

Looking Up | Reaching Out

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Harbinger

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It is amazing how often an offhand and critical comment can become so hurtful to someone else. Why are we often better at hurting than helping? When my son, Chris, was in middle school, he spent the fall working for our neighbors (walking dogs, cutting grass, and bringing in mail when they were on vacation.) He was quite generous with Christmas gifts that year, having a definite plan and budget for what he wanted to share. Knowing my love of cooking, he bought me a cast iron pot rack to hang from the ceiling over our kitchen island. It was quite a surprise and exactly what I would love to have, but there was no way (with an 8 foot ceiling) that there would be room. Without thinking my first reaction was *"this won't work in our kitchen."* (What a fool I can be! Why would love ever be replaced with a comment that although "practical" could bring pain to someone I love?) How often do we hurt others when that might not have been our intent? Immediately I realized what I had done. First responses are often best kept unspoken, but that isn't always my way. For a father to hurt a child in such a way is more than embarrassing and painful. It is obviously a memory impossible to forget. I immediately apologized to Chris, explaining it was a wonderful gift. But that should have been my first word and not one of saving face. Why is it that we sometimes hurt the people we love the most, or embarrass ourselves because we are so quick to criticize the impractical or poor choices of others? Proverbs 12:18 nails it: *"rash words are like sword like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."* Sometimes we are smarter than those around us, and sometimes we are right and they are wrong. But how can it ever be helpful to hurt rather than help, or cause pain rather than heal? A principle taught to physicians is to "first, do no harm." I like that! It sounds a lot like Jesus' words about loving as I have been loved. Washing feet is better than pointing out the fact that they are dirty. Love is not only a gift for me, but the first gift I am called to share! Pastor Seeber

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

What does it mean to be a “member” of Zion?

With the past few months under our belts, this question is even more pertinent than ever. Zion has always been an active, energetic congregation. And there are some less engaged and involved. Our current time has presented a situation where those who have been very active can't be, and some who have not wish they could be. For once, we are maybe all in the same boat (sort of.)

And yet, what it means to be a member of the Church never changes. Baptized into Christ we are tied to his love in response to his love for us. We are not baptized into a congregation or a denomination but into the Body of Christ. “Church” (capital C) is comprised of everyone who confesses Jesus as their Lord and Savior, while “church” (lowercase c) is the local place we have a face to face opportunity to be a part of the physical Body of Christ on earth. It is where we live as part of the “Church.”

From Baptism, every child of God is part of the Church, and yet each has a different way of understanding what it means. We can offer guidelines but each has to decide how important sharing daily faith and ministry with other Christians really is, and what it means to be one with Christ and one with each other.

Baptism is an adoption sacrament where we are attached to Christ and his body on earth. Connected to Christ and each other this “body” moves as one in worship, fellowship, mutual support and servant love. If not, we are not receiving all the gifts God offers and we are not sharing the gifts God has blessed us with. The Church is not meant as a solo journey, as we are members of Christ's true Body on earth.

All love to think we can all get through life on our own, but just as we need doctors, grocery stores, teachers, police, utility workers babysitters, friends (and more) our spiritual

needs and support are through our connection with the Church.

The congregation (small “c” church) serves the same purpose. This is where we gather to remember the Sabbath, keep God first, as well as worship and serve with the family we have been baptized into. At Zion, for instance, we can do together what none of us can do alone or might not be equipped for at all. Holy Communion, Sunday School, a Christian preschool, youth ministry, confirmation classes, spiritual growth, and the friendship and support of others who share our commonality of faith are important in the same way.

We like to think we can do it alone, but we need each other and often others need you and me. That is why Paul talked about the Church (and church) being like a body. Hands, feet, eyes, ears and every part of the body are necessary for the body to function.

At various times I have been under pressure to “clean out” the rolls. To drop people from our membership list and quit wasting money on mailings. My approach has always been less mercenary and maybe somewhat impractical. But I think it is what Christ calls us to do. We keep in touch any way we can. One never knows when someone will need us and when we will offer an opportunity for someone who has been distant to come back home. Or we will need what someone else is finally willing to share!

This week I received a note from someone who has not been in this building for years, and was never that “active.” And in this letter we were thanked for the many ways we find to keep connected and strengthen the faith. One never knows who is being touched and how someone might touch us. We miss anyone who is “away” but we still are part of one family in Christ. Let's remember we are in the same boat, and be thankful for the opportunity Christ offers each, through grace.

Catechism Review for Adults

"CONFESSION "

CONFESSION is crucial to faith. It has two distinct parts. It begins with an admission of guilt ("Confession,") and is completed with an announcement of the gift of forgiveness ("Absolution.") Both are necessary for healthy lives of faith. "Confession" admits we are not perfect. An "Absolution," announces God's words of grace, assuring us of the gift of forgiveness. Confession allows us to get something off our chest and the words of Absolution are healing balm for our hearts.

Parents, police, judges, spouses and teachers often seek a confession. For healing, our "wrongs" must be admitted. That is never easy, but is necessary! We hesitate, for fear that a relationship will be lost or a punishment will be more than we can handle. That is why our admission of guilt is followed by the loving promise of forgiveness.

In this balance, relationships are restored or maintained, solely out of grace. But unless one is willing to honestly confess sin, the impact of grace can never be fully understood. And God's grace is a gift that is undeserved, but sorely needed!

Confession is complete honesty in front of God, no matter who hears that confession. God is always in the room, and it is for God's sake that we must be honest! That might seem strange, for what can we tell God that He doesn't already know? Why pretend we are telling God a secret? Yet, as I speak out loud I get whatever is bottled up inside, or hidden from the light, out in the open. Then I can't pretend or hide anymore.

It is risky to confess, but God's love makes that a safe risk. Think about how important it is when someone says, "I forgive you;" and means it! How much more that Word means when you know it directly addresses the pain you have caused! (A load is lifted!)

There was a time when the practice of confession was in only in private (usually with a pastor or priest.) And such a confession is sacred and can NEVER be repeated by the one hearing the confession. A pastor or priest is not more holy than others, but in this sacramental rite acts to make God's voice of grace heard most clearly. In doing so, healing becomes more personal!

In the Middle Ages, "penance" began to be demanded as an act of proving a confession was sincere (such as saying prayers or performing acts of love.) But this gave the impression that actions "bought" forgiveness. The Reformers insisted such actions were not demanded. Grace must be understood as a gift without strings. (Yet there is always merit in a tangible way of saying "Thanks!")

Luther added a general confession as part of worship, so the practice became more ingrained in daily loving. The intent was not to abandon private confession, but gradually many backed away from a one-on-one moment of private confession. It seems less embarrassing to just talk to God in prayer, but confession is most powerful when face to face with one who has been wronged, or with a trusted Christian who can announce (face to face) the power of grace. Life is never meant to be lived alone, and a spoken word of confession is relived more fully through a spoken word of absolution.

Like the benefit of counseling for burdens of life, our confession offers up the pain and guilt of broken living in order to more completely understand exactly what forgiveness means. In our liturgy, the pastor announces what God says in our private prayers: "you are forgiven."

But in our daily "worship" it might be a wife or a child or a friend whom we approach in order to allow them the joy of saying "I love you, and I forgive you." There are often no better words! Whether in public or in private, this moment fills empty and broken lives.

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT

For those of you who have met Dave Sidwell, the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church here in Kalamazoo, he has a unique sense of humor. He and I were classmates at the Seminary, so we've known each other for a long time.

In the month of February, the members of Immanuel fix lunches for our campus ministry after our Sunday services. Pastor Sidwell usually comes over those Sunday's to interact with us. One of the phrases that he loves to say is: "Doing campus ministry is like trying to nail jello to a wall."

For all of us doing campus ministry, it certainly feels like that as we head into this new academic year.

The new school year begins September 2nd, with all of our in person events at Solid Grounds being held outside. Our first Sunday worship service will be on September 6th.

WMU is doing everything it can to prevent the spread of COVID. Kanley Chapel will be closed this year and all group events at the Bernhard Center are restricted to no more than 10 people. The only exception is an event that is considered educational or instructional will be allowed to have up to 50 people.

So, our plan for ministry this academic year will be two-fold. Because we are blessed to have a physical location on campus, we plan on using the outdoor space, especially the first half of the semester when the weather should be nice. I think that students are tired of being cooped up and ready to get out and make connections with one another. We are also looking at having several small group meetings in the early evenings at Solid Grounds outside.

In terms of outreach, I have reached out to a number of WMU faculty in Sociology, Business, Music, English, Global and International Studies, Criminal Justice, and the Lewis Walker Institute to explore the possibility of having WMU students and whoever might be interested in partnering with KPS families and students to help with tutoring or whatever the need might be.

I've also contacted Pastor Joel Brooks at Stones Church on Douglas Ave. to see if their congregation is looking at working with KPS students and families on the northside of Kalamazoo as low income families are trying to figure out how to help their students navigate the school year. My hope is that this might be a way for WMU students and faculty to serve the needs of families in our community in this time of need.

We also will be doing a series of podcast conversations with students and hopefully some WMU faculty on matters related to life and faith.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to lead and guide our efforts, our plans, and that He will strengthen and take care of WMU students, faculty and staff as we enter this new academic year and all of the unknowns that are in front of us.

"We don't know what the future holds, but we know the One who holds the future." Jesus is the One!

God's peace and blessings to you all!

Pastor Mark



ADULT EDUCATION THIS FALL AT ZION!

We are planning a full complement of classes as we have done every year, although the format will be changed due to the COVID-19 restrictions that are still in place at this time.

Once things “open up” we will resume a more normal schedule, but will likely continue to post material online for those who are unable or not ready yet to attend in person.

Small groups will likely be meeting via Zoom or another platform such as that. Each group will be contacting members as it is time to resume. We will publish a list of available small groups as soon as we have that information. **Please see Aaron’s article on Page 6 for further details.**

Pastor Seeber will continue his Men’s small group Bible study, live at 8am on Saturday mornings. One of the members of the group is hosting the online meeting. Contact Pastor Tim if you would like to join the group.

Pastor Seeber will have one or two classes each week. Pastor Brelje will also have a class. We are working on details and formats now, but classes will start in mid September. Most likely we will post a class that you can watch when convenient but have a “Zoom” session later for those who want to discuss the material or ask further questions.

Read Aaron’s article to get a better feel for what we are working on. We appreciate your patience and support as we deal with a different reality than we have faced ever before. Much good has already come out of our adaptations and in the long run these changes will be good for the future of Zion and all congregations.

Zion’s Support for a Seminary Student

One of the goals when Zion’s Endowment was established was to offer support for the training of full time church workers. Over the years we have seen some of our sons and daughters go into full time church work, and the endowment has helped. For instance, Pastors Eric Eichinger and Brett Hartwig both were able to complete seminary training with the help of Zion. We now have another student who we are supporting at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Pastor Brelje, in one of his visits with our long time member Jan Davidson, found that her grandson, who is a member at Trinity Lutheran in Paw Paw had decided upon a new career as a pastor. His name is Jason Groth.

He and wife Emily have four children, and made a major decision to leave his job and home and move to St. Louis to train for the pastoral ministry of the Lutheran Church.

Zion’s scholarship help will assist in providing another pastor, during a time when there is a shortage of pastors in the Lutheran Church. From time to time he will share updates, as both Pastors Eric Eichinger and Brett Hartwig did during their time at the seminary and from the parishes they now serve.

What a blessing our endowment is that it continues to provide full time church workers at a time when there is such a crucial need! He asked us to pass along his thanks for such a support as he moved his wife and children to St. Louis to pursue his vocation of service.

Fall 2020 Education Plan

Amidst a coin shortage, 2020 sure has brought about a lot of change. Some of the change has been good. Other changes have challenged us. Most of the changes have been unplanned, unwelcomed, and uncertain. As we kick-off another education year at Zion I want to share our changes as well as our plan. Please keep in mind this is a tentative plan and will be reassessed as COVID progresses or recesses. We want to keep the physical health and safety of our people in the forefront.

All classes will start out virtually or outdoors. Indoor, in person, classes will not start before September 20th. We will be utilizing Zoom and other platforms to still hold classes and have discussions. Confirmation will be using Google Classrooms. We might have private Facebook groups for different Bible studies. YouTube will still be a posting place for our videos.

We will communicate these options and class offerings soon! Please watch Facebook and the weekly email for this information. If you have been part of a class before and want to stay with that group, reach out to your facilitator.

Spiritual education at Zion is still a priority. We are constantly in motion now as updates and recommendations change, and as certain technology becomes more available and more known.

One of those awesome changes we can see in all this, is the more consistent spiritual conversation and discovery. We've heard from many people that they are in God's Word more every day instead of just once or twice a week. This is a big key to educational offerings at Zion in the future. We hope your spiritual lives continue to grow and that you are blessed by your daily time in God's Word. Please reach out if you have any questions!

-Aaron

Outdoor Beautification Fall 2020 Schedule

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 occurs from 10:00-10:30. If you are interested, contact Jim Mayer at 375-8342. 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 9,
October 14,
October 28



ZION'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK is almost ready.

The book is approximately 40 pages and available Late September or Early October. An estimate of how many to print is needed which will impact the overall per book cost.

Please see the more detailed announcement on Page 11.

THINGS TO DO DURING A PANDEMIC

1. Sort your Sock Drawer — yes, find that long lost mate
2. Match lids to your plastic food containers — again, find that long-lost mate
3. Re-connect with an old classmate, friend or relative
4. Sign-up for a free streaming account and binge watch your favorite sit-com before the trial subscription runs out
5. Learn a new language
6. Master a 1000 piece puzzle
7. Journal your most favorite moments - go ahead, take the time to capture all the details that made it favorite— Don't forget to smile / laugh as you recall
8. Try using your non-dominate hand for a day or maybe even longer. Write yourself a letter, brush your teeth, eat, etc
9. Teach your dog to shake - hand sanitizer optional
10. Relearn all the things you've forgotten from elementary school — the Presidents in order, the capitals of all the countries — Watch re-runs of "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader" for you visual learners
11. Enjoy random animal videos — Google "Moonpie Starbox and Buttercup"
12. Learn more about Michigan — maybe enjoy a random car trip and discover an off the beaten path gem. Check out TV's "Under the Radar" for some best kept secret places in Michigan.
13. Keep moving — stretch, walk, sing, bake, paint, dance
14. Write a play using those that have had the most influence in your life - fictitious names, of course. What type of character would they be, good, bad or to be determined
15. Meditate, savor some moments, stay prayerful — This, too, shall pass

Why Liturgy is Important — The Benediction

There are elements to our worship that are historic, biblical, and help us in our daily lives of worship. Each month we look at one part of what we do in worship. This month we deal with **“THE BENEDICTION.”**

Our worship concludes with a blessing called the “Benediction.” (It comes from two Latin words: *bene* (meaning “good”) and *dicere* (meaning “to speak.”) These words send us out to the world, where our daily worship and witness will continue. It is a fitting send off for ministry and living in faith.

The most common is the following: *“The Lord bless you, and keep you: The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.”* (Numbers 6:24-26)

These were the words God spoke to Moses (who taught them to Aaron.) Aaron was instructed to share these words for two reasons. Like a blanket, God wanted his people to know that he was “covering” them wherever they went; a reminder that we are never alone! The second was to remember that God would indeed bless them. These good words send and sustain God’s people wherever we go and whatever we do.

As formal worship “ends,” our daily worship and time of public service begins. Having been touched by God through Sacrament and Word, we are sent “to be God’s people” in our living. These “good words” send us out with a reminder of whose we are and how we are to live. Like a graduation speech they send us on our way, forgiven, strengthened, and empowered for service!

As the Pastor holds up his hands to announce these words, remember how Moses held up his hands to part the waters of the Red Sea. Remember how Jesus stretched out his hands to embrace an entire world as He was lifted on a cross. Remember how Jesus blessed his

disciples as He prepared to leave his earthly ministry with the command for them to “go and make disciples of the entire world.” And remember the blessing of baptism. These words touch our hearts with similar strength. We are sent for service. And we don’t go alone. The benediction is a blessing that goes with us and a reminder that we are never alone.

When I was in high school, and would head out with my friends or on a date (which was a fairly rare occurrence) my Mom would always say, *“Remember whose you are.”* That was her blessing — a benediction of sorts for me to keep in mind all she and Dad had lovingly shared with me and expected of me. The benediction we announce and receive on Sunday morning is God’s way of sending us in a similar fashion. (In recent years her blessing has been “Go with God!”) That works too!

For Parents with young children:


As parents we hug and kiss our children when we put them to bed for the night, or when they are heading out for the first day of school. That is our way of reminding them that they are loved, protected, and that even when we aren’t with them, we are still with them. Our hugs and kisses are like “benedictions” of parental love. They cover our children with a blanket of protection and they remind our children of how important they are to us.

The blessing at the end of worship is God’s way of reminding children and parents alike that we are never alone, and that God’s blessing and guidance are gifts that will go with us each and every step of the day. That is why these “good words” are so important for our children. They need such blessings every day — as do we all, from earthly and heavenly parents alike! (Maybe you could hold your children’s hands or hug them during the benediction, so they can feel the love that God sends along with this blessing.

— Pastor Seeber

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00 Aaron Fb Devotion	2	3 2:30 Aaron Fb Devotion	4 Pastor Tim Fb Devotion	5
6 9:30 Parking Lot Worship	7 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	8 Noon - Finance 1:00 Aaron Fb Devotion	9 8:30a Outdoor Clean-up	10 2:30 Aaron Fb Devotion	11 Pastor Tim Fb Devotion	12
13 9:30 Parking Lot Worship	14 Pastor Tim Fb Devotion	15 1:00 Aaron Fb Devotion	16	17 2:30 Aaron Fb Devotion	18	19
20 8:00 Indoor Service 9:30 Parking Lot Worship	21 Pastor Tim Fb Devotion	22 1:00 Aaron Fb Devotion	23	24 2:30 Aaron Fb Devotion	25 7:30 MS Movie Night	26 4:00 HS Hike
27 8:00 Indoor Service 9:30 Parking Lot Worship	28 Pastor Tim Fb Devotion	29 1:00 Aaron Fb Devotion	30			

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Youth News

Bible study and Confirmation Class will be starting out virtually. Watch email/reminders for updates and times!

High School:

Hike

Saturday, Sept 26th at 4:00pm
we'll go for a hike at...

Location TBD

Middle School Youth:

Outdoor Movie

Friday, Sept 25th at 7:30pm.
Bring a lawn chair and a blanket!



Echoes

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

In all the chaos and all the hate, I had an interesting day a few weeks ago.

1. I was pulling into a parking space and boom...there was a shopping cart right in the middle of the spot. I had to pause because other cars were moving around me. A young man pulled in across the way and saw me staring at the cart (really I was just waiting to move because of the cars) and he ran over and grabbed it, moving it out of the way.
2. A construction worker driving a bulldozer had a heavy load in front. The equipment was very loud. He noticed a scared little girl walking with me and waved a big wave at her, making her smile and wave back.
3. A quality inspector—working nights and weekends, was as friendly and cordial as could be.
4. A worker going out of her way to get us a product we wanted that was not visible/available to us.

These might not seem like big things—and they are not! God works in little ways through anyone who allows Him (and sometimes even when you don't allow Him!)

Book Review: "Beyond the Walls; Monastic Wisdom for Everyday Life. Paul Wilkes. Doubleday. 1999.

Most of us have wondered about anyone who spends their entire adult life in an abbey, monastery or convent? And many of us cannot understand the benefit of being detached from the daily rhythms of the "real" world. The irony is that all of us have gotten a taste of life separated from the "real" world. As we live with masks, distancing, and the loss of many freedoms and activities it has often felt as if we are in a cloistered community. Maybe this is a perfect time to consider a book such as this one! Wilkes writes:

"Having faith in God somehow implies a certain slackness or weakness, a lack of control ... which we so firmly assert many times each day just to survive ... The opposite of faith is control. All of us feel so much more comfortable when we are seemingly in charge of our destiny. This I-centered approach to spirituality, physical healing, and mental wellness is very much in vogue ... Who would not be tempted by its promises?" [26] This passage is the perfect setup for the wonderful journey this book offers.

Wilkes is a practicing Catholic whose writing has received great support. At one point in his life he thought it would be interesting to spend a few weekends in an abbey near his hometown of Wilmington, N.C. and see what he might learn from that experience. This book discusses the "rule" or pattern of daily life in a Benedictine monastery in a very readable and practical way. He found more than he had ever anticipated. This book shares his own growth and might be helpful for ours.

Another thought he shares is this: *"Many who have experienced spiritual awakenings in such holy places as monasteries recall with great vividness a wondrous moment or a wise teacher. These are certainly good and*

precious. But are they enough to sustain us the rest of our lives? I have found they are not. The danger is that by seeking these experiences only in such places we will effectively put shackles on God and a wearisome burden on ourselves. (And then he quotes another writer): The miracle is not to walk on water .. the morale is to walk on the green earth." [135-136]

That sounds remarkably like a conversation between Jesus and Peter as the fisherman was slowly sinking after trying to walk on water! And this book is so helpful in making those connections and helping to see practical spiritual growth that occurs when one slows down, is detached from the hectic nature of daily life, and intentionally focuses on the Holy Breath of God in daily living. One doesn't need to go to a monastery to do that, but in a monastery, this writer found how to listen more closely to that quiet voice of God in his life. Again, in our own time of "too much quiet" maybe that "quiet" could become the greatest gift of this Coronavirus - induced detachment we are unhappy about and uncertain of how to deal with.

I first read this years ago, but felt in this particular moment (as I wrestle with what I cannot control and worrying whether I am making the right decisions for my life of faith and yours) it reminded me of the benefit of stepping back, quieting down, and practicing good spiritual exercises such as reading scripture and listening better in prayer. This is a great read for a time when we already have quiet time that is begging for a purpose.

He writes *"There is an ancient Jewish proverb that warns the further you go from Mount Sinai — where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and the structure for life — the weaker you become ... the further we are detached from the real meaning of life, the less able we are to truly live."* [239]

Pastor Seeber

**AVAILABLE SOON —
ZION'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK**

Each Member Household will receive one copy.
Additional copies will be available for \$6.00—\$7.50,
final cost is pending. See details below:

This is a story about 150 years of Days in the Life of Zion, beginning when our church was founded in 1868, to the present when we celebrated our 150th Anniversary in 2018. This story, in four sections, flows through the themes of our Anniversary celebration: REMEMBER, REFLECT, RECONFIRM, RENEW.

When we celebrated our Anniversary on Sunday, August 19th 2018 we added the word REJOICE to crown our Anniversary themes as an expression of the joy that we, as a congregation, felt on that day.

This story is dedicated to the generations of saints upon whose shoulders we stand today; and equally importantly, to all of the saints who will follow us and continue our work to grow and shape Zion for generations to come.



**DAYS IN THE LIFE OF ZION,
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
150 YEARS**

To best gauge the print quantity, we'd like a general sense of how many additional copies people would like. If you are interested in receiving additional copies, please email to Zion@Zionkazoo.org or call the office with the following information:

Household Name: _____

Qty Desired : _____



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 Todd Hansen, 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 John Boettcher, 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,
- 9/28 Genevieve Miller
- 9/30 Anthony Parente

Happy Grandparents' Day

September 13th

Parish Report

Deaths:
Janet Woodford 07/29/2020

Staff Anniversaries

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

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



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

The wish list item for **September is Canned Meat**. When COVID19 restrictions relax we will again take your donations in the gray tubs under the church office window. Until then, please help Loaves & Fishes as you are able. Thank you!



Starts Sunday, September 20

Sanctuary 8:00a.m. &

Parking Lot 9:30a.m.

(weather permitting)



FINANCIAL REPORT: July 2020

ZION: July Giving was over budget by \$2,259. Expenses were under budget by \$7,182. July ended with a Net Gain of \$6,821. YTD Net Income gain was \$8,833, over budget by \$4,723.

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL: Income was over budget by \$2. Expenses were under budget by \$1,761. July Net Gain was \$865. YTD Net Income gain was \$397, over budget by \$4,371.

Solid Grounds: Income was under budget by \$638. Expenses were over budget by \$27. July Net Gain was \$479. YTD Net Income gain was \$421, under budget by \$3,905.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
Zion Giving & Misc.	52,625	54,884	2,259	114,450	102,496	-11,954
EXPENSES						
Zion Staff Support	28,672	29,361	689	56,725	57,112	387
Office Operations	1,435	832	-603	2,870	2,457	-413
Church Property	6,373	4,245	-2,128	12,745	7,710	-5,035
Education Ministry	0	231	231	0	264	264
Evangelism/Missions	100	0	-100	100	0	-100
Worship Ministry	750	300	-450	1,050	1,163	113
Other Ministries	100	17	-83	500	209	-291
Music Ministry	1,825	1,000	-825	3,450	1,500	-1,950
Finance Ministry	10,340	6,368	-3,972	20,680	12,736	-7,944
Zion Haus Ministry	400	213	-187	800	513	-287
Missions - General	5,250	5,496	246	11,420	9,999	-1,421
Total Expenses	55,245	48,063	7,182	110,340	93,663	-16,677
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-2,620	6,821	-9,441	4,110	8,833	4,723

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL

INCOME						
FOJ Income	2,085	2,087	2	4,050	4,243	193
FOJ Staff Support	2,383	979	-1,404	5,524	3,333	-2,191
FOJ Operations Expenses	600	243	-357	2,500	513	-1,987
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-898	865	1,763	-3,974	397	4,371

SOLID GROUND

Solid Ground Income	10,248	9,610	-638	21,979	18,336	-3,643
Solid Ground Expenses	9,104	9,131	-27	17,653	17,915	-262
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	1,144	479	-665	4,326	421	-3,905

BALANCE SHEET	6/1/2020	7/31/2020	YTD Change
ASSETS			
Cash	78,336	96,634	18,298
Investments	137,222	137,444	222
Other Assets	10,944	-7,389	-18,333
TOTAL	<u>226,502</u>	<u>226,689</u>	<u>187</u>
LIABILITIES			
Payroll	5,829	5,816	-13
Dedicated Funds	87,136	78,105	-9,031
Unrestricted Funds	133,537	142,767	9,230
TOTAL	<u>226,502</u>	<u>226,688</u>	<u>186</u>

MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE \$776,288

Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000

Youth Ministry	\$8,132	FOJ Estate Gift	\$4,005
New Staff	\$50,000	FOJ Fundraising	\$3,040

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Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

September

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Psalms 62:6

Fall Worship Schedule

BEGINS

September 20th

Sanctuary 8:00 &
Parking Lot 9:30