



Looking Up | Reaching Out

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Harbinger

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This will date me, but many of you will be able to relate with your own experiences with the quintessential American treat: Cracker Jacks! And I am not talking about today's cheap imitation, but the "good old days" when there were real "prizes" (plastic animals, toys, mini books, rings and the like.) Today's prizes pale in comparison to those of old. But that is not the point. My parents thought a box of cracker jacks, for brother Don and me to share, was a great treat. They didn't have much spending money, and all that caramel corn for a few cents was a bargain! They meant well, but didn't understand. Don and I didn't care about the popcorn, we just wanted "the prize!" But there was only one, so we each had different tricks as we got close to the bottom of the box to make sure we were the one who got "the prize." As we were supposed to love each other, we had to act very innocent when either would suddenly act surprised and say "Oh, look, I got the prize! Sorry!" That came to mind as I thought about Paul's words in 2 Timothy, in facing the emptiness of death, as he said "I have run the race and await my prize." No matter what strategies we attempt, there is no way to escape death, and yet as Paul faced that reality, he was filled with joy. For he knew there was already a prize waiting for him, and he would get it no matter what. And that was more powerful than the thought of losing his life. More powerful yet is that Paul likely wrote these words inside his imprisonment in Rome. He was literally inside a "box" from which there was no escape, and yet he was not alone. Paul reminds us that in the empty box called death, there is a prize called Easter that is already our gift. Pilate thought Jesus was trapped in a tomb, and yet he was THE prize waiting to be revealed for all time! Paul reminds us that, by faith, we have that gift already in hand! It is more permanent and valuable than any Cracker Jack prize, and no earthly strategy is needed. And it is not a cheap imitation of better gifts from other times. Easter is our life from baptism. It is a gift! It is ours! And it is free! How could there be a better prize than that?

Pastor Seeber

Campus Ministry

Fall Semester 2019 is just around the corner. Classes at WMU will begin on Wednesday August 28th. We have a number of ministry events planned for the beginning of the semester and are looking forward to the new academic year.

On Tuesday August 27th during Bronco Bash, we will be grilling hot dogs and passing out water and Gatorade here at Solid Grounds. This gives us a chance to meet and interact with students as they are going and coming from Bronco Bash. We will also have a table and booth at the main part of Bronco Bash. Our first Sunday worship service at Solid Grounds will be on Sunday September 8th. Our services will begin at 12 noon and we offer a free home-cooked meal after each service. During the months of September and October, the members of Zion will be fixing the meals. There are still two Sunday's that are open, so if any of you would like to volunteer to fix the meal for the students, please let me know.

Before our first service on September 8th, we will be having a "kick-off" event on Friday September 6th. There is a Christian group called God's Army that will be performing an outdoor concert at Solid Grounds. Several of the members of the group are student athletes that are involved with both Solid Grounds and FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). We will have cards and games and fellowship after the concert. This year, there are 5 students living at Solid Grounds. Two of the students will be leading a men's bible study once the semester begins and I will be leading another Bible study. Those studies will begin the week of September 9-13. I am looking forward to working with our student leaders this year. The 5 students living here come from very diverse backgrounds. Two of the students are on the WMU soccer team. One is from Vancouver, BC and the other from Portland Oregon. Two of the students are

PhD international students--- one from Pakistan and other from South Africa. The other student is a freshwater science major from Midland.



One of the things that I am excited about is that there are a number of incoming freshmen that I met at summer orientation who are excited about getting involved with Solid Grounds and our Bronco Buddy mentoring program. I am praying that the Lord will bless our ministry with a strong group of incoming students this upcoming year.

Our Fall Retreat will be at Warner Camp on November 1-2. For our Winter Servant Event trip, we will have a combined Solid Grounds/Zion members take part in our trip to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity on Dec. 15-21 in Vero Beach Florida.

God's blessings and peace to you all.

Pastor Mark



Zion Women's Book Group

September 23 at 7:00—Educated by Tara Westover

October 28th at 7:00—Inheritance by Dani Shapiro

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



Wednesday night dinners and classes start on September 4th!

Dinner at 5:15 pm
Classes at 6:15 pm

We hope to see many of you join us this year!

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.

Fall Work Dates:

September 18, October
16, November 6
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.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING??

The Gloria Dei singers are looking for members to share their musical talents. No experience necessary. We meet once a week on Thursdays from 7-8 pm. Please contact Wanda Jewett if you are interested. (269) 327-9873 or email- wjewett751@aol.com.



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

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

YOU ARE NEEDED!!!

Do you know that **YOU** make possible the great success of Zion's Grateful Hearts, Thankful Hands Bazaar each year and we need **YOU** again this year! What can you do to contribute? Any of the following—all are important tasks:

1) Contribute your time:

If you haven't started making items, now is the time to start. Volunteer to work at the Bazaar on November 16th. Watch for sign-up sheets on the kiosk, but save the date now so you'll be available. Men and older teens are also needed. Bake, bake and bake! Food items are great sellers. Plan to drop off baked goods on Friday, November 15th

2) Donate materials and supplies:

Canning lids (wide mouth and regular)
Nice cloth napkins
American Girl Doll books (like new)
Children's books, toys and puzzles in excellent condition
Narrow lace trims (1/4" – 1/2" wide)
Attic Treasures
Wool Sweaters

3) Pray for the success of the Bazaar: The Grateful Hands Thankful Hearts Bazaar is an outreach ministry. Its goal is to reach out and enfold all members of Zion (young and old) and provide another way to familiarize the community with Zion. So include the Bazaar and all its workers in your prayers as we continue to "Reach out with Jesus' Love." The money raised from the Bazaar will be split in the following manner: 20% to The Deacon's Conference; 30% to Friends of Jesus Preschool; 20% to Zion Youth Ministries and 30% to LURO . And don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors about our bazaar and invite them to come. We will have bookmarks available again for you to give them so they don't forget.

CATECHISM REVIEW: BAPTISM (part 1)

We begin by understanding the origins and meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

"Baptism" is from a Greek word meaning "to wash, sprinkle, or immerse with water." Water is the essence of life, and the most natural agent of cleansing. Holy Baptism is a sacred moment in which water, the life of Jesus, and God's miracle of grace are all in full force.

Many cultures use water as a ritual of cleansing or rebirth. In the Jewish tradition, converts to Judaism were baptized as a sign of leaving an old life behind. John the Baptist gathered his people in the Jordan River and baptized them as a sign that they were getting ready to receive and follow the Messiah. Jesus accepted that same washing, as he stood in the water, to announce the beginning of his earthly ministry of grace.

The Lutheran Church has two "sacraments:" Holy Communion and Holy Baptism. "Sacrament" is from a Latin word meaning "mystery." Luther defined "sacrament" as having 3 elements. It is an action instituted by Christ. It uses a visible element (like water) connected to God's Word in Scripture. It shares "grace" in a unique way.

The Biblical witness is clear: God created a perfect world, but our rebellion has broken the loving connections between us and God, as well as with our neighbors. All of creation is touched by sin, and the ultimate sign of that brokenness is death.

Baptism begins our journey back to God. It is initiated by God, not by us. In Baptism, we celebrate that God restores our relationship with Him, and destroys the power of sin and the tomb. Baptism is God's grace on display!

As Jesus prepared to withdraw his visible, physical presence on the Day of Ascension, he shared these words: *"Go! Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of*

the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19-20)

This command made Baptism the initiation rite of the Christian church.

Acts 16 records a story when Paul was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel in Philippi. While praying behind bars, there was an earthquake and prison doors were thrown open. The jailer was going to commit suicide, fearing a mass escape. Paul and Silas stayed behind and convinced the jailer God was behind this moment. The jailer asked how he could know that. Paul said, simply, "Believe!" The jailer embraced Christ, and Paul baptized him and his entire family, and then they shared a meal. From the beginning, Baptism has been the sacrament of initiation into the faith.

Baptism and faith are always connected. Baptism announces the relationship of faith. Baptism alone does not guarantee someone will always believe or that they are immunized against sinning or even rejecting God. It simply proclaims God's will in saving rather than abandoning his people. Baptism begins a lifetime journey.

The role of the Church is to help each Christian family grow daily in understanding what the journey is all about. The role of the Church is to be the place where all the baptized gather as "one body" to worship, to support each other, and to reach out, that others might leave the darkness of life without God and know the grace which Jesus Christ has come to bring.

For this reason, Baptism is always a public moment in worship, for not only are we celebrating new life in Christ, but we are celebrating another member of a bigger family of faith. Baptism does not bring us into a solitary relationship with God but introduces us to a family that transcends all time and space. It is the Genesis of our faith journey!

Friends of Jesus Preschool

Whew – summer went by in a blur! Between offering three camps (with record setting attendance) and doing all kinds of things to spruce up our work space, it seems like we've hardly had time to take a breath! Thank you, Linda Stieve, for once again overseeing the deep cleaning of the preschool with your team of incredible and dedicated workers. Our space looks and smells shiny and new! In anticipation of the new school year, we have painted the window walls in the two large classrooms and installed new carpet in each classroom. Our new mulch has already been delivered and spread thanks to Charlie Krill and the Wednesday beautification workers. We have reorganized our storage space and continue to work to improve the appearance and functionality of our preschool campus. I'm happy to announce that all of our staff remains in place this year and we have a very full roster. Our Bug Blast Off event will have already taken place by the time you read this. This busy evening helps our new families and their children get ready for the new school year in a helpful and productive way.

Are you ready for the crisp, colorful days of autumn? The preschool will once again be selling mums this fall to help you decorate your yard and home with beautiful colors. Our sale begins August 22nd (see the kiosk for forms). This year we'll be offering just one size – the 8" mums, for \$10. This will simplify our ordering and distribution process. If you have ordered mums as part of this fundraiser in the past, you will remember that there really isn't a significant difference between the 8" and 10" size plant – they are gigantic! We hope you'll choose to support Friends of Jesus again as you have so generously in the past. Lots of positive things are happening at Friends of Jesus Preschool. God has truly blessed us with wonderful families, students,



staff members and dedicated volunteers. We feel the love and support of Zion's congregation and ask you to include the preschool in your prayers for a healthy and successful year.

Looking Ahead: Friends of Jesus will once again be hosting our annual Family Fall Fest in October. You'll remember that we always feature a cakewalk and its always very popular. If you'd like to contribute a yummy treat for some lucky cakewalk winner, there will be a sign up at the kiosk in October.

Grateful Hands, Thankful Hearts Bazaar Contacts:

If you have questions concerning the upcoming Bazaar, the following is a list of people to contact:

Attic Treasures, Book Nook: Linda Mayer (375-1241), Jayne Mayer (375-8342)

Knit and Crochet: Janis Dinda (569-0322)

Ornaments: Marti Nuyen (342-8714)

Crafts/Sewing: Sharon Preuss (553-3385)

Gifts in a Jar: Jeanette Meyer (381-9078)

Zion's Table (baked or canned goods): Amy Nelson (345-6155)

ZION SECRETARIAL POSITION...for about 25 hours per week. Zion is looking for an experienced person comfortable working in a team setting to perform secretarial, receptionist, communication and record keeping responsibilities. Applicant should be competent with Microsoft Office, and be comfortable with new technologies such as websites, Facebook, and similar areas. Also must have good communication skills and a pleasant personality. Please drop off resume and references to the church office, or email to Pastor Seeber at pastortim@zionkazoo.org. Feel free to share this with any friends interested in this position.

Starts on September 8th at 9:15am for
children ages 3—Grade 5!

Family Potluck

September 15th from 11:30am—1pm

Food Theme: Tailgate

Octoberfest

Watch for more details. This is a WHOLE
congregation event planned for early October!

**IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN
CHILDREN**

Did you know...

2/3 of Christians come to faith before age 18

43% of those came to know Jesus before age 12

1/2 of children who know Jesus are led by their parents to the faith*

Wow...what an importance Children's Ministry is in the life of the church...and in the life of your child! As Sunday School disappears from most churches and the idea of programming changes to a more individualized basis, these statistics too, will change. The world we live in doesn't see religious instruction as a priority. The daily routine of our lives has limited time in spiritual disciplines and practice...but this is SOOO important! As we kick-start another year in Christian Education, PLEASE make it a priority in your family and encourage other families you know to make it a priority too!

*Stats come from ministry-to-children.com annual Children's
Ministry Statistic Report

FAMILY LIFE

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

	September 1	September 8 Service Time (10:30) Change/ Rally Day	September 15	September 22	September 29 Healing Service
Head Ushers 8am	Mark Schwerin	Larry Harding	Matt Simmons	Brian Gogan	John Dubois
Head Ushers 10:00/10:30am	Brandon Hamilton	(10:30) Steve Stokes	Steve Nuyen	Dennis O'Brien	Dan Frazier
Greeters Sat 5:30pm	Kathleen Jordan	Dee Wentzel	Don and Marge	Bruce and Kathy Hus-	Carolyn Vestal
Greeters 8:00am	Ted and Lucy Maxson	Bob and Barb Nutsch	George and Ellie Hayward	Donya Dobbins	Benno and Carol Rosin
Greeters 10:00/10:30am	Bob and Cheryl Bes- ser	Ron and Arlene Ma- sek	Pefe and Chris Wilkins	Rollie and Sharon Preuss	Steve and Debbie Weber
Communion Assis- tants Sat 5:30pm	Dee Wentzel	Rita Linnenkugel	Kathleen Jordan	Mike Schlack	Roxanne Seeber
Communion Assis- tants 8:00am	Ken Toy	Dave Newman	Matt Simmons	Richard Rakow	Linda Stieve
Communion Assis- tants 10:00am	Cyndi Bremer	Jon Tomer	John Buetow	Cyndi Bremer	John Buetow
Canor	Ted Maxson	One needed	Jim Mayer	Ken Toy	Ted Maxson
	Nick Sward	Brent Butler	Janis Dinda	Steve Nuyen	John Roggow
	Chuck Wendling	Troy Cosgrove	Garr Gast	Rollie Preuss	Dan Seng
	Ryan Bickel	8:00 – Vicki Holt	Lorraine Hanna	Linda Seng	Linda Seng
		10:00 – Karen Stokes	8:00 – Linda Stieve	8:00 – Dennis O'Brien	Not Needed
				10:00 – Vicki Holt	
Acolytes 8am	Evan Schoonbeck	Aly Hampshire	Alex Kiessling	Evan Schoonbeck	Rudy Linebaugh
Acolytes 10:00am	Landon Bauer	Maren Hampshire	Claire Kiessling	Kurtis Scheffler	Talia Linebaugh
Lectors 8am	Riley Ketchum	Claire Alsvig	Riley Ketchum	Megan Brennan	Bella Frazier
Lectors 10:00/10:30	Rudy Linebaugh	Audrey Hamilton	Nevina Beck	Bella Greene	Savannah Waterlander
Altar Ministry Sat. 5:30	Barb Nutsch	Alice Tomer	Linda Stieve	Jayne Mayer	Not Needed
	One needed	Alison Carlson	Janis Dinda	Jill Hamilton	Not Needed
	Phil Rettman	Two needed	Two needed	Two needed	Two needed
	One needed				
Altar Ministry 8:00am	Amy Nelson	Vicki Holt	Two needed	Amy Nelson	Amy Nelson
	Pam Leitz	One needed		One needed	Pam Leitz
Altar Ministry 10:00/10:30am	Dee Wentzel	Two needed	Toni Dembski	Two needed	Two needed
Sound	One needed	8:00 – Neil Segerdahl	Dee Wentzel		
	8:00 – Vicki Holt	10:30 – Neil Seger-	8:00 – Vicki Holt	8:00 – Neil Segerdahl	8:00 – Vicki Holt
	10:00 – Nick Alsvig	Steve and Karen	10:30 – Neil Seger-	10:30 – Andrew Bickel	10:30 – Neil Seger-
Coffee Fel-	No Coffee		Dave and Linda	Lynne Gerfen	Troy and Cynthia

<p>8 and 10:00 Communion Service</p>	<p>OFFICE IS CLOSED</p>	<p>FOJ First Day – Red and Yellow Bugs</p> <p>6:30 FOJ Ministry</p>	<p>LWR Sewing</p> <p>FOJ First Day – Orange Bugs</p>	<p>7:00 Choir</p>		<p>5:30 Communion Service</p>
<p>8</p> <p>RALLY DAY</p> <p>LATE SERVICE CHANGE 8:00 and 10:30 Communion Svc</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School/ Conf/ Sr. High/Pastor's Class</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 Personnel 6:30 Endowment</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 Finance</p> <p>6:00 Worship Planning</p> <p>6:00 Family Ministry</p> <p>6:30 Small Group</p> <p>7:00 Bells</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 LWR Sewing</p> <p>5:15 Dinner</p> <p>6:15 Confirmation & Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 Property</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>FOJ Gull Meadow Field Trip</p> <p>Mum fundraiser ends</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00 Men's Group</p> <p>5:30 Communion Service</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 and 10:30 Communion Svc</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School/ Conf/ Sr. High/Pastor's Class</p> <p>11:30 –Family Ministry Potluck</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00 Campus Ministry</p> <p>6:30 Board of Directors</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Bells</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 LWR Sewing</p> <p>8:30 Outdoor Beautification</p> <p>9-11 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>5:15 Dinner</p> <p>6:15 Confirmation & Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Mum Delivery</p> <p>7:00 Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 Men's Group</p> <p>2-4:00 Prayer Shawl @ Biggby</p> <p>5:30 Communion Service</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 and 10:30 Communion Svc</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School/ Conf/ Sr. High/Pastor's Class</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 ZWBG</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 Bible Class</p> <p>6:00pm Communication Ministry</p> <p>6:30 Youth Ministry</p> <p>7:00 Bells</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 LWR Sewing</p> <p>9-11 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>5:15 Dinner</p> <p>6:15 Confirmation & Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>FOJ Grandparents Day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00 Men's Group</p> <p>5:30 Communion Service</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:00 and 10:30 Communion Svc.</p> <p>Emotional Healing Service</p> <p>9:15 Sunday Sch/Conf/ Sr. High</p>	<p>30</p>					

Youth News

High School:

Classes

Classes start September 8th at 9:15am in the High School Room.

Please join us as we discuss the Psalms and the authors of the Psalms!

Kayak Trip

Might be rescheduled for the month of September...stay tuned to your email!

Middle School Youth

Confirmation

Wednesday night classes start September 4th at 6:15pm.

Sunday classes start September 8th at 9:15am.

Airways

Sunday, September 29th from 11:30am–2pm. Golf/Bowling included...anything else bring \$.

Echoes

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

Be prepared for many stories of God-sightings at the National Youth Gathering! Wow, what a fantastic time to be with a community of believers and take some time to spiritually recharge.

Sighting #1: When was the last time you went to a stadium for a game or other event? How many people working there did you encounter? Security? Ushers?

Concessions? Traffic cops? These people are often overlooked and shrugged off. They go unnoticed and oftentimes ignored. But many stories were shared by these people to adults in the group. They had never encountered such a recognition, inclusion, or joy.

Seeing an event including 20,000+ teens had to be pretty disappointing but we were told by these people it was the greatest week of work for them ever.

Teens were kind, respectful, and went out of their way to say thank you. If ever God was present in random little acts, this was it! What a great way of sharing their faith—with a simple thank you, making eye contact, or simply listening without arguing.

Stay tuned for more!

CLASSES FOR ADULTS AT ZION

Sundays at 9:15 am

Gathering Place with Pastor Seeber

We will begin the year with a study of Matthew's Gospel, comparing it to the other Gospels and seeing his unique perspective.

Upstairs Classrooms with Linda Stieve

This class covers a variety of topics dealing with Scripture and Faith. The class will begin by looking at "The Story of Scripture."

Downstairs (room B101) with the Buetows

For parents with children, this is an opportunity to grow in faith with others in the same stage of family life.

Tuesdays at 10 am

Gathering Place with Pastor Brelje

This class will continue the study of the First Epistle of Peter.

Wednesdays 9-11 am *NEW for women!*

Blends with Lisa Perry and others

"Wisdom for Mothers" uses scripture to deal with many of the issues of family life. See the details on page 16.

Wednesdays 6:15-7:30 pm

Blends with Jil Larson and Pastor Seeber

This class uses contemporary writers to explore issues of faith. We will begin this year by using C.S. Lewis' book "The Four Loves."

Parent/Family Workshops will be held during the year at this time. Watch for details!

Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm

Retirement and Aging classes will be held during this time. See page 14 for more information on the Matter of Balance Classes.

Saturdays at 8 am

Workroom with Pastor Seeber

One key question each week helps us to focus on practical application of the Epistle reading for this Sunday.

Small Group Bible Studies

These are held at a variety of locations and times each month. A brochure will be shared around Labor Day which will give all the details of when classes meet and who the contact person is for each group.

CLASSES FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Sundays at 9:15 am

High School Bible Study takes place downstairs in the education area. This year we will be focusing on the Psalms. On the 2nd Sunday of each month the leadership team makes breakfast and Aaron shares a story. See you there!

Middle School Sunday School also takes place downstairs and is part of our Confirmation Ministry. Here we explore how we have been "Created in Christ" and see how the Bible connects to our faith through the Catechism.

Sunday School meets downstairs in the Undercroft. Students discover Bible stories along with Bible truths that will help lay a great foundation for their faith journey. We have been hard at work creating a unique curriculum customized for our setting. Come join all the excitement!

Young Adults/College meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the room at the top of the stairs by the offices.

Wednesdays 6:15-7:30 pm

Confirmation Class for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students meets downstairs in the Middle School Youth Room.

Book Review. "The Tie That Binds," Kent Haruf. Henry Holt. 1984.

This is Haruf's first novel, which I did not read until I read all of his other novels. He took up writing later in life and all of his works are worth reading for a glimpse into early 20th century life in a little town at the edge of the Western prairies. Just like life often is, the world he creates is windblown, simple, tragic, and full of comedy and joy at the same time.

This, as are his other works, all take place in a fictional town of Holt, Colorado. I always thought of mountains when I thought of Colorado, but the entire eastern half of the state is mile-high desert. It is barren. Dry. Windy. Desolate. There are more cattle than people and many, many miles between communities. Everything is the same color, and it is brutally hot in the summer and cold in the winter. And it is windy, dusty, and not like the fertile farmlands of Iowa or Illinois.

And yet, as the Israelites found out in their lifetime of desert wandering in Exodus, wherever people live, there is a story. Even when there are more cattle than people and more dust than rain. This is a story about life. It begins with a scene of an 80 year old woman sitting in jail, after being charged with the murder of her 78 year old brother. Of course, as you will find out if you read the book, there is more to the story. And with everything that happens in life, sometimes there are no words that can accurately describe what appears to be.

This book is reminiscent of Greek tragedies we read in school. It feels like the American style called Southern Gothic, represented by writers such as Flannery O'Connor. It is heart-wrenchingly wonderful writing. It is about survival in the midst of terrible pain, and love which can transcend any evil. It is a powerful story of lives that appear, at first, to be simple and empty, but deep down are full and rich and anything but dull.

The story follows the lives of a brother and sister who, through no fault of their own, are unable to escape the angry bitterness of a controlling farmer-father who keeps them under his control and changes their lives forever. Neither marries and they wind up living together as the only way to survive what they have had to endure. While this might not sound exciting, it really is and the book is difficult to put down.

Haruf's writing seems as plain and simple as a wind blown prairie in eastern Colorado, and yet, just as there is complexity in any desert, so there is in the prose he creates. When you think through his simple observations, you realize there is always another layer in any moment in life. Here is a sample:

"After all that we settled into our ruts again. And sometimes, looking at this story, it seems to me like that's about all it is, a series of independent ruts. Some of them lasted for four or five years and some lasted for twenty, but they were ruts just the same, a bunch of worn-out cow paths winding down occasionally to water and a bit of rest and maybe for a good blow for a while over a block of salt, but then back again once more into all this Holt County sand. You can see it any time in any cow pasture." [128]

Haruf's novels are not difficult to read, and full of real life drama. I wish that he had written more than he did. I was first attracted by the choice of his titles such as "Plainsong," "Eventide," and "Benediction."

His writing is much like that of another favorite author, Wendell Berry, who created a fictional town in rural Kentucky, and wrote a series of novels following the daily lives of its inhabitants. Maybe this has to do with a desire for a slower and simpler time and place in which to live, and maybe it is simply about taking time to remember the drama of every life.

Pastor Seeber

Aging in His Grace

Often in the work that I do, I have people asking whether I think that they are safe living independently in their home or whether I think that their aging parents are safe living independently in their home. I often struggle with the concept of "safe" as we can all define it a little bit differently. I can do an assessment and point out the areas where I see the highest risk. Does it mean that addressing those risks will make a person "safe"? I certainly cannot guarantee that!

I have to think about safety as a continuum with some factors decreasing the likelihood of harm and other factors as increasing the likelihood of harm. There is "safer" and there is "less safe." Someone with extremely poor eyesight that insists on driving a car is increasing the likelihood of harm. Smoking a cigarette when you are on oxygen increases the likelihood of harm. Even if past experience with these activities has not resulted in harm, they cannot be deemed safe. The aforementioned activities are not safe because the risk level each time they are performed is very high.

Some activities may have risk under certain circumstances but not always. This adds to the complexity of assessing whether someone is "safe" These activities require individuals to self-monitor when and if they will be performed. If someone's arthritis is really painful on a particular day, it's probably best not to rake leaves or do some major grocery shopping where a lot of groceries will need to be carried in and put away. The yard work or grocery shopping pose a risk because pain levels are high but may be performed with lesser risk at a different time when pain levels are better managed.

One of the best ways to edge people toward the safer edge of the continuum is to take proactive steps toward less risk. Taking the Matter of Balance class to be offered here at Zion (Thursdays, September 19 through November 7 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm) is a proactive way of minimizing risk from harm of falls. There has been a lot of interest in the class! Let me (Judy Adlam 375-4388) know if you are interested in attending. You can also call Kelly Milliman at 269-373-5021 to sign up. If I spoke with you on the phone, you may notice that the start date of the class is different than what I said on the phone. We decided on an earlier start date so that the class could be completed before Thanksgiving.

Did You Know?

Zion's Grateful Hearts Thankful Hands Bazaar is on Facebook? If you are a Facebook Fan please go to our page and 'like' it, then share it with your friends. This is a great marketing tool to get others interested. We will be updating it periodically showing samples of items that will be for sale this year. Keep checking it out for changes and add your comments.

Completed Bazaar Items

Please drop off your completed items for the Grateful Hearts, Thankful Hands Bazaar at any time in the Workroom. There is a sign-in sheet available near the box for you to record your crafts. Items for Attic Treasures don't need to be signed in. Please enter your name, phone number, the quantity and type of item and a suggested selling price if you have one in mind.

Please call Jayne Mayer (375-8342) if you have questions.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP — WHAT IS BEST FOR ZION?

How diverse is the majesty of a Bach piece on the organ, or a piano's reflective meditation on a variation of a hymn? Or the incredible variety of other instruments (including voices) which use "sound" to help us praise God and feel the movement of his Holy Spirit in our lives at the same time? As "Lutherans," we have a rich liturgical and musical heritage as part of our DNA. Our worship will always follow that pattern, and we will always be respectful and thoughtful in how we introduce new musical styles or hymns to sing. We will always be mindful that worship is not about watching a performance but a time for ALL of us to respond to God's grace with energy, passion, and reflective praise, as we are touched by his Word and Sacramental presence.

In recent years, we have sought to find more and more ways to keep the music in worship fresh and vibrant. Our adult choir has used the classic music of our heritage as well as the more colloquial style of Gospel spirituals. Hand bells and brass have accompanied organ or been used from special music. Soloists, cantatas, children's voices, and cantors have all added to the mix. Because of the availability of musicians from the jazz program at WMU (one of the top five such programs in the country), we have been led by pianists and instrumentalists in adding new voices to worship. That was most evident as we began two services each month (1st and 3rd late) in which we sang familiar hymns but in a more jazz-influenced setting.

In that setting, the piano was the primary voice to lead us, assisted by vocalists, but stringed, brass, and percussive instruments blended to keep the format of our worship from being so repetitious that we forget the energy of God's Holy Spirit that is alive in our midst every moment of our lives. God is always creating and we keep finding new voices in terms of our response. For instance, this summer we have introduced some newer

songs that blend well with the themes and readings of our worship. Some refer to this as "praise" music, and yet we know that all of our worship and music is about "praise." But it does have a different sound and feel, just as organ music did during the time of the Reformation when that was introduced to people who had been used to Gregorian chant and nothing else. So, times change, styles vary, but as long as we are respectful, good stewards of God's gift of music, and approach worship as a time for us to respond together in joy, humility, meditation, and praise, we are moving in the right direction.

Worship is always and only about giving God the glory, and we are seeking to use the gifts God has placed in our midst to do that in the most loving and respectful way as possible. Should we come to a day when we update our hymnals, know that there will be another learning curve in that process as well. God keeps sharing gifts and opportunities for a reason, and part of our stewardship is to utilize God's gifts for God's Glory. Whatever we do, we will always remain faithful to who we are! The liturgical underpinnings of Reformation (which brought worship back into the hands and voices of all the people) will continue!

Music, in all of its forms, is part of creation. Genesis reminds us that God's Spirit hovered over chaos, and then he spoke: "*Wind! Sun! Valleys! Puppies! Birds! And it was so. And it was good.*" His voice moved creation to be, just as wind moves through a brass instrument, sound escape from organ pipes, or vibrate from the strings of a piano, violin or guitar. In response, our ears pick up the energy and we hear what someone else has created. Music is central to worship. We will continue to seek to utilize God's creative gifts as tools for the worship of His people. We will respond to His grace with the energy and passion which God certainly deserves from us. We all have favorite instruments and musical styles, but it is the God we worship who keeps us one! His is the voice we seek to echo! Pastor Seeber



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/1 Haven Besser, Brad Glasser,
Annette Nickel
- 9/2 Christine Eichaker, Veronica
Schoonbeck, Dolores 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 Gail Nelson
- 9/10 Daniel Buchtrup, Deborah Klug
- 9/11 Adam Brege
- 9/12 Karl Dinda, Sharon Preuss
- 9/13 Cynthia Bremer, Piper Soppelsa
- 9/14 Ruth Norton, Steve Nuyen
- 9/15 Horst Jendralski
- 9/16 Erik DuBois
- 9/18 Collin Klein, Brenda Rakow
- 9/19 Paul Bowes, Evie Linebaugh,
Blake Scheffler
- 9/20 Yvonne Wordell
- 9/21 Paul Noseworthy, Kelly Stetten,
Cheryl Zerbel
- 9/23 Fred Bierlein, Lauren Stetten
- 9/24 Carol Beutler, Patricia Kenter, Samuel
Klein, Allison Weber
- 9/25 Isabella Greene, Roxanne Seeber
- 9/27 Gregory Meimers, Jan Rogers
- 9/28 Genevieve Miller
- 9/30 Anthony Parente

Staff Anniversaries

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

Angela Bowers	9/20/2011
Roxanne Nieboer	9/1/2011



Start Sunday,
September 8
8:00 & 10:30

WISDOM MOTHERS



DENISE GLENN

Beginning **Wednesday, September 18 from 9-11am**, *Wisdom for Mothers* is a ten-week study that will be offered at Zion for women of all ages – and not just moms! Our God is a God of relationship. He desires

us to get to know Him and spend some time with Him. He also created us to be relational people and we all have many different kinds of relationships: in our families, the work place, in society, within the church and more. How do those relationships affect us? How are we supposed to prioritize different relationships God has given us? *Wisdom for Mothers* can help you discover how God designed relationships: God – Spouse – Children – Ministry (work).

In those 10 weeks, we will pray, study God's word, go through some basic homework and have discussions over what was learned. Everyone's input will be confidential. All materials and childcare are provided at no charge.

If you're not sure if you can commit for the whole 10-weeks, not problem! Drop-In moms (and singles, married with no children, and grandmas) are welcome!

All materials and childcare are provided at no charge.

For more information, or to indicate interest in the class, please call or Email Lisa Perry (new member at Zion).
LisaEPerry@me.com or 484-883-3016

Friends of Jesus(FOJ) FOJ income for July was \$1,829 (\$150 from registration fees, \$1,175 from Summer Camp and \$504 from missions) which was under budget by \$157 for the month. For expenses, Staff support was under budget by \$31 and Operations expenses were \$1,056 over budget. The YTD income is \$4,306 over budget by \$547. The YTD expenses are \$8,113 over budget by \$4,095.

Solid Ground (SG) Monthly giving was \$4,653 and under budget by \$3,472. Total monthly income was \$10,989, under budget by \$3,245. Total monthly expenses were \$9,173, under budget by \$19. MTD net income was \$1,816, under budget by \$3,226. YTD giving is \$7,134, under budget by \$2,116. The YTD income is \$20,534, under budget by \$6,862. YTD expenses are \$17,667, under budget by \$27. The YTD net income is \$2,867, under budget by \$6,835.

Zion: Giving for July totaled \$51,392, under budget by \$6,870. Giving for last July was \$62,467 which equals a comparative shortage of \$11,231. Total monthly income was \$53,221, under budget by \$7,027. Total monthly expenses were \$60,724, over budget by \$918. July ended with a net loss of \$7,503, worse than budget by \$7,945. Giving YTD is \$113,706, over budget by \$2,660. Total YTD income is \$118,012, over budget by \$3,207. The total YTD expenses are \$124,016, over budget by \$6,784. The YTD net loss is \$6,004, worse than budget by \$3,577.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - July 2019						
INCOME & EXPENSE	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
Zion (Giving + Interest)	58,262	51,392	6,870	111,046	113,706	-2,660
Friends of Jesus	1,986	1,829	157	3,759	4,306	-547
TOTAL	60,248	53,221	7,027	114,805	118,012	-3,207
EXPENSES						
Zion Staff Support	28,364	29,706	-1,342	57,827	58,949	-1,122
FOJ Staff Support	2,303	2,272	31	3,593	5,151	-1,558
Office Operations	1,645	881	764	3,310	3,345	-35
Church Property	7,750	6,533	1,217	13,075	12,921	154
Education Ministry	733	1,402	-669	1,117	2,184	-1,067
Evangelism/Missions	100	0	100	100	58	42
Worship Ministry	390	985	-595	1,130	1,729	-599
Other Ministries	225	79	146	925	213	712
Music Ministry	1,750	1,500	250	3,250	3,000	250
Finance Ministry	10,341	10,364	-23	20,717	20,701	16
FoJ Operations	100	1,156	-1,056	425	2,962	-2,537
Zion Haus Ministry	300	152	148	700	424	276
Missions - General	5,805	5,694	111	11,063	12,379	-1,316
TOTAL	59,806	60,724	-918	117,232	124,016	-6,784
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	442	-7,503	7,945	-2,427	-6,004	3,577
SOLID GROUND - July 2019						
Solid Ground Income	14,234	10,989	3,245	27,396	20,534	6,862
Solid Ground Expenses	9,192	9,173	19	17,694	17,667	27
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	5,042	1,816	3,226	9,702	2,867	6,835
BALANCE SHEET						
	6/1/2019	7/31/2019	YTD Change			
ASSETS						
Cash	21,918	19,468	-2,450			
Investments	160,630	160,925	295			
Other Assets	1,026	-17,074	-18,100			
TOTAL	183,574	163,319	-20,255			
LIABILITIES						
Payroll	4,388	4,454	66			
Dedicated Funds	164,539	150,222	-14,317			
Unrestricted Funds	14,647	8,643	-6,004			
TOTAL	183,574	163,319	-20,255			
MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE - \$875,801						
Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000						
FOJ Estate Gift	\$5,099	Pews	\$6,769			
Equipment Fund	\$8,203	Benevolence	\$4,476			
FOJ Fundraising	\$10,950	New Staff	\$50,000			
Youth Ministry	\$3,553	Savings	\$46,500			

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

September

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



September 8th



**Fall Worship
Schedule Begins
8:00 & 10:30**

**Fall Classes Begin
9:15**

