

Looking Up | Reaching Out



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

# *Harbinger*

**April 2019**  
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**Shepherd's Center of  
Kalamazoo**

I spent one Christmas Eve with a 98 year old member of Zion who was dying. This is what you need to know about her: She was literally all alone. She had a wonderful faith. And always, no matter how weak or sick, had a smile on her face. She was one of the most kind, gentle and joy-filled people I have ever known. She had outlived all of her family and was confined to a room at Rose Arbor, one of the local hospice facilities. She knew she was preparing for her heavenly reunion. Rose Arbor is a QUIET place; a peace-filled place. I'll never forget entering her room that morning, and as always I was greeted by her smile and gentle greeting. Before I could even say hello, she broke the SILENCE of the moment with these words: "Oh, it is so good to see you, Pastor. Christmas Eve, as you know, is my most favorite day!" She knew she was close to death, yet had the appearance and energy of a little child staring at a tree surrounded by gifts. Like a Christmas angel she radiated joy and peace! As happens to me so often she gave me more than I could have possibly given her. In such a quiet setting, I could feel the presence of the Baby Jesus which I knew couldn't have been heard in the malls or on the roads that busy day! I was so glad I had visited her, for I thought I was "doing my duty" but found out that she had the jump on me and was doing hers. She wanted to share the joy of the baby Jesus and didn't want to be distracted by anything else.

She wanted to talk about how she celebrated Christmas Eve as a child and, as an adult, and why this day was her favorite. And so she did. As I reflect on our conversation about many Christmas joys and the peace that she felt, I couldn't help but see how (although alone) she was ready for what was coming next. There was no fear or random noises, only a quiet peace of her smile and the joy which colored every word. The world's answer is always more noisy barriers, shouting and complaining, and cries of pain and selfishness and grief; while the silence of this holy night brings hope and peace! This might have been my best Christmas Eve ever! I just love hearing angels sing! Pastor Tim

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## **Faith and Life: "HOLY WEEK"**

What is your "routine" for Holy Week and Easter? Any time we have done something over and over again, it is easy to take it for granted, without paying attention to why or what we do. This year, it would be good for you to think about your plans, your needs, and what makes this week "holy." Why do we make such a big deal about a "holy week" the world doesn't seem interested in?

In our culture, Christmas has an intense emotional, financial, and traditional buildup. It is not the same for Easter. The Christmas "thing" is a recent development. Until the last hundred years or so, all of the intensity we attach to Christmas was given only to Easter. Why do you think this has changed?

*In a sense, it is a blessing that our culture has not "taken over" Holy Week the way it has Christmas. This allows us to prepare for what God has done, rather than be distracted with the commercial distortions of a broken world.*

During Lent we have used familiar themes from "The Wizard of Oz" to assist in our focus on Jesus' passionate journey to Jerusalem and the cross. Remembering an improbable group of travelers who headed to Oz (in search of what was lost) helped us to reimagine Jesus' own journey on behalf of our losses to sin and death. His journey was not on a yellow brick road, but began in a manger and climaxed with an empty tomb. An even more impossible trip than any writer could ever imagine. What a gift of grace!

This week is called "holy" as it celebrates the beginning of a new creation — much like the seven days of creation in Genesis. We celebrate the re-creation of a paradise that was lost, and the healing of the brokenness we call sin and death. Mark your calendars now, and make this "Holy Week" worship a powerful gift to nourish your faith.

*These special worship services are also a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbors, friends, or family who aren't attending church to come and join you. This "holy week" can become the gift that changes their lives!*

### **The Sunday of the Passion (April 14)**

This year we will read a portion of the Passion Story (from Luke) as a way to enter into this Holy Week. Jesus came to joyful crowds but by the end of the week he was crucified. This service brings us into this drama of love!

### **Maundy Thursday (April 18) noon & 6:30 pm**

Join us to remember Jesus "last meal" and his parting words to "love one another." We celebrate Holy Communion and remember the beginning of Jesus' passion. Our drama that night will focus on the gifts of grace by which God changes our lives forever.

### **Good Friday (April 19) Noon to 3pm**

This service lasts three hours (in 1/2 hour segments (come when you can, leave when you must.) This year we reflect on the various "words from the cross" that are shared in the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion.

### **Good Friday 6:30pm**

The evening worship focuses on Jesus passion, his trial, and his death. On this night, we read the Passion story from the Gospel of John. What a powerful way to embrace the miracle of love that prepares us for Easter.

### **The Easter Vigil (April 20) 6:30 pm**

This service remembers the disciples vigil at the tomb, and recalls all the promises that would be fulfilled on Easter. This is a time when we renew our baptismal washing and prepare for the Easter celebration!

### **Easter (April 21) 8am and 10:30 am**

This is the most joyful, music filled, and celebrative worship of the year. Join us to celebrate at the empty tomb! **And don't forget our Easter breakfast at 9am!**

## Important Reminder for Our Altar Ministry Members!

We have two upcoming work days to prepare for Palm Sunday and Easter.

**April 13, Saturday, 9:30 am.** Stripping palms and cleaning (if you have gloves and pruning shears, bring them). We will have a very brief meeting promptly at 9:30.

**April 20, Saturday, 9:30 am.** Decorate for Easter and replace palms in containers.

Refreshments will be provided both these days.

Good news! Please welcome our newest Altar Ministry members: Pam Leitz and Debbie Klug!

Thank you, Your Directresses,  
Amy Nelson and Dee Wentzel



April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00—The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For by David McCullough

May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00—The Quiet Side of Passion: An Isabel Dalhousie Novel by Alexander McCall Smith

Contact Yvonne Wordell with questions at 269-321-7984.

## Grateful Hearts Thankful Hands Bazaar

It's April and despite the crazy winter we've had, Spring is here! So if you are starting your spring cleaning put your crafting hat on and look for used items that can be recycled into usable articles for our 2019 Bazaar which will be held on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

We can always use yarn; used 100% wool sweaters or wool blended with other natural fibers and of course any Attic Treasures or Book Nook Items. The drop-off box is in the church workroom year round and your items are always welcome. Also this year the Bazaar will be under new leadership, with Jayne & Linda Mayer taking on the chairman's duties with Janis Dinda. Sharon Preuss has retired as chairman effective this March due to health issues. She will continue to help as needed and will still serve on the committee.

The success of the Bazaar depends on your willingness to contribute your time and talents. We have unfortunately lost some of our great knitters and sewers over the past several years, so we're in need of others willing to fill their shoes. Any knitted or crocheted mittens, scarves, hats, baby sweaters, and booties always sell well. Christmas items are always a hit as are our canned goods (many customers come back just for them!). Christmas ornaments or decorations are always a hit, too. If you need ideas, please talk to one of the bazaar committee members. If you are interested in learning a new craft like knitting or crocheting please contact Sharon Preuss @ [sapreuss1@gmail.com](mailto:sapreuss1@gmail.com) or 269-553-3385 and we'll see if we can set something up for you so you can learn!

If you have any questions about items needed or how you can help please contact Janis Dinda (569-0322), Jayne Mayer (375-8342), Linda Mayer (375-1241), or Sharon Preuss (553-3385).

## CATECHISM REVIEW 10 Commandments What Do They Mean? PART 2

The commandments are part of a covenant between God and his people; like the terms of a peace treaty between nations. Because God is God, this is how people who accept Him as Lord really live.

The purpose of “Law” was to show how God “ordered” life. How we live shows our loving response to God. How we love God is shown in how we love those around us. So there was a two-fold purpose: worship and witness. Love for God and neighbor are the new sacrifice, and a proclamation to the world of God's purpose and plan for his creation.

The last set of commandments (after our love for God) all have to do with our love for those around us. So, aren't the meanings obvious?

**Do not murder!** Because God is the Creator of life and life is God's gift, this command reminds us that life is not something we should take lightly. All life is precious and not something we should decide to end out of anger or any other reason. In Matthew, as Jesus was explaining how much deeper the meaning was he said that anger directed at a brother, insults, or verbal assaults were the same as murder! (See Matthew 5:21-22.) Jesus' point is that you kill and destroy life in many ways — and it can mean more than just by shedding blood or ending someone's breathing. If life is to be safeguarded, even our words and thoughts are part of that process. This command is about respecting life and realizing how precious a gift God breathes into each body that is alive. Each is a child of God and that should change how we treat and respect and honor God's work.

**Do not commit adultery!** While that too seems quite obvious, Jesus (Matt. 5:28) says there is more to this than just sleeping with someone's spouse. Just like the words about murder, Jesus' point is that sexuality is created

for a reason, and the honor and respect of each of God's gifts of creation is all about not doing anything to destroy the most intimate relationships of all. And so, adultery becomes any thought, desire, or distraction where someone becomes a “thing to conquer, steal, or abuse.” (Remember all selfish interest is one that makes “me” more important than someone else, or God!)

Of course **Do not steal!** means not taking something that isn't yours. Luther taught it also means protecting a neighbor's property. While “don't steal” is worded negatively, it is intended to produce a positive action. And so not stealing means making sure that the property of someone else is respected and kept safe. (Which, for instance, is what copyright and plagiarism is all about.)

**Do not lie about your neighbor!** (giving a false witness or testimony.) That too is another way of protecting life by not harming or allowing a reputation to be destroyed. (How different politics would be if opponents didn't “trash talk,” but simply were honest about their vision for the future.) We usually don't think about this commandment in terms of not “murdering” but isn't slander another way to destroy life? And so, we begin to get the idea that all these commandments are really the same one, just phrased in different terms.

**Do not covet your neighbors property or family!** By this point, we get it. Each life is sacred. Each person's reputation, body, possessions, and family are gifts of God to be used in ways that show our love to God and those around us. If we believe that God has made me, and gifted me according to his purpose and plan, why would I not be content with who I am? Why would I even think of wanting someone else's stuff? Here is the summary, in Matthew 5:14 Jesus said, “you are the Light of the world.” That summarizes all commandments ... You are to reveal God's love and God's love, through you, is to draw the world to God. (Get it?)

## Friends of Jesus Preschool

Fun Fact #8 – Some parents of our preschool students can remember playing in the wooden car that is still popular down in the preschool today!

We are truly hoping that the long, cold winter is just a distant memory as we welcome the month of April! During this month we will be preparing for the resurrection of our Lord and Savior by reading about and discussing Palm Sunday, Good Friday, the crucifixion and the triumph of Easter Sunday. Friends of Jesus students will have the opportunity to color Easter eggs, make resurrection rolls, and explore our set of "Resurrection Eggs" to learn the story of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

During the month of April we conduct our spring parent/teacher conferences. We will also welcome student grandparents to the preschool for Grandparents' Day. This is always a fun and special day for preschoolers to spend time with their grandparents at school – reading stories, playing games, creating crafts and making a special snack. This is always a popular and well attended event for us.

During the month of April our staff and students will prepare for the second annual Bug Fun Run, which will be held on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our preschoolers learn about the benefits of running for fun and good health, how to prepare for running by stretching and proper warm up techniques, healthy eating and snacking, hydration, and what to wear to make running more comfortable. This year part of our entry fee will go toward a donation to the First Day Shoe Fun, a local non-profit charity that provides new shoes for students who would otherwise not have them for the first day of school. If you'd like to contribute to this worthy cause as part of our Fun Run, please contact Melissa VanderMeeden through the church office, or visit her in the Friends of Jesus office downstairs.

Our enrollment numbers for 2019 – 2020 are high. We have just a few openings for fall. If you know of someone looking for a faith based, family friendly preschool, please ask them to contact us as soon as possible, so they don't miss their opportunity to get their student on the roster before we are full.

He is risen!

### Outdoor Beautification Schedule 2019

You are invited to join us as we care for and maintain the church grounds. Our clean-up days are **Wednesdays** from 8:30 and finishing around 11:30. Break time and refreshments occur from 10:00-10:30. If you are interested, contact Jim Mayer at 375-8342 or just show up on the days listed below. On the scheduled date, if the weather is not cooperating, the workday may be rescheduled or canceled. All who have their name on the contact list will be contacted if we need to cancel.

#### Spring Work Dates:

April 17 (Easter is April 21st), May 1, May 8, May 15, May 22, May 29 (if needed).

#### Summer Work Dates:

June 12, July 10 (if needed), August 14.

#### Fall Work Dates:

September 11, October 16, October 30, November 9 (Final Fall Clean-up).

#### The Final Fall Leaf Clean-up is Saturday Morning, November 9, 2019, Starting at

8:30 am. A delay date will be the following Saturday, November 16, 2019.

If this schedule needs to be modified in any way, and there is enough time, the Sunday Bulletin will announce any changes. If you are on the contact list, you will be either e-mailed or called.



## Worship Help for Parents and Children

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

### "The Sharing of Peace / Offering"

In Old Testament worship, sacrifices were brought to the temple as a sign of people's love for God and willingness to surrender part of themselves to be "one" with God. In the New Testament (as Christians gathered for worship) they brought gifts to share. Some brought bread and wine for communion, others shared to take care of the needy in their midst, or to help other struggling congregations. In our liturgy it is in the "Sharing of Peace" that we remember this practice and participate in our way today.

In Matthew 5:23-24, Jesus 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."

*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.*

Before bringing gifts to the altar and receiving the gift of Holy Communion, we "exchange the peace of Christ" with each other. This is not just to say "hi," but to proclaim "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 that God has made himself one with me!" So, IF there is anyone in your family (whether it is your 'blood' family or your 'faith' family) that you have a problem with, this offers an opportunity to "make peace." Then, as we gather around the altar, we truly are ONE in Christ. We begin with confession and the absolution: "your sins are forgiven." In the sharing of peace, we are given the opportunity to put into practice the grace that changes us.

This is what "reaching out with Jesus' love" looks and feels like. You might shake a hand, embrace a loved one, or even share a holy kiss (see 1 Peter 5:14). This is like opening fists that have been clenched and using them for an embrace. Then, we are truly ready to share gifts with God and receive His gift at the altar. (This is serious 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!

### 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 tell 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 wished 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!) How freeing that is! 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 it is in the repetition of "reaching out" that this becomes a more natural action of faith. (Not unlike 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 breath" this is!

May Christ's Peace be with you! Pastor Tim

High school youth fundraiser

# BINGO NIGHT

## When

**May the 4th, 2019**

**6pm - 8:30pm**

## Where

**Zion Lutheran Church**

## **Prizes**

**All shapes and sizes...given to winners of each round**

**All ages event**

## **Tickets**

**\$10/person**

**Concessions available,  
One free item for anyone in Star Wars apparel/costume**

## **Babysitting**

**Provided by the high school youth or have your child join you in playing**

## **Benefiting**

**All proceeds go to help send the high school youth to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN in July**

# Family Life

Family Ministry News

## Easter Breakfast

This month instead of our monthly potluck, Family Ministry will be joining up with the High School Youth Group to put on the Easter Breakfast.

We will prep the day before (Saturday, April 20th) and then start cooking early on Sunday.

Sign-ups and more publicity on the kiosk!

### EASTER ESCAPE

On Sunday, April 14th we will be having Family Style Sunday School. This time around it will be an escape room type activity. Get ready to roam the building and grounds looking for your next clue! Work as a family to solve the puzzle and do some learning in the process! Hope to see you on Palm Sunday for this fun time during Sunday School Hour!

**April, 2019 WORSHIP LEADERS**

	<b>April 7</b>	<b>April 14 Palm Sunday</b>	<b>April 21 Easter</b>	<b>Lenten Services 6:30</b>	<b>April 28 Confirmation 10:30</b>	<b>April 15 - 20 Holy Week</b>
Head Ushers 8am	Dave Mayer	George Hayward	Jack Sauer		Walter Kohnke	
<b>Head Ushers 10:30am</b>	Pete Wilkins	Dan Buchtrup	Dick Coffinger		Bob Falck	
<b>Greeters Sat 5:30pm</b>	Kathleen Jordan	Dee Wentzel	Easter Vigil None Needed		Bruce & Kathy Huston	
<b>Greeters 8:00am</b>	Donya Dobbins	Benno & Carol Rosin	Terry & Gail Nelson		Bev Snow & Mary Lou Wright	
<b>Greeters 10:30am</b>	Charles & Cindy Krill	Bob & Cheryl Besser	Ron & Arlene Ma- sek		Pete & Chris Wilkins	
<b>Communion Assis- tants Sat 5:30pm</b>	Kathleen Jordan	Mike Schlack	Not Needed		Roxanne Seeber	<b>Easter Vigil- No Com- munion</b>
<b>Communion Assis- tants 8:00am</b>	Jim Mayer John Buetow Linda Stieve	Ted Maxson	Dave Newman		Matt Simmons Rich Rakow	<b>Maundy Thursday 12:00</b> Jim Mayer <b>Maundy Thursday 6:30</b> John Buetow
<b>Communion Assis- tants 10:30am</b>	Garr Gast Nick Sward Chuck Wendling	Brent Butler	Troy Cosgrove		Steve Nuyen Janis Dinda	
<b>Cantors</b>	8:00 – John Stiege- meyer 10:30 – Not Needed	None Needed	None Needed		8:00 – Dennis O'Brien 10:30 – Vicki Holt	
<b>Acolytes 8am</b>	Bella Frazier <b>One Needed</b>	Megan Bowers Alex Kiessling	Maren Hampshire Aly Hampshire Kate Phillips	<b>Lenten Service: 6:30</b> 4/3 Rudy Linebaugh 4/10 Audrey Hamil- ton	Rudy Linebaugh Audrey Hamilton	<b>Maundy Thur 6:30</b> Jacob Waterlander Mary Besser
<b>Acolytes 10:30am</b>	Matthew Devine <b>One Needed</b>	Riley Ketchum Curtis Chapman	Kurtis Scheffler Megan Brennan Claire Alsvig		Bella Frazier Riley Ketchum	<b>Good Friday 6:30</b> Sean Skuratowicz
<b>Lectors 8am</b>	John Buetow	Aaron Grube	Aaron Grube		Barb Nutsch	
<b>Lectors 10:30am</b>	Chris Wilkins	Aaron Grube	Aaron Grube		Aaron Grube Janis Dinda	
<b>Altar Ministry Sat. 5:30</b>	Elsie Autry <b>One Needed</b>	Melissa Noseworthy <b>One Needed</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b> No Communion		Melissa Noseworthy Elsie Autry	<b>Maundy Thursday 12:00</b> Rosemarie Griffith & <b>One Needed</b> <b>6:30</b> Elsie Autry & <b>One Needed</b>
<b>Altar Ministry 8:00am</b>	Lucy Maxson Carol Daenzer	Amy Nelson Lucy Maxson	Amy Nelson Vicki Holt		Vicki Holt <b>One Needed</b>	
<b>Altar Ministry 10:30am</b>	Melissa Noseworthy <b>One Needed</b>	Toni Dembski-Brandl <b>One Needed</b>	Dee Wentzel Toni Dembski- Brandl		<b>Two Needed</b>	
<b>Sound</b>	8:00 – Vicki Holt 10:30 – Neil Seger- dahl	8:00 – Neil Segerdahl 10:30 – Nick Alsvig	8:00 – Vicki Holt 10:30 – Grace Din- da		8:00 – Neil Segerdahl 10:30 – Neil Seger- dahl	<b>Maundy Thur 6:30</b> One Needed <b>Good Friday 6:30</b> One Needed
Coffee Fellowship	Benno & Carol Rosin	Larry Harding	Easter Breakfast		Dave & Linda Mayer	

## APRIL 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>FOJ Spring Break</b>  <b>6:00</b> Personnel	<b>2</b>  <b>10:00</b> Bible Class  <b>7:00</b> Bell Choir	<b>3</b>  <b>8:30</b> LWR Sewing <b>12:00</b> Lent 4 Service <b>5:15</b> Soup Supper <b>6:30</b> Lent 4 Service	<b>4</b>  <b>7:00</b> Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>8:00</b> Men's Group  <b>5:30</b> Communion Service
<b>7</b>  <b>8 and 10:30</b> Communion Service  <b>9:15</b> Sunday School/Conf Sr. High BC/ Adult Classes	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>10:00</b> Bible Class <b>5:30</b> Finance <b>6:00</b> Family Ministry <b>6:30</b> FOJ Ministry <b>6:30</b> Small Group <b>7:00</b> Bell Choir	<b>10</b>  <b>8:30</b> LWR Sewing  <b>12:00</b> Lent 5 Service  <b>5:15</b> Soup Supper <b>6:30</b> Lent 5 Service	<b>11</b>  <b>6:00</b> Property  <b>7:00</b> Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>8:00</b> Men's Group  <b>9:30</b> Altar Ministry Palms/ Cleaning  <b>5:30</b> Communion Service
<b>14 Palm Sunday</b>  <b>8 and 10:30</b> Com- munion Service <b>9:15</b> Sunday School/Conf Sr. High BC/ Adult Classes  <b>4:00 – 6:00</b> HS Chopped	<b>15</b>  <b>5:00</b> Campus Ministry  <b>6:30</b> Board of Directors	<b>16</b>  <b>10:00</b> Bible Class  <b>7:00</b> Bell Choir	<b>17</b>  <b>8:30</b> LWR Sewing  <b>8:30</b> Outdoor Beautification  No Dinner or Classes	<b>18</b> <b>Maundy</b> <b>Thursday</b>  <b>Noon and 6:30</b> Communion Services	<b>19</b> <b>Good Friday</b>  <b>12:00 - 3:00</b> Tre Ore  <b>6:30</b> Good Friday Service	<b>20</b> <b>Easter Vigil</b>  <b>9:30</b> Altar Ministry Easter Decorating  <b>2-4:00</b> Prayer Shawl – Biggby's  <b>6:00</b> Easter Vigil Service
<b>21</b> <b>Easter</b>  <b>8 and 10:30</b> Communion Service  <b>9:00</b> Easter Breakfast	<b>22</b>  <b>7:00</b> ZWBG	<b>23</b>  <b>10:00</b> Bible Class  <b>7:00</b> Bell Choir	<b>24</b> <b>8:30</b> LWR Sewing  <b>5:15 - 7:15</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Stole Making	<b>25</b>  <b>7:00</b> Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>8:00</b> Men's Group <b>Endowment</b> <b>Grants Due</b>  <b>5:30</b> Communion Service <b>6:15-7:30</b> Confirmation Banquet
<b>28</b> <b>Confirmation Day</b> <b>(10:30 Service)</b>  <b>8 and 10:30</b> Communion Service <b>9:15</b> Sunday School/Conf Sr. High BC/ Adult Classes	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>10:00</b> Bible Class  <b>7:00</b> Bells				

# Youth News

## **High School:**

### Chopped!

Sunday the 14th from 4-6:30pm we will have a little cooking competition! You are allowed to bring ONE item for the pantry but it must be available for use by all participants.



## **Middle School Youth**

### Confirmation!

Banquet for 8th graders and family is April 27th.

Confirmation Day is April 28th!

Class Party is May 1st.

## Echoes

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

You never know who is watching or listening, and how God is working in their heart, through you. Last month I met up with my college roommate at a small brewery in Grand Rapids. As we sat at the bar and chatted about life I noticed the bartender look up and listen in every once in a while. We started talking about churches and different things we knew or heard. At the mention of a specific church, the bartender spoke up. She told us she went to school for eight years at that church and had just buried her mother there a few months ago. As we spoke some more it was obvious this lady hadn't been to church in a while. I don't know how God is messing with her in all of this but He is certainly coming up a lot in my life. As we continued our conversation, another couple came and sat down. They had been talking and wanted to know the meaning of the word "citadel". My friend and I told them our version of the definition and then asked why they wanted it. They said they had just played a team called Zion and wanted to know what the word meant...citadel. God is always present, are you noticing?

**Campus Ministry**

On March 3-9, a group of 10 students and I went to Panama City Florida to help with the hurricane relief effort.



We stayed at Trinity Lutheran Church and worked with Shepherd's Heart Ministry, which is an arm of the Lutheran Church disaster response.

We worked alongside a chain saw crew hauling branches, trees and debris that had fallen. We had a great mix of students from Solid Grounds, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and Pambazuka, the international student group that meets at Solid Grounds.

The students worked hard and bonded during our trip. There are still many roofs and windows needing to be repaired and downed trees that need to be removed. Many of those affected do not have financial resources to rebuild so the community is still struggling to rebuild their lives. There is still much to be done in Florida and in every location where a hurricane or tornado has hit.

Students are now in the last five weeks of classes with finals week April 22-26. We have one more Bronco Buddy mentoring event which will take place on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Our campus ministry team is looking at both the short-term and long-term plans and hopes for campus ministry. Now that the endowment funds that Dr. Paul Maier set up to support campus ministry have been placed under the umbrella of Zion's endowment fund, we are looking at ways to utilize those funds to support campus ministry and help us grow our outreach to students and faculty.

God's blessings and peace to you all!  
Pastor Mark



**These lilies are used to decorate the church sanctuary.**

Anyone interested in making a contribution to the "Easter Lilies" may do so by sending their gift to the church office or putting it in the offering plate along with this form. Please note on your check "Easter Lilies."

We will take checks through April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**All contributions will be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin.**

*In Loving Memory of:*

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*In Thanksgiving of:*

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*In Honor Of:*

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*Given By:*

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**Giving Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_**

**Book Review:** "A Lesson Before Dying."  
Ernest J. Gaines. Alfred Knopf. 1993.

This is an incredibly written book that I have only recently run across. In my mind, it is as powerful as "To Kill A Mockingbird," covering a similar time, region, and cultural reality in our country's recent past. It is definitely worth the read. It is written extremely well, almost like a play with most of the text being dialog. It is a powerful narrative but has the effect of causing considerable reflection and understanding of some of the difficult times and issues that many have had to face.

The plot is simple. Jefferson, a young black man, of limited social skills or educational abilities is in the wrong place at the wrong time and falsely accused of a murder he didn't commit. He was sentenced to death during segregation in the Deep South, in the early years of the 20th century. His public defender, seeking sympathy during the trial said, "I would just as soon put a hog to death in the electric chair as this." That one phrase creates the tension of the story as, after Jefferson is sentenced to die, gives up all hope knowing that everyone sees him as no better than a hog.

The other character of the story is another young black man, Grant Wiggins, who grew up in the same community. But he was able to go to college and returned as a teacher in the one room plantation schoolhouse. The significant older female family members of Jefferson's family knew there is no way that Jefferson will ever escape the death sentence. Rather than trying to right an injustice, their concern is that Jefferson will accept his fate as a man, with head held high. They want his faith to become the power that sustains. To accomplish this, they pressure Grant Wiggins to start visiting Jefferson on death row. Grant has no desire to do so, saying there is nothing he can do, and as he himself does not believe in God, there is nothing he can offer in the way of

hope. A powerful drama is set, and the dialog and events that follow make this a book that is difficult to put down and climaxes in powerful and surprising way. Remember the title, "A Lesson before Dying" as you read this entire book!

The author, Ernest Gaines, grew up on a plantation in Louisiana, where his ancestors had been slaves. During World War II his parents divorced, and his Mom and stepfather moved to California to find work. The eldest of 12, he and the older children were raised by his crippled aunt who had to crawl around the house and garden on her knees. He was educated only through 8th grade in a one room school on the plantation. He worked the fields and lived in the same plantation house of his relatives. At age 15 he moved to California to live with his Mom and stepfather who had left Louisiana during World War II. His stepdad encouraged him to spend time in libraries to keep him off the streets and a love for writing was born. He wrote his first novel when he was 17, while babysitting his younger brother. He served in the Army, went to college, and became a writer and university professor. There is no doubt that his life story influenced his perspective and the work in all his novels.

His writing is powerful as he shares what he lived. His dialog is amazing and there is a surprising twist at the end, unexpected and yet realistic. As Gaines grew up in the same culture he writes about (with its emphasis on family, faith, and storytelling) his dialog is realistic and powerful. This book presents a riveting narrative, causing the reader to imagine what life was like for people at that time and place. It also raises themes such as hope, family, faith, and the harsh realities of capital punishment to a level I have no way of relating to or spending time considering. This is not his only book, but is one I would recommend, if you want to find one book by this author to read. Pastor Seeber

### Shepherd's Center of Kalamazoo

A Non-profit Interfaith Organization that promotes Vital Aging in its community.

We are resuming our monthly articles that share various local social ministry agencies. Our goal is to offer resources that might be helpful to you or someone you know, as well as giving a gentle nudge for new ministries that we as a congregation might consider becoming more involved in. We will attempt to highlight one such ministry every month.

**Shepherd's Center** has three main programs of ministry that might be valuable to you or someone you know. These are geared to supporting senior citizens in our community.

**HANDY HANDS:** Men and women do minor household repairs. Services are dependent on the talents and abilities of available volunteers. A homeowner will pay for any materials used. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for the first 1/2 hour of work and \$5 for each additional 1/2 hour of work, payable to the Shepherd Center.

**ESCORT TRANSPORTATION:** This is a one-on-one personalized transportation service to health related appointments (Monday-Thursday.) There is a limit of two rides per week per individual. A suggested donation of \$10 for a round trip is payable to the driver. For non-medical appointments such as shopping, banking, library and nursing home visits, there is a limit of one ride per week, and the limit is 3 hours per trip. A \$10 donation to the Shepherd's Center is suggested.

**ADULT BREAKTIME CLUB** is a respite program providing a safe environment in which older adults with early Alzheimer's and other dementias or physical limitations have the opportunity to be part of an active group of folks and enjoy the benefits of new friendships. This allows caregivers a much needed break from caring for loved ones.

And it offers loved ones a change of scenery. The hours of this service are 11:30am – 3:30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays at Lutheran Church of the Savior on East G Avenue. A nutritious lunch and mid-afternoon snack is provided. The suggested donation to Shepherd Center is \$20 for the four hours.

As you can see, these are valuable resources for area seniors. You can find much more information on their website, which is : [www.shepherdscenterkalamazoo.com](http://www.shepherdscenterkalamazoo.com)

Shepherd Center Offices are located at 1833 S Burdick St, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Phone is (269) 383-1122

### AGING IN HIS GRACE!

Are you concerned about how best to support your aging parents? Is someone in your family struggling with the early phases of some form of dementia? Do you wonder what is available in terms of nursing homes, meals, or respite care? As people are living longer, there arise new concerns and issues that many have never considered until it is forced on them. This is a time for "grace."

Two members, Judy Adlam and Jeannette Meyer are developing a ministry geared to support the needs of older members and family members who care for them. We are calling this "**Aging in His Grace.**" Judy is a Licensed Master Social Worker with Health and Community Services. Jeannette is a Physician specializing in geriatric medicine, hospice, and palliative care. We are blessed to have such special people who are willing to share their expertise and knowledge of local resources with all the members of Zion. This is an exciting new ministry.

Keep an eye open for the next meeting they will offer, and feel free to speak with either of them if you have questions.

### Zion's Annual Meeting May 19<sup>th</sup> following the Late Service

Spring is fast approaching and on Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our Annual Meeting following the Late Service. The agenda for this meeting will include the presentation of the annual report, the approval of the annual budget, and the election of four Board of Directors positions (President Elect, Vice President for Property, and two Directors-at-Large). We hope you are able to participate in this important meeting of the congregation.

At last year's meeting, a few of our congregational members noted that it would be helpful to have budget and candidate information available ahead of the meeting for review. In response to this request, we will do our best to distribute this information at church services in the weeks leading up to the Annual Meeting and in the May Harbinger.

To provide time for members to ask questions or discuss topics of interest prior to our Annual Meeting, representatives from the Board of Directors will be available in Blends between services on April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition to these two dates, please feel free to stop a Director at Zion or share a note or email or phone call with the church office, or any of the staff or Directors (Jon Tomer, Steve Butt, Karen Stokes-Chapo, Stan Leitz, Richard Rakow, Todd Schierbeek, Joe Zerbel, Jill Hamilton, Pete Asaro, Linda Stieve, Lisa Frazier, and Debra Jorae)

We look forward to connecting with you!  
Respectfully,

Steve Butt  
Board President



### We Have An Opening For A Paid Office

**Position** beginning around May 1, 2019.

Hours are Monday through Friday, 10am to 4pm, for an experienced person who is comfortable working in a team setting to perform secretarial, receptionist, communication, and record-keeping responsibilities for the ministerial staff and congregation.

Applicant must have knowledge and experience in office practices, procedures and equipment, be competent in the use of Microsoft Office, and be comfortable with new technologies such as websites, Facebook, and the like. Good communication skills and a warm and welcoming personality are a necessity for this position.

A more complete job description is available upon request. Please send resume and references to the Church Office c/o Pastor Seeber.



We are collecting health care items for Ministry with Community during April. Many items may be purchased at the Dollar Store. The following items are needed:

- Bath size towels (new or gently used)
- Wash cloths (new or gently used)
- Travel or regular size shampoo/conditioner and lotion
- Toothbrushes
- Travel or any other size toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Lip balm
- Wide tooth combs
- Fingernail clippers

You may place your contributions in the bins located in the hallway. If you have any questions, please contact Jayne Mayer at 375-8342. Thank you for helping others as Jesus shows us His love everyday in our many blessings.



4/1	Marvin Rutgers
4/2	Dave Alsvig, Brynley Bauer, Dorothy Decker, Natalie Linebaugh
4/3	Mark Lundquist, Dan Seng
4/4	Janice Davidson, Janis Dinda, Bill Ferris, Charlotte Flamm
4/5	Andrew Newman, Carol Segerdahl, Neil Segerdahl, Beverly Snow
4/6	Alice Ferris, David Mayer
4/7	Michael Nuyen, Janet Woodford
4/8	Kim DuBois, Rebecca Morgan,
4/9	Michele Proos, 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, Michael Tucker
4/14	Nicholas Cosgrove, Julie Griesbach, Sarah Kamphuis, Rhonda Newman
4/15	Michael Bussey, Sarah Fitzgerald
4/16	Jill Hamilton
4/18	Helen Reinkensmeyer, Joseph Zerbel
4/19	Noah Bentz, Anthony Cullimore
4/20	Donald Daenzer, Megan DuBois, Ollie Rutgers, Nathan Varga
4/21	Norah Kamphuis, Austin Simmons
4/22	Lillian Klein, Sarah VandenBerg
4/23	Marilyn Brownell
4/25	Sue Longjohn
4/26	Avery Eastman, Steve Weber
4/27	Christine Brege, Madeline Brennan, Eric Carlson, Vince Westra, Larry Zerbel
4/28	Corryn Adams, Lydia Holzerland, William Krill, Dain Soppelsa, Helen Wise
4/30	Elaine Biddle, Hannah Carlson, Bradd Schultz, Margaret Soppelsa

## Parish Report

### New Members

Don & Debbie Klug 2/19/2019  
Shawn, Gina and Celia  
Schipper 3/14/2019

### Confirmation

4/28/2019  
Landon Bauer  
Mary Besser  
Megan Bowers  
Curtis Chapman, II  
Matthew Devine  
Kate Phillips  
Jacob Waterlander

Mark your calendars to attend the next **Marriage Workshop** to be held here at Zion on May 8th at 6:15 pm.



### **Coffee Fellowship Needs Your Help!**

Can you help make coffee and pick up donuts? We are in need of a couple more people to help with Sunday Morning Coffee Hour and we will train you.

Please email Bev Snow at [cakepan34@charter.net](mailto:cakepan34@charter.net) or call the church office if you are interested!

### **KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES**

The wish list item for **April is Canned Tuna**. Please put your donations in the gray tubs under the church office window. Thank you!



Friends of Jesus (FOJ) FOJ February Income was \$9,805, over budget by \$3,109. YTD Income is \$65,516, under budget by \$3,453. February expenses were \$7,099, under budget by \$1,425. YTD expenses are \$55,433, under budget by \$2,286. YTD net income is \$10,084 and is under budget by \$1,167.

Solid Grounds (SG) Monthly Income was \$10,087, over budget by \$2,325. Expenses were \$9,873, under budget by \$246. MTD net income was \$214, over budget by \$2,571. YTD Income is \$89,899, under budget by \$2,236. YTD expenses are \$88,267, over budget by \$1,012. YTD net income is \$1,632, under budget by \$3,248.

Zion February giving was \$46,170, under budget by \$2,542. Total income for the month was \$56,155, over budget by \$472. Total monthly expenses were \$69,270, under budget by \$1,374. February ended with a net loss of \$13,115, better than budget by \$1,846. YTD giving is \$520,523, over budget by \$214. YTD Income is \$595,470, under budget by \$1,843. YTD expenses are \$577,644, under budget by \$11,391. YTD net income is \$17,826, over budget by \$9,548.

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - February, 2019 of FY 2019**

INCOME & EXPENSE	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
<b>INCOME</b>						
Zion (Giving + Interest)	48,987	46,350	-2,637	528,344	529,124	780
Friends of Jesus	6,696	9,805	3,109	68,969	66,346	-2,623
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,683</b>	<b>56,155</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>597,313</b>	<b>595,470</b>	<b>-1,843</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Staff Support	27,794	27,090	-704	256,639	254,098	-2,541
Office Operations	1,000	2,434	1,434	12,214	14,230	2,016
Church Property	12,956	12,871	-85	69,257	65,780	-3,477
Education Ministry	1,300	1,537	237	10,515	9,396	-1,119
Evangelism/Missions	0	0	0	600	529	-71
Worship Ministry	430	352	-78	4,515	4,245	-270
Other Ministries	290	287	-3	2,922	2,210	-712
Music Ministry	2,818	2,025	-793	26,634	19,437	-7,197
Finance Ministry	10,321	10,338	17	92,854	93,020	166
FoJ Operations	8,524	7,099	-1,425	57,719	55,433	-2,286
Zion Haus Ministry	340	345	5	3,135	5,388	2,253
Missions - General	4,871	4,892	21	52,031	53,878	1,847
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,644</b>	<b>69,270</b>	<b>-1,374</b>	<b>589,035</b>	<b>577,644</b>	<b>-11,391</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-14,961</b>	<b>-13,115</b>	<b>-1,846</b>	<b>8,278</b>	<b>17,826</b>	<b>-9,548</b>

**SOLID GROUND - February, 2019 of FY 2019**

Solid Ground Income	7,762	10,087	2,325	92,135	89,899	-2,236
Solid Ground Expenses	10,119	9,873	-246	87,255	88,267	1,012
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-2,357</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>4,880</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>-3,248</b>

**BALANCE SHEET**

	Bal as of 6/1/18	Bal as of 2/28/19	YTD Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	29,683	40,208	10,525
Investments	159,631	185,120	25,489
Other Assets	-8,125	-8,873	-748
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,189</b>	<b>216,455</b>	<b>35,266</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Payroll	3,235	8,844	5,609
Dedicated Funds	163,306	175,138	11,832
Unrestricted Funds	14,647	32,474	17,827
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,188</b>	<b>216,456</b>	<b>35,268</b>

**MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE - \$324,661**

**Primary Dedicated Accounts (Balances over \$2,000)**

FOJ Estate Gift	8,394	Youth Ministry	8,159
FOJ Grushon Scholarship	2,798	Pews	12,514
Equipment Replacement Fund	12,957	Benevolence	2,360
FOJ Fundraising	11,564	New Staff Savings	50,000
Capital Campaign	7,218	Savings	46,500

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

April

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT NO. 479  
KALAMAZOO, MI

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Holy Week Worship Schedule



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 18

**12:00 Noon and 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion**

The vigil begins with the stripping of the altar at the conclusion of this service. We recall how Jesus endured his three-day journey by himself.

### GOOD FRIDAY TRE ORE

April 19

**12:00 Noon until 3:00 p.m.**

During the same three hours our Savior endured the tree of death, that it might become a tree of life, we gather for meditation and prayer.

### GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

April 19

**6:30 p.m.**

We gather in evening's darkness as our vigil continues. Through reflective meditation and prayer we remember our Savior's love and await the gift this love brings.

### EASTER VIGIL (HOLY SATURDAY)

April 20

**6:30 p.m.**

Prepare for Easter as we gather to end our vigil at the tomb. By the light of the Christ candle and the power of Baptismal water we are prepared for Christ's journey from death into life!

### EASTER SUNDAY

April 21

**8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**

As disciples gathered in joyful disbelief at an empty tomb, so we come together with our family in Christ on this most powerful morning of all! This is the day which changes our life, our death, and our living FOREVER!