

Pete & Chris Wilkins 269.381.6324



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

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

Book Review: “Every Good Endeavor; Connecting Your Work to God’s Work.” Timothy Keller. Viking. 2012

Pastor Tim Keller, who recently died, has been a shining light in making the Gospel interesting and accessible to people of this generation. He grew up Lutheran, was ordained in the Presbyterian Church, and moved from a small congregation in Hopewell, Virginia to begin mission work among the young professionals of Manhattan in New York City.

We live in a time when many say the Christian Church is irrelevant and younger adults are not interested in faith, Keller showed that the message of scripture, is as relevant and powerful as it has ever been. The key is to understand one’s audience and let God speak to people’s hearts through the biblical text.

While many denominations are going out of their way to let politics and society shape the message of the Gospel, Keller allows the Gospel to be the powerful gift that it is. While many church leaders pontificate with big words, or see large crowds as success, Keller sees the success as what God has done in Christmas and Easter.

Two of his most read books are “The Reason for God” and “The Prodigal God,” both of which are available in our library at Zion. His approach is simple. It is biblically based, but shared in understandable words that relate to the life and times of each of us. His congregation in New York City grew to over 10,000 in several different locations. His loss to all of us was softened by the incredible resource of his writing.

How often have you met someone or been introduced by someone else and the first item of information that is requested or shared is where one works or what one does? We tend to identify and judge each other in such fashion. God sees us not by what we do as who we are, and this book is a reminder to look in the mirror as well as at each other in similar fashion.

As we spend so much of our evaluation of ourselves and others based on what is done, rather than who we are, this is what happens. Think about how easily we judge each other by what one does. For instance, some might say “she is a surgeon, I am only a bus driver.” Or, “I

am a pastor, and she didn’t even finish college.” You know how that works and how it feels, right?

Keller uses real world examples, much as Jesus used parables, to illustrate the biblical points he wishes to share. For instance, he refers to Peter Schafer’s play “Amadeus” to talk about work.

Antonio Salieri was a successful writer of operas and court composer to the Hapsburg emperor. IN every worldly sense he was successful, and yet when he heard the music of Amadeus Mozart he heard an incredible genius, much greater than he could ever become. And from then on his work became one of frustration and envy, for he could never compare with Mozart. That is a tension we have all felt in our own lives as we judge ourselves and others in the same way.

Keller begins with the first chapters of Genesis and the message that we are created in the image of God the Creator. And so, we are created to create; to care for, to produce, to nurture, to protect in our own ways with the gifts and opportunities God blesses each with.

Keller echoes much of what Martin Luther wrote about work and our calling (vocation) as Christians. You might forget that in Luther’s day, the vocation of holy orders (priests and nuns) was seen as the greatest earthly glory, and the daily efforts of serfs and peasants was seen as less than important. But Luther made certain people understand that fathers and mothers were the bishops and priests of their children as they were responsible for bringing them to faith.

Luther wrote extensively about and sees work as part of God’s plan for each of us, as a way of honoring God and utilizing the gifts and opportunities we have in our daily work. Keller continues and expands in this very readable and practical book.

Keller uses concrete examples to show how we have been created to work, and that work is how we give honor to God and serve those around us. When that is how we see ourselves, others will as well, and success or satisfaction is based on our joy in serving God and neighbor rather than only in salary, accolades, titles, or awards. I wish this book had been available while I was struggling with whether or not I was in the right vocation.

Pastor Seeber

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	
3 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	4 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	5 FOJ Opens	6 9:00 Sewing 5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	7	8	9 5:30 Worship
10 Grandparents Day 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Note Time Change 11:30 Church Picnic	11 Patriot Day 6:30 Endowment	12 10:00 P. Brelje Bible Study	13 9:00 Sewing 5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	14 Noon - Finance	15	16 5:30 Worship
17 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6-8p Youth Game Show	18 6:30 BOD	19 10:00 P. Brelje Bible Study 2:00 Book Group	20 9:00 Sewing 5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	21	22	23 5:30 Worship
24 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2-5 Sml Grp Fall Festival	25	26 10:00 P. Brelje Bible Study	27 9:00 Sewing -Last Day 5:15 Dinner 6:15 MidWeek Kids 6:15 Conf. Class 6:15 Bible Study	28	29	30 5:30 Worship
		Notes				

SEPTEMBER 2023 WORSHIP LEADERS

	SEPTEMBER 3	SEPTEMBER 10	SEPTEMBER 17	SEPTEMBER 24
Acolytes 8:00am		Nikko Quezada	Eli Frazier	Grayson Field
Acolytes 10:00am		Noah Bentz	Sarah Skuratowicz	James Mayer
Head Ushers 8:00am	John DuBois Stan Leitz	Fred Bierlein Rich Rakow	Alan Sarver Walt Kohnke	Steve Weber Mark Schoonbeck
Head Ushers 10:00am (10:30)	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien
Cantor 8:00am		Karen Stokes Chapo	Linda Stieve	Vicki Holt
Cantor 10:00am(10:30)		Karen Stokes Chapo		Vicki Holt
Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm	Joanne Bowes	Kathleen Jordan	Roxanne Seeber	Judy Adlam
Communion Assistants 8:00am	Mike Schlack	Jim Mayer	Matt Simmons	Jim Mayer
Communion Assistants 10:00am (10:30)	Steve Nuyen	Garr Gast	Steve Buff	Karen Stokes Chapo
Lectors 8:00am	Andrew Niedbala	Dave Mayer	Jayne Mayer	Dave Mayer
Lectors 10:00am (10:30)	Erin Hampshire	Greg Gerfen	Chris Wilkins	Alison Carlson
Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm	1.Arlene Masek 2.	1. 2.	1.Phil Rettman 2. Mary VandenBerg	1. 2.
Altar Ministry 8:00am	1. Carol Daenzer 2.	1. Linda Mayer 2. Jayne Mayer	1. Vicki Holt 2. Jayne Mayer	1. Larry Zerbel 2. Joe Zerbel
Altar Ministry 10:00am (10:30)	1. Carrie Chapman 2.Melissa Noseworthy	1. 2.	1. Carrie Chapman 2.	1. 2.

Please Note: There are several Altar Ministry opportunities in September unscheduled. Please contact the Office if you are available to assist. Thank you!

Zion Financial Report for July 31, 2023

ZION: July Spending exceeded Giving by \$10,360

YTD Giving is under by \$3,231; YTD Spending is over by \$4,566

Questions? Please email Rhonda Newman at newmanrca@sboglobal.net

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
Zion Giving & Misc.	65,117	63,245	-1,872	130,828	127,597	-3,231
EXPENSES						
Church Property	9,350	10,147	-797	18,700	25,517	-6,817
Education Ministry	1,000	3,251	-2,251	2,900	3,995	-1,095
Evangelism/Missions	75	0	75	150	0	150
Finance Ministry	6,395	6,889	-494	12,790	13,261	-471
FOJ Expenses	670	0	670	948	0	948
FOJ Staff	654	0	654	1,527	0	1,527
Missions - General	5,436	4,821	615	9,762	11,538	-1,776
Music Ministry	2,125	2,420	-295	3,845	4,985	-1,140
Office Operations	1,186	682	504	3,153	1,865	1,488
Other	166	0	166	332	281	51
SG Expenses	890	542	348	1,780	3,501	-1,721
SG Staff	9,448	9,752	-304	18,896	19,504	-608
Worship	700	346	354	1,190	1,145	45
Zion Haus	447	178	269	894	291	603
Zion Staff	35,331	34,576	755	72,437	68,186	4,251
Total Expenses	73,873	73,605	268	149,304	153,870	-4,566
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-8,756	-10,360	-1,604	-18,476	-26,273	-7,797

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2023	7/31/2023	YTD Change
ASSETS			
Cash	120,658	101,211	-19,447
Investments	160,547	161,995	1,448
Due To/From Endowment	-12,713	-14,340	-1,626
Dedicated Funds	-73,123	-71,220	1,903
TOTAL	195,369	177,646	-17,722
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities	5,850	6,045	196
Unrestricted Funds	189,519	171,601	-17,918
TOTAL	195,369	177,646	-17,722

MORTGAGE LOAN

Balance 7/31/2023	\$452,427
Monthly Payment	\$6,350.00
Additional Principal	\$0.00

Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000

FOJ Fundraising	\$6,224
Youth Ministry	\$9,726
New Staff	\$36,678
Solid Grounds	\$6,372

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

September

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 479
KALAMAZOO, MI

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Fall Worship
Schedule**

BEGINS

September 10th

10:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary



CHURCH PICNIC AND

MINISTRY FAIR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH AT

11:30