

Looking Up | Reaching Out



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Harbinger

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I recently purchased a new pair of sunglasses while at Wal-Mart for \$1.48. Yes, sunglasses for less than two bucks. No, they weren't on clearance or sold "as is" with maybe one of the lenses missing, but I bought a pair of disposable glasses to be worn when looking at a solar eclipse.

In case you haven't heard, on April 8th we here in North America will experience a solar eclipse, with a total solar eclipse happening just south of us in Indiana and Ohio.

A solar eclipse happens when the moon, which circles the earth once every 27.33 days, is directly between the earth and the sun. A "total" eclipse means that, from the perspective of the earth, the moon fully covers (or blocks) the sun. In essence, the moon blocks the sun's light from getting to earth for the few minutes it takes for the moon to move across the path of light the sun constantly sends us.

And because the earth is always rotating, when a solar eclipse happens there's only a small area of earth that can experience a "total" eclipse. Again, that total eclipse is happening very near us this time. Here in western Michigan, we'll have about 90% of a total solar eclipse, so if the weather is good and the sun out (a big "if," I know!) we will definitely notice the shadow of the moon upon the earth, making the daytime feel like twilight.

With the right eyewear, such as the throw-away glasses I bought, you can look up toward the solar eclipse and see the outline of the moon as it passes through the sun's rays. Of course, it's an absolutely terrible idea to try to look up at the sun without protective eye wear. So don't do it!

The idea of looking up and seeing the sun is an almost too obvious metaphor of how we, the people of God, are to live on a daily basis.

In the brilliant light of Easter, we look to the Son, we look to God's only Son and our Risen and Living Savior. The entire month of April is part of the season of Easter and our continual celebration of Jesus' victory over sin, death and the power of the devil.

Thus, even as you plan to look at the sun on April 8th, may the Lord give us faith to look to the Son each day!

As some disciples declared in John 12:21, *"We would like to see Jesus."*

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us those eyes of faith that we would see Jesus at work in our lives each and every day. Only by His grace are we made to see Him.
-- Pastor Saylor

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Catechism Review The Lord's Prayer (part 4)**"Give Us Daily Bread"**

When we hear "daily bread" we think "food." Our hope is that God will never let us get hungry. But is this a demand or a reminder of what food is?

And what about people of faith who don't have daily food and are still hungry? Is God not listening, or do you think God is unaware of the needs of his hungry children? What is our request for daily bread really about?

For many, a food crisis is eating out because I don't want to cook or having one donut instead of two. What we don't need we freeze. What we will eat next week is already in a box somewhere. Most don't really understand the concept of daily bread as Jesus intended.

For Jesus (as for many still today) it was different. In his culture, bread could never be taken for granted. It took an entire season to grow grain. Then it was harvested, threshed, and ground into flour. There were no freezers or 24 hour grocery stores if extra guests suddenly appeared.

Every day, someone in the family spent most of the daylight hours mixing, kneading, leavening, and baking for the one evening meal. When each meal might be the last, daily bread was the essence of life! Daily bread is shorthand for what keeps us alive.

When we got our puppy, the first thing she did each morning was run to the food dish to see if there was food. What a basic instinct! But isn't it embarrassing when a puppy is more aware of dependence on me than I am on God?

This prayer reminds me to pay attention to where food comes from! It is about the miracle of life! Heavenly manna!

And what is daily bread for me might not be the same for another. To keep me alive, I might need a job, a home, or loved ones who care. When we ask for daily bread we are asking God for the stuff that keeps life going. It is about what I need, rather than what I want. It is remembering where to go for such shopping.

Most eat whether they deserve to or not. And many are hungry, whether they deserve to be or

not. Sometimes evil ones receive a banquet and sometimes the faithful endure famine. Why pray if God has other plans?

This prayer helps me focus so that when I eat; I celebrate God. And when I share daily bread with others, I am sharing God. This prayer opens our living to live-giving nourishment from God that can fill us as no other food. If God is Creator, then God is Owner. And if God is Owner, then all we have to support and sustain life is a "gift."

Don't forget God's gifts of sunlight, gravity, rain, fertile soil, a balance between good insect and pest, and so on and so forth. Daily bread is the gift of a God who has created all things and a plan so that life might be sustained and replenished.

It's amusing to watch birds fight over a slice of bread. They attack, steal, and squawk over what is more than any one could eat. If smart, they would divide the bread so each could eat rather than leaving some bruised and bloody or without anything to take back to their nests. And that becomes another lesson, as we understand gifts are given to be shared.

If I have life and someone else is hungry, this prayer reminds that just as Jesus love is shared so it is shared through me! And when I remember daily bread is a gift, then I understand how I use it becomes an act of worship in itself.

Remember the story of stone soup! A village starved by selfishness, was slowly gathered around a stranger, boiling a pot full of water and a rock. His word "it is good" convinced them that it was nourishing. As each added gifts of vegetables and seasoning, an entire village received and was transformed by the daily bread of grace. Jesus' word, "I am bread of life" has done the same for me!

Israel used bread of life as shorthand for the words of scripture, for they saw that as the nourishment for their spiritual lives just as manna kept them alive in the desert.

Jesus is our Bread of Life, and nourishes us from an empty tomb. As we pray we remember. As we remember we are fed. As we are fed, we are strengthened for service. Give us daily bread indeed! Thank you! Amen.

Baptism, Confirmation, and Affirmation

On April 28th some of our young people will be confirmed in their commitment to the faith of their Baptism. That makes this a good time to review what that means for all of us.

Many of us grew up with Confirmation Day as a public day to celebrate and recognize the fact that we were no longer children in Sunday School but moving into our teenage years.

There are times in our lives when we celebrate milestones of our lives. And this was a milestone for surviving several years of extra instruction in the Christian faith under the guidance of a pastor, DCE, or other adults who helped with instruction.

In the middle of the last century pastors of the major Lutheran church bodies in the U.S. spent a decade of study to come up with agreement upon guidelines for this important ministry. The goal was to review how we understand and practice this ministry. For too long this was seen by many as a rite of passage and a graduation from education in the congregation. The goal of the study was to integrate this process into our lifelong journey of faith.

It was felt by many that an opportunity of major significance in the lives of our young people was being missed. Confirmation had become viewed in the same way as graduation ceremonies. Many perceived this as a moment in time for dresses, suit coats, and pictures rather than a transition into a more adult journey of faith.

In 1971 the major Lutheran churches in the U.S. adopted this statement: ***“Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry of the church that is designed to help baptized children identify with the life and mission of the adult Christian community, and that is celebrated in a public rite.”***

This was an important opportunity for all of us as the focus on continued spiritual growth rather than an end to such growth was the emphasis of this affirmation. Our formal process of growing into our faith has the following components.

Baptism is our Sacrament of initiation, in which we celebrate God’s gift of faith in our lives which is lived

out as a member of the Body of Christ on earth, which we call “the Church.”

Baptism is a Sacrament of washing, which announces cleansing and rebirth. With the washing of water, the pastor **confirms** the faith of God’s child with a “hands on” blessing and the sign of the cross.

At baptism, parents, godparents, and the entire congregation make a commitment to help the newly baptized to grow in their faith. This is a community effort and a privilege we all share in helping each other to mature into the faith which baptism gifts us with.

The desire of Lutheran congregations was to see the ministry of confirmation in similar fashion.

We now define **Confirmation** as a lifelong pastoral and educational ministry of the Church. It is a response to the promises at Baptism and a concerted effort to help our young people fully identify with and participate in the mission and ministry of the Church.

The witness of Christian family and friends, Sunday School, worship, and our Confirmation ministry prepares our youth people for the day when they stand before of the congregation to publicly embrace their Christian faith.

Our youth **AFFIRM** their faith, and the Pastor **CONFIRMS** their faith with a blessing and the laying on of hands just as with Baptism.

We call this rite the **Affirmation of Baptism**. The process that prepares our youth for this celebration is our **Confirmation Ministry**.

This is a special and powerful moment for the entire congregation to stand with our youth as they prepare for the next years of their journey of faith! And so, this is not a graduation but a mile marker and a wonderful opportunity for our young people to say “I get it!” And the journey then moves forward in new ways.

This is a special day for all of us, for we are in this journey together! It is worthy of celebration, special remembrances, and the support of the entire congregation, both for our youth as well as their family and friends.

Worship Help for Parents and Children

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

The Sharing of Peace / Offering

In Jesus' day, sacrifices were brought to the temple as a sign of people's love for God and desire to surrender something of value to show that love. Christians kept that practice and brought gifts to share in worship.

The first Christians often gathered for a meal before worship (the first potlucks!) Others brought gifts of bread and wine for their feast of Holy Communion. They even pooled resources to take care of the needy in their midst or in other congregations.

In the Sharing of Peace we remember this practice and participate in our way today. Its roots come from the words of Jesus. He said: *"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."* (Matt. 5:23-24 ESV)

In other words, if anything stands between you and a neighbor, something stands between you and God! If we can't give to each other, how can we expect our gifts to God to have any real meaning? If we truly love God, we will truly love our neighbor. And before we share in God's meal for us, we first share his grace with each other.

In a sense, we are setting the table for Holy Communion as we share Christ's peace (our greatest gift) with each other. It is like washing our hands or giving thanks as we welcome, embrace, and share the love of Jesus as we prepare again to be nourished in a miraculous moment.

This is not just a quick hello, but a reminder of how Christ has welcomed and forgiven me with his love! My response is to reach out with that same love; to be one with you and the God has made himself one with me!

In worship we share that confession and the warmth of that love with each other. Better yet, if there is anyone you have a problem with, don't wait, go to them in private, ahead of time. Settle differences, and forgive. That allows our public

display of peace to be even more meaningful. As we gather in worship, we truly are one in Christ, and rejoice he has helped us regain such peace. In sharing his peace, we are given the opportunity to make Jesus' words of forgiveness come to life.

This is what reaching out with Jesus' love looks and feels like. This celebrates our joy in not only receiving God's gifts but sharing the gift of his peace with each other.

This is serious, joyful, spirit-filled business, not pretend or for show. If you are not willing to forgive and be forgiven, what meaning does God's gift of grace have for you?) Christ has died to make peace! We must live in peace! As we share the peace of the Lord we are reminded how such a gift is to be shared daily, faithfully, and lovingly!

For Parents with Younger Children

You know how important it is to hug your kids. They need more than just words. And after moments of chastisement or critique they need even more to know you love them still! When I tell my kids I am sorry, I had better physically show them the same thing.

Words without action have a hollow ring. This is what we are doing in worship as we share the peace of the Lord. We are saying to each other, "Jesus loves me, and I want you to be touched by that same love!"

We know how tempers can flare, and voices can be raised in discipline (and then wish we had first counted to ten and maybe not been so intense.) We also know how warm and humbling it is when our little ones come back to us anyway (whether it is the next day or even years later) and say, "I love you Dad! I love you Mom!" We can learn much from them! This moment in worship is no less powerful.

Just as we embrace words of forgiveness and love at home, we must learn to do that in worship and our daily living. Liturgy is often something we don't think about, but in the repetition of reaching out this becomes a more natural action of faith. (Just like learning to brush teeth or pick up clothes.) When we do it often and regularly, we do it as naturally as breathing. And what a holy breeze the sharing of peace becomes!

Family Life

Family Ministry News

Upcoming Schedule

April 3, 10, 17, 24: Midweek Kids

**April 7: Children's Min singing in 10:30am
worship + reception afterwards**

May 19: Last Day of Sunday School

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ" is the title of a song by Terri Dittmer, former LCMS Director of Youth Ministry written forty years ago. The lyrics of the song promote unity in the Body of Christ. This spans not only a single congregation but the entire Church—the family of believers. Sure, doctrine and theology can be sources of division. Practice and traditions can be causes of disagreement. But the common belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is what brings us together with other followers of Christ.

That being said, we should celebrate the uniqueness of our own congregation as well as others. What we do well, others might not do at all. What others make their big ministry effort, we might only focus a fraction of our resources. God has called us to share His love—He does not specify how. As a congregation we identify opportunities and talents from within and allow the Holy Spirit to produce fruit through our efforts. As Paul states, we are one body but many parts. Let us remember, Zion is a part of the Body of Christ, not the entire body. As we continue our efforts to spread His love, let us remember our limitations as well as unique opportunities!

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)

April 3, 10, 17, 24 (Final day is May 1)

6:15-7:30pm

Bible Study

Sundays, at 9:15am in the High School Youth Room

Confirmation Day

We celebrate with our 8th grade students on April 28 at the 10:30am service

CONFIRMANDS:

Noah Bentz

James Mayer

Sarah Skuratowicz

Sydney Woods

SERVICE PROJECT

Saturday, April 20 from 9am-12pm (lunch included) we will be repacking diapers at St. Luke Diaper Bank. Sign ups limited to the first 10!

Echoes

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

A child grows up, as a regular at Sunday School and Youth Group and worship. Many connections with different adults created a reputation where everyone in the congregation knew who they were. But then a slow decline and a disappearance from worship and events. This is not unusual for a college aged young adult. But then what? We (the congregation) are supposed to solely rely on them to change their mind?

Programs are great. Until they are not. Eventually they made their way back to being involved but it took many one on one conversations, many chance encounters, and the occasional nudge...from many different congregation members. When people “disappear” from church they need to be reminded they are part of the Christian community. Many people that leave never hear from anyone at that church ever again! It is not solely the staff’s job to be the connecting point OR the nudge. It is your job...grow closer to one another and care for one another. Who is someone you haven’t seen in awhile? How will you reach out?

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT

Now that Spring Break week is over at WMU, we are headed down the homestretch of the Spring Semester and the 2023-2024 academic year. Finals week will be April 22-26, so the plan for these last 5 weeks is to finish as strong as possible.

In March a group of 5-6 WMU softball players, along with 10-12 graduate international students and I are volunteering at Tree of Life during their lunch/recess hour. I am excited for the graduate international students to join us. They are joining us because Deniss, the Fulbright student from Tanzania that has attended Zion on numerous occasions, is trying to organize opportunities for the graduate international students to learn more about the Kalamazoo community at large and ways for them to connect and serve in the Kalamazoo community.

Deniss has been a great blessing to Solid Grounds and our campus ministry the last two years. Hopefully the international students will decide to stay involved with the kids at Tree of Life, in addition to the WMU athletes.

I am excited about the opportunity to mentor and work with both Jack and Savannah, once they arrive in Kalamazoo. In our last Monday evening Dinner and Discussion event before Spring Break week, I shared information with the students about Jack and Savannah spending half of their time with us on campus during the 2024-2025 academic year as part of their internship/vicarage year, and they were excited. One of the female students said: "Maybe Savannah can help lead a women's Bible study for us!"

I am hoping and praying that next year will be a great experience for Jack and Savannah and the returning students from Solid Grounds.

As far as my work with calling on shut in members from Zion, I really enjoy my time with them. We have several shut in members who are slowing down and dealing with a variety of health issues. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Thank you for your continued love and support for me. The counselor that I see at Desert Streams Christian Counseling Network asked me on my last visit: "What do you miss the most about Melody?" I told him that I miss her companionship and presence.

After returning from my trip to Florida to visit some of our long time friends from our years in St.

Petersburg, which was an incredible time and experience, I have found that the last few days back here have been sad and lonely, especially this weekend, as I miss Melody, and experience the void of losing my spouse and best friend.

What catches me off guard is when I have a couple of "good days" and feel more upbeat and then those days are followed by sad and "tough days". I am finding that grief is not a smooth process at all. Thank you for your prayers and love!

Pastor Mark

FRIENDS OF JESUS

Read-a-Thon 2024 was a wonderful success! Thank you for all the donations and support! Keep an eye out for our final total number of books read. The students celebrated the joy of reading with some fun dress-up days including Dress Like a Crayon and Silly Sock Day.

The children of Friends of Jesus are excited to share the joy of Easter with the congregation through song and praise on Sunday, April 7th at the 10:30 AM service. Along with Zion Children's Ministry, we will sing of the powerful Easter message. The congregation is invited to a reception of sweet treats following the service.

There is still time to sign up for summer camp sessions. Some of our adventures will include Bubble Party, Space Explorers, and Superhero Academy. Sessions run weekly with full and half-day options available. For more information about summer camp or preschool enrollment, see Jen LaPorte or visit our website at www.friendsofjesuspreschool.com.

As always, thank you for your continued support and enjoy these first few weeks of spring!

Thank you!

Jen LaPorte, Director

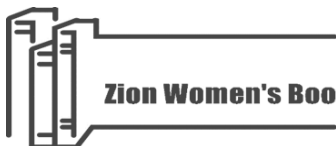
GRATEFUL HEARTS THANKFUL HANDS

Circle Nov 16th in red on your calendar for this year's Bazaar. Our prayer is, as you begin your spring cleaning or plan for an upcoming garage sale, you will consider donating items for our fall bazaar. Kitchen items, linens, holiday items, glassware, handbags, games, novels are always popular. Attic treasures can be places in the workroom.

Also, have you thought about how many volunteers helped make our sale so successful last year? 10? 20? More? Check next month for a surprising number!

It's not too early to turn in craft projects . When bringing in craft projects, please sign in the items on the sheet next to the container in the workroom.

Questions? Contact Jayne Mayer - 375-8342.



Zion Women's Book Group

Meets at 2:00p.m.
on the below dates

Date	Book Title	Author
4/16/2024	Lessons in Chemistry	Bonnie Garmus
5/21/2024	Horse	Geraldine Brooks
6/18/2024	The Only Woman in the Room	Marie Benedict
7/16/2024	The Island of the Sea Women	Lisa See
8/20/2024	River of the Gods	Candice Millard



OUTDOOR BEAUTIFICATION SCHEDULE FOR 2024

You are invited to join us as we care for and maintain the church grounds. Our clean up days will be WEDNESDAY starting at 8:30 a.m., and finishing around 11:30 a.m. Break time and refreshments occur from 10:00 to 10:30.

If interested, contact Jim Mayer at 375-8342 to be included on the roster. On the scheduled date, if the weather is not cooperating, the work day will be canceled or rescheduled. You will be called if your name is on the roster list.

SPRING WORK DATES — Projects include: blowing the lot, preparing the beds for mulch, spreading mulch in the beds, weed control, remove A/C covers, remove roof protection over outdoor stairway, clean off the roofs.

MAY 1, MAY 8, MAY 15, MAY 22, JUNE 5, JUNE 19

SUMMER WORK DATES — Projects include: trimming shrubs/trees, mulching the playground, weed control, bring out hoses and water the lawn, blow off lot.

JULY 24, AUGUST 21

FALL WORK DATES — Projects include: installing A/C covers and roof protection, put away hoses/sprinklers, cleaning up the fall leaves when they are all down, cut down all ornamental grasses, bushes and shrubs.

SEPTEMBER 18 OCTOBER 23, NOVEMBER 6

THE FINAL FALL LEAF CLEAN UP DATE WILL BE SELECTED ONCE ALL THE LEAVES ARE DOWN.

Book Review. “As Kingfishers Catch Fire; A Conversation on the Ways of God Formed by the Words of God. Eugene Peterson. 2017.

Eugene Peterson was an incredible wordsmith, theologian, artist, pastor, and poet. As I read this book I was energized and excited by his remarkable use of words to convey the practical and useful daily life lessons based on Scripture.

I have read many of Peterson's books which have been helpful in my ministry, but never read a book of his sermons. While a collection of sermons might sound less than exciting, but I assure you that any time you spend with this book will be time well spent. The book has a sampling of sermons from every part of Scripture. You need not read book from beginning to end but might decide to read only sections of the prophet Isaiah, some Gospels, or possibly some of the letters of Paul.

This is a wonderful devotional book that could be picked up from time to time as inspiration for daily living. For Peterson's efforts in his preaching were to provide practical, daily assistance for life that are guided and flavored by the words of a particular section of scripture.

Each sermon offers remarkable background helps to a particular text to better understand the audience and setting for words of Isaiah, David, Paul, or even Jesus. So often we take scripture so out of context that we lose the fullness of what is shared.

The book is divided into sections, such as “Preaching in the Company of Moses” with the sermons in that section all being based on texts from Genesis through Deuteronomy. One section is based on texts from the book of Psalms. And for each section he begins with a wonderful commentary that explains the background, times, and needs of those particular texts.

As an example, Psalm 1 discusses “meditating” on God's words. He discusses how the word literally means “to slowly chew on something.” That puts an entirely new spin on the idea of meditation, especially when he discusses how Isaiah uses that same word to discuss how a lion dealt with its prey. Peterson suggests meditate is too tame a word for what the Hebrew really meant and if we consider meditating over God's word as chewing, swallowing, and digesting God's gifts to

us so that they become part of us, we have a fuller understanding of the benefit of such a diet.

Peterson uses the word “congruence” to talk about his preaching style. Congruence has to do with establishing harmony or agreement between two objects. The goal is that they mirror each other, or connect to each other in the appropriate way. His lifelong effort in preaching was to do all that he could to connect words from Scripture in a meaning-full way so that they might more easily be digested and embraced in a practical and helpful way for his congregation.

What helps him in that effort is his lifelong effort to not only wrestle with the holy but also the broken real world in which we live. His sermons are full of connections (congruences he would say) of poetry, art, and life to give deeper insight into the world and words of scripture.

The Bible is presented in black and while letters that form words. We believe those words are inspired by God but he also inspires how we read and make those words a diet that changes us from the inside out. The Bible is more than easy answers to tough questions, but a diet that helps us wrestle with questions instead of assuming we have quick and easy answers.

A sample from a sermon on Psalm 29:2 (“worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness”) follows:

“Beauty: splendor, grandeur, adornment. Life — core existence — spills over the containers of mere survival or utility. There is something more going in this world that just getting over the street. And holiness: an interior fire, a passion for living in and for God, a capacity for exuberance in the presence of God. There are springs deep within and around us from which we can drink and sing God. Beauty is the outside and holiness is the inside of what is essentially the same thing: life full and vibrant, life God created and God blessed ... When we sense the pulse and surge of life within and around us, our spontaneous response is to worship.” [78]

This is a book to pick up from time to time when you are thirsty, hungry, or feeling something is missing. His sermons are powerful, easy to read, and practical for real people in a real world. This book is in our library.

-- Seeber



April BIRTHDAYS

- 4/2 David Alsvig, Brynley Bauer,
Dorothy Decker,
Natalie Linebaugh,
4/4 Janis Dinda, Bill Ferris,
Charlotte Flamm
4/5 Andrew Newman,
Carol Segerdahl, Neil Segerdahl,
Beverly Snow
4/6 David Mayer
4/7 Michael Nuyen
4/8 Kim DuBois, Rebecca Morgan,
4/9 Michele Proos, Roland Turczyn
Savannah Waterlander
4/10 Charles Krill
4/12 Alison Carlson, Garr Gast,
Marilyn Lawrence, Kenneth Mutz
4/13 Robert Folck, Anthony Huberty,
Sharon Oisten, Bill Squires,
4/14 Nicholas Cosgrove,
Julie Griesbach, Rhonda Newman
4/15 Michael Bussey, Sarah Fitzgerald,
4/16 Jill Hamilton
4/18 Helen Reinkensmeyer,
Joseph Zerbel
4/19 Noah Bentz
4/20 Donald Daenzer, Megan DuBois,
Ollie Rutgers
4/21 Austin Simmons, Richard Pasma
4/22 Sarah VandenBerg
4/23 Logan McDonald
4/25 Susan Longjohn
4/26 Avery Eastman, Steve Weber
4/27 Christine Brege, Madeline Brennan,
Eric Carlson, Mike Saylor, Vincent
Westra, Larry Zerbel
4/28 Corryn Adams, Dain Soppelsa,
4/29 Annabelle Wolfe
4/30 Elaine Biddle, Hannah Carlson,
Bradd Schultz, Margaret Soppelsa



Zion members continue to be very generous with donations in support of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes in their efforts to address food insecurities within our community.

Thank you for all your generosity as it is apparent the need continues to grow.

April's wish list item is **Canned Tuna**.

Please use the gray tubs in the Lobby under the Office window for donations.

Thank You

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Meets the third Saturday of every month from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at 5 Lakes Coffee on West Main. The next meeting is this coming Saturday, April 20th. They More people are encouraged to join this ministry. For more information contact Cynthia Cosgrove at clcosgrove81@hotmail.com.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF MINISTRY

Zion's women diligently meet every Wednesday from 9:00 to Noon to sew, cut, iron, stretch and enjoy fellowship with one another. Many hands make light work so it is said. If you think you may be interested in being part of this wonderful ministry, you're always welcome to stop by on a Wednesday morning to learn more.

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Easter Monday (UK) OFFICE CLOSED	2 10:00 P. Brejle Bible Study	3 9:00 Sewing 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Midwk Kids 6:15 Bible Study 6:15 Conf Class	4 7:00 Choir	5	6 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship
7 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship Children Sing and Reception following	8 6:30 Personnel	9 10:00 P. Brejle Bible Study	10 9:00 Sewing 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Midwk Kids 6:15 Bible Study 6:15 Conf Class	11 Noon FINANCE 7:00 Choir	12	13 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship
14 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship - Special	15 Taxes Due 6:30 BOD	16 10:00 P. Brejle Bible Study 2:00 Womens Book Group	17 9:00 Sewing 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Midwk Kids 6:15 Bible Study 6:15 Conf Class	18 7:00 Choir	19	20 8:00 Men's Bible Study 2:00 Prayer Shawl 5:30 Worship (9-Noon Diaper Bank Service Project)
21 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship	22	23 Passover 10:00 P. Brejle Bible Study	24 9:00 Sewing 5:15 Dinner 6:15 Midwk Kids 6:15 Bible Study 6:15 Conf Class	25	26	27 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship 6:15 Confirmation Banquet
28 Confirmation 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship	29	30 10:00 P. Brejle Bible Study				
		Notes				

APRIL 2024 WORSHIP LEADERS

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28 (Confirmation 10:30)
Acolytes 8:00am	Eli Frazier	Beatrice Mayer	Ashlyn Leitz	Hayden Williams
Acolytes 10:30am	Noah Bentz	Sarah Skuratowicz	Sydney Woods	Mark Skuratowicz
Head Ushers 8:00am	Walt Kohnke Ted Maxson	Steve Weber Mark Schoonbeck	Brian Bauer Stan Leitz	Dave Newman Troy Cosgrove
Head Ushers 10:30am	Dan Buchtrup Eric Carlson Dave Alsvig	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast Steve Stokes	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak Bob Folck	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien Brent Butler
Cantor 8:00am	Linda Stieve	Vicki Holt	Linda Stieve	Dennis O'Brien
Cantor 10:30am	Linda Stieve	Vicki Holt	Linda Stieve	Dennis O'Brien
Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm	Judy Adlam	n/a	Kathleen Jordan	n/a
Communion Assistants 8:00am	Greg Gerfen	n/a	Matt Simmons	n/a
Communion Assistants 10:30am	Dana Butt	n/a	Lorraine Hanna	n/a
Lectors 8:00am	Donya Mosher	Carol Daenzer	Andrew Niedbala	Greg Gerfen
Lectors 10:30am	Rollie Preuss	Chris Wilkins	Jill Hamilton	Alison Carlson
Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm	1.Phil Rettman 2.Mary VandenBerg	n/a	1.Phil Rettman 2.	1. n/a 2. n/a
Altar Ministry 8:00am	1.Linda Mayer 2.	1. n/a 2. n/a	1. 2.	1.n/a 2.n/a
Altar Ministry 10:30am	1.Dee Wentzel 2.	1. n/a 2. n/a	1. 2.	1.n/a 2.n/a

Zion Lutheran Church

Board of Directors Meeting

February 20, 2024

We aspire to be a welcoming and growing community in Christ, providing daily opportunities to live, learn, and share His love.

At the January Board of Directors Meeting, the following were discussed and acted upon:

Business:

Part Time Office Assistant: The Personnel Board proposed hiring a part time office worker for ten to fifteen hours/week. This position has been open for a few years. The Finance Ministry said the position could be supported financially. The Board approved the hiring of a part time office assistant.

Endowment Grants: After presentation and discussion, the Board approved disbursement of the following grant:

23-24 Antenna for the microphone headset \$ 506.99

Reports

Senior Pastor: There was a discussion of the outdoor summer services. They will continue with Communion and Children Messages included as during the rest of the year. Pastor Mike will ask Aidan if he is interested and available in playing for the majority of those dates.

Friends of Jesus: The Preschool and Sunday School students will share music during the late service on Sunday April 7th.

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Property: Ron noted they are looking into split units for A/C in the preschool rooms. The church received an adjustment for the lights that had to be replaced. Lighting will be added by the drive near the barn and they are currently getting quotes.

Discussion

John Buetow addressed the Board to share thoughts on ministry and outreach to young families at Zion. The comments focused on ways Zion might be more welcoming and included ideas about facility use and programs to complement ongoing ministry at Zion. It was noted that the Board had discussed these points at the retreat earlier this month.

Zion Financial Report for February 29th, 2024

ZION: February Spending exceeded Income by \$ (7,835)
 YTD Spending exceeds Income by \$ (35,536) *23/24 Budget Included a deficit of \$49,183 to come from previous year donations
 YTD Giving is over the budget by \$ 10,781
 YTD Spending is under the budget by \$ 19,155

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
FOJ	10,382	7,857	-2,525	64,525	45,571	-18,954
Solid Grounds	5,100	5,831	731	57,900	63,710	5,810
Zion Giving & Misc.	48,289	57,791	9,502	512,035	522,816	10,781
Total Income	63,771	71,478	7,707	634,460	632,097	-2,363
EXPENSES						
Church Property	9,350	13,187	-3,837	84,150	90,283	-6,133
Education Ministry	400	786	-386	12,750	11,053	1,697
Evangelism/Missions	75	0	75	675	630	45
Finance Ministry	6,396	6,414	-18	57,562	57,614	-52
FOJ Expenses	917	210	707	9,411	2,524	6,887
FOJ Staff	8,840	10,305	-1,465	57,387	51,831	5,556
Missions - General	4,686	5,722	-1,036	49,922	51,500	-1,578
Music Ministry	3,590	2,940	650	24,455	20,951	3,504
Office Operations	1,339	1,323	16	12,618	15,409	-2,791
Other	542	523	19	2,724	2,159	565
SG Expenses	894	1,032	-138	8,028	9,737	-1,709
SG Staff	9,448	8,530	918	85,232	80,742	4,490
SG Zion Mission Support	-2,876	-3,306	430	-30,691	-27,771	-2,920
Worship	540	365	175	4,760	3,864	896
Zion Haus	445	0	445	4,015	3,318	697
Zion Staff	32,804	31,281	1,523	303,791	293,791	10,000
Total Expenses	77,390	79,313	-1,923	686,789	667,634	19,155
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-13,619	-7,835	5,784	-52,329	-35,538	16,791

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2023	2/29/2024	YTD Change
ASSETS			
Cash	120,658	108,562	-12,097
Investments	160,547	164,036	3,489
Due To/From Endowment	-12,713	-14,801	-2,088
Dedicated Funds	-73,123	-95,634	-22,511
TOTAL	195,369	162,162	-33,207
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities	5,850	2,896	-2,953
Unrestricted Funds	189,519	159,266	-30,253
TOTAL	195,369	162,162	-33,206

MORTGAGE LOAN

Balance 2/29/2024 \$418,266
 Monthly Payment \$6,350.00
 Additional Principal \$0.00

Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000

Youth Ministry \$14,605
 New Staff \$55,734
 Midweek Dinner/Kitchen \$3,857
 LED Project Phase 2 \$5,890

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Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

April

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

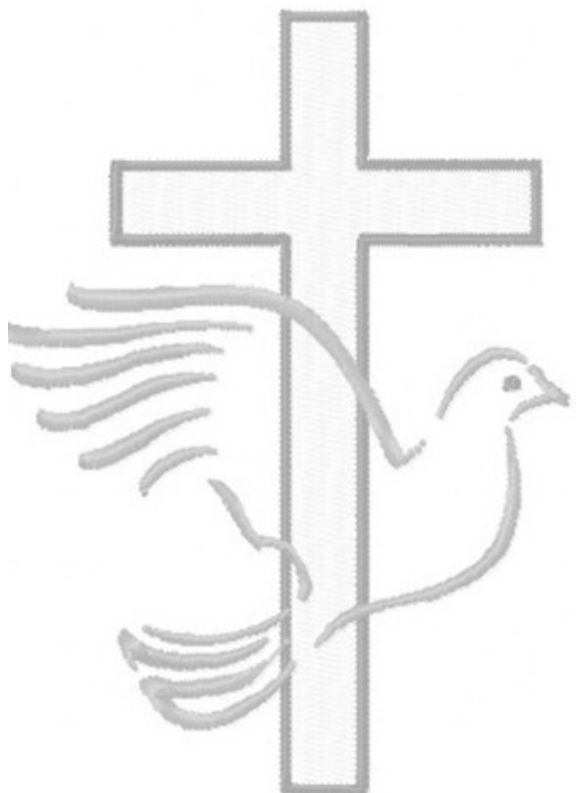
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

**April 7 10:30 Children's Song with
Refreshments to Follow**

April 28 10:30 Confirmation
