

Looking Up | Reaching Out



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Harbinger

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Your Gifts to Zion

I loved my watch! It was a special gift and easy to take for granted, until the batteries died. The only problem then was finding someone with the right tools to take it apart without scratching the cover or breaking the waterproof seal. And then the stem broke, and it would have cost more to fix it than buy a new watch. So Roxanne came through for me and found a new watch ... just like my old one! And there was a new feature. It didn't use a battery at all, but is solar powered. No need to ever open the cover or replace a battery. Perfect! At least that is what I thought until the first week in December when I noticed that it was a half hour off. Upon closer inspection I realized it had stopped! That couldn't be! It was still fairly new. As I slid my cuff back down over the watch I realized what had happened. It is winter in Michigan, meaning long sleeve shirts and no sunshine! I rolled my sleeve up, held the watch under my desk light and it starting working right away, and it has been fine since. So, solar power is a problem in western Michigan's winters, where clouds are the norm. Combined with hiding the watch under my shirt cuffs added to the problem. My watch needs more time in the light! In many ways, that is no different from any of us. No matter how strong our faith and positive our outlook on life, when we are surrounded by too many clouds, and negativity, and gloom, we are similarly affected. We aren't solar powered, but the energy and source of our living is often called the "Light of the World!" When we don't take time for prayer, worship, forgiving and serving love in our own lives we react as my watch did. The light of Jesus' love is the power of faith and hope-filled living. Without that energy source, we are as useless as a watch that can't keep time. Find time to soak up the energy and life that comes only from faith and the gifts God shares. That way even you can take a licking and keep on ticking! Sounds trite, but it is true. When prayer and worship and bible study and faith are the source of your living, even the cloudy days and cold winters of life will not stop you in your tracks or slow you down. Blessings! Pastor Seeber

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ASH WEDNESDAY and LENT

In our fast paced and high-tech world, many traditions seem outdated or old fashioned and are ignored. *We should not allow that to happen with Lent!*

The forty days of Lent are a reminder of what it was like for Israel to wander 40 years in the desert before entering the Promised Land. It has the feel of Jonah's wait in the belly of a whale, or Noah's 40-day boat ride waiting for the rainbow. Lent begins with a remembrance of Jesus' 40-day temptation before his ministry began.

Participating in Lent, reminds us of God's passionate involvement in our own daily excursions, and how God leads us through dark days of life, firmly focused on the cross and empty tomb! Life is not always easy, but Christ has come to lead us out of that darkness and into the joy of everlasting Life!

Ash Wednesday (March 6) begins this journey. On Ash Wednesday we make a sign of the cross (with ash), saying "*you are dust and to dust you shall return.*" Easter's promise is that out of the ashes comes life. The emptiness of death is replaced by an empty tomb. The darkness we fear is only the shadow of the cross! Easter's joy chases that shadow away!

These forty days (not counting Sundays!) is our journey through a remembrance of Jesus' walk to the cross and tomb for us! Make a commitment to join us on **Wednesdays at either Noon or 6:30 pm** for this special journey. (And remember, our Lenten soup dinners are at 5:15, so you can fellowship with your faith family before we gather for worship.)

This year our Lenten dialogs will revisit themes from a favorite old movie, "The Wizard of Oz" as a way of illustrating Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, the cross and a tomb! It will be an interesting way to understand Jesus' journey.

Lent comes from a word meaning "spring." Our concept of spring cleaning can help as we understand Lent is the "spring cleaning" of our spiritual lives. It is good to slow down, do some dusting and cleaning, and prepare the gifts of our lives for the faithful response to the passionate love of the cross and the glorious sight of an empty tomb.

For hundreds of years, Christians have embraced traditions of **fasting, meditation, and works of love as the "disciplines" of Lent.** "Giving up" something during Lent is a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice for us, and a wonderful tradition *IF it truly is a sacrifice and helps in your meditation and contemplation.*

On the other hand, why not ADD something to your life as an aid to this journey? Maybe daily devotions, or an hour each week devoted to some mission? Maybe more time for prayer and the discipline of joining with your faith family in Lenten worship?

We will offer special Lenten devotional booklets at the entrance to the sanctuary to help you in your private devotional life. Our Lenten dialogs will remember an improbable group who travelled to Oz in search of what was lost. We will use the story of that yellow brick road to consider Jesus' walk to the cross in a different light. However you embrace Lent, taking time to slow down, reflect, and remember the sacrifice of God's love for us will definitely change the journey of your life.

We participate in Lent to draw ourselves out of the busy-ness of a hectic world so that we don't miss the power and glory of this year's Easter celebration. Like Jesus' forty day time of reflection and prayer in the desert, our forty days of Lent prepare us for the miracle of Easter. Pause (intentionally!) to remember how much love God has that he undertook his own rescue journey with us and for us — so that we would never be alone. Remember! Reflect! Prepare! And then Celebrate!



Join us!!!

The next high school youth fundraiser will be a chili cook-off! We hope you'll join us either with a pot of chili, or to come taste! Prizes and fun will be had and each donation is another step closer to the Youth Gathering!

Tickets are \$10/person for tasting.
Concessions will be available as well!

Sunday, March 3rd from 5-7pm



Lent begins



March 25th at 7:00—Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard by Laura Bates

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

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

Aging With His Grace

Everyone is unique in health, habits and personality, so each of us will age in our own individual way. But there is no mistaking that everyone who lives will age.

Aging comes with various changes and challenges and one of the challenges is connecting to information and resources that can be helpful to know. We have started the aging ministry with the intent of providing information, resources and options about the issues that people face in later life. Our plan is to offer informational presentations which will be informal and interactive. We have topics in mind (caregiving, elder driving, changing roles, advanced directives) but are open to your suggestions or requests for subject matter as well.

If you have a request feel free to contact Judy Adlam, Jeanette Meyer or Pastor Seeber. The Aging With His Grace ministry is a work in progress so we will be exploring various topics and ways of connecting with you.

This ministry is for anyone who is aging or plans to do so. We, as Christians, have the joy and promise of God's grace and love to be our lens with which to look at the issues facing elders. Join us!

Thank you!
Judy Adlam



CATECHISM REVIEW 10 Commandments What Do They Mean? PART 1

“No other gods / no idols” means there is only ONE “GOD.” We might take that for granted, but for much of world history (and even today) that was not clear and people worshipped trees, feared lightning, or looked to earthly powers and leaders for answers and daily needs. Incantations and magic were used to attract multiple gods and goddesses or harnessing their power. When we believe that ONE “God” is the creative power of all that is, and has revealed Himself in the life of Jesus and by his Holy Spirit, it changes how we live and how we understand the meaning and nature of life. This is God’s world and it only makes sense to seek and live his plan. Without this commandment there is no need for any others. The remaining commands simply expand on what this means.

“Don’t take God’s name in vain” means that God is holy (and beyond understanding!) When we name any object, feeling, or concept, we (in a real sense) control and define it. This command reminds us that even the name of God is beyond understanding, comprehension and has one purpose alone, and that is to give praise and credit to the power of creation and love which has changed our lives. To use the name of God is an act of faith and worship. Any other use of that word is an act of disrespect. To use God’s name is to pray or to praise — alone!

“Remember the Sabbath” calls us to set aside time from our earthly pursuits to “rest with God.” This is both a practical as well as theological action. God’s “rest” on the “seventh day” is the rationale for this and a good place to begin. As God “paused” to reflect upon the plan and majesty of creation, we too are called to take time to sit back and marvel at God’s gifts, giving Him alone the glory! This is not because God needs praise, but so that we remember we

are not God. Our efforts at creating (whether wealth, product, or emotion) is only “our effort” and falls short of the perfection which only God can attain. Whether in formal worship with other Christians, or in other pauses of reflection, this helps us to keep priorities in place and keep God first.

“Honor your father and your mother.” This is both practical and theological. There is order in creation, and a structure and plan from which that order springs. Our parents are responsible for our lives. Through their love, creation happened, and then birth! No parent is perfect, but the structure of family can be a beautiful illustration of the family of heavenly Father and earthly children. Today many are concerned about God as *Father* or *Mother*, and male or female, while in actuality God is none of the above. God is beyond any earthly description or understanding, but the gift of family that began with the first parents is the culmination of God’s creative act; and the beginning of the next generation of children of God.

Luther and others used this command to instill respect in all who are “in authority” over us, but sometimes that misses the point of the heavenly nature of the gift and structure of family. The focus on “authority” rather than on God’s plan and His ultimate responsibility for the gift and purpose of creation can shortchange the simple beauty of this command. This is all about love for those who have given us life ... and ultimately for God who alone is the creator and author of all.

That gets us about half way through these commandments. And while each command has specific language and focus, all have the same basis which is that “God is God and we are not.” The way we respond to God’s love in each and every moment of our lives is an act of faithfulness and worship and either gives God glory or fails to understand the true nature and gift of life itself. We are called to love God through how we live. -tws

Friends of Jesus Preschool

Friends of Jesus Preschool Fun Fact #7: Our newest staff member, Emily Sierengowski, was a student in the very first 1st grade class that Mrs. VanderMeeden taught! How is that for life coming full circle!

The arrival of March means lots of things to look forward to: the promise of Spring, Detroit Tigers spring training baseball games, the return of the robins, St. Patrick's Day....AND Friends of Jesus Preschool's observance of National Lutheran Schools Week! This year we are combining this observance with a celebration of our 40th anniversary. Our weeklong celebration begins on Sunday, March 10th. Preschool students are invited to attend Zion's late service and sing for the congregation on that day. After the service, there will be cake and punch in the Gathering Room. You can then make your way to Blends and take some time to view beautiful artwork created by Friends of Jesus students and curated by Chrissy Brege. There will also be a photo display of students in the process of creating the art. Finally, take a minute to visit the preschool campus downstairs. Our staff will be there to greet you and point out all the improvements we've recently made. On Wednesday, March 13th, the Friends of Jesus staff will prepare, host and serve the Wednesday night midweek Lenten dinner. Our preschool families are invited to attend. We hope you'll make them feel welcome!

We have one more Open House scheduled for this year on Thursday, March 21st from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. If you know of someone who is looking for a faith-based, high-quality, family-friendly preschool, please pass along our Open House information, or have them call the church office and ask to speak with Melissa VanderMeeden. Our enrollment numbers are already strong for the upcoming school year!

Thank you so much to our congregation members who supported our February Read-a-Thon. Our students had fun earning prizes and watching their names appear on our reading stars bulletin board. Our families enjoyed time reading and spending time together. Your pledges help provide our students with important enrichment programming. Being able to offer field trips and enrichment programming to our families helps Friends of Jesus Preschool stay competitive in the local preschool market. We appreciate your generous love and support of Friends of Jesus Preschool!

Dance Night!

On Sunday, March 10, 2019, the Kalamazoo Lutheran Marriage Encounter Community will be hosting a Dance Date Night at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 7211 Oakland Drive, Portage, from 3:00—5:00.



Dance Night

The evening will be brought to you by Kalamazoo Ballroom Academy. Step out and learn a few steps! This will be a fun evening for all married couples whether you are encountered or not. There will be refreshments, and child care will be provided.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Pete and Chris Wilkins as soon as possible, as sign-up will close on March 6th. Cost is free, however we are asking for a "Free Will" donation to Lutheran Marriage Encounter to celebrate this year's Golden Jubilee.

Come and join us in "Cutting the Rug"!

Worship Help for Parents and Children
(It is OK for everyone else to read too!)
"The Creed"

"Creed" is a Latin word meaning, "I believe." For us, it states what a Christian believes. Our "Creeds" cover basic teachings as revealed in Scripture. We believe in the Creative Plan of the Father, the Sacrificial Rescue of the Son, and God's invisible "Spirit" Presence today. One God revealed in three ways.

Creeds were the earliest part of Christian worship, added to forms already in existence (prayers, scripture reading, a message or explanation of the readings, and psalms or hymns.) When many were illiterate, and manuscripts rare, people memorized to remember. They couldn't download from the internet, but could download it from their memory! This allowed each generation to teach the next. It is how the faith was shared.

Normally we recite the Apostles' Creed. The written form is from the 3rd century AD. It came from the teachings of the Apostles (their "sermon notes?") and was used as the Baptismal liturgy. As we recite, we proclaim, *"THIS is what I believe! God is my loving Father! Jesus (God in the flesh) lived, died, and rose for me! The Holy Spirit (God's breath in me) makes me part of the Body of Christ (the Church) forever!"*

As we repeat those words, we remember what we believe, and "teach the faith" to children and even visitors who maybe have no faith background. Wherever Christians gather, this celebrates that even with many denominations, there is only ONE CHURCH! Every Sunday, throughout the world, Christians ALL proclaim this one, true faith!

When we say "holy catholic Church" the word "catholic" means "universal." (That means there are Roman Catholics, Lutheran Catholics, Methodist Catholics, but only ONE

Christian Church! Despite differences in practice, we are all part of ONE Church.

The Nicene Creed developed in response to false teachers who said Jesus was "only a good man." It dates from the Council of Nicea in 325. We use it on Festival Sundays. The Athanasian Creed was likely developed during the 5th or 6th century, and named for Athanasius (a staunch defender of the deity of Christ during some of the heresies of the 4th century.) It's length keeps its usage rare, but you should read and use it as a devotional and great guide for prayer.

For Parents with Younger Children:

As parents, much of our time is teaching our kids to believe the right things ("stoves are hot, look twice before crossing a street, we will always love you, AND God loves you!") *Repetition and love are always the key!*

Have your kids follow the words when the Creed is spoken — they will learn it quickly. Take time to ask your kids what they believe (about the weather, your love for them, their favorite foods, about anything.) Then ask what they believe about God. Show them our stained glass window and point out the three "CREDOS" (I believe!) The window celebrates God as Father (all-seeing eye), Son (lamb), and Holy Spirit (dove.) Help your children understand how the Creed "reminds and teaches" so we will never forget.

Show them a family picture or a sports team photo — talk about how so many different people are tied by something they have in common. Remind them the Creed is a similar "reminder" and "shows" who we are and what we look like as Christians. Don't wait for Aaron to "spring" this on them in confirmation class ... they are ready to hear you tell them now! Explain in your words what this means to them. Take time, phrase by phrase, week by week, season by season. Help your kids learn more about what their Baptism means!

- Pastor Tim

Outdoor Beautification for 2019- - -Help!

The ministry called "Outdoor Beautification" was created to care for our property and reduce the cost to maintain it. Over the years more areas requiring maintenance have been added to our facility. We improved the main entrance to the parking lot when we remodeled back in 2008. A new prayer garden and playground have been added. It's requiring more time and effort to maintain these newer areas.



Our crew is made up primarily of retired people. We have noticed our crew is getting older and we could really use some younger and additional people. There are jobs for both men and women.

We work on selected Wednesday mornings from 8:30am to 11:30am, taking a thirty minute break from 10:00 to 10:30 for devotions and a treat. Our work schedule is flexible and you don't have to feel you must work every time we have a scheduled clean up.

Our crew enjoys the fellowship and time we spend together. We have become a family and we help and look after each other. We have a good time along with the work we accomplish. We are blessed to have ladies who care for some of our gardens. Again, we could use additional people to care for the other gardens.

This is a large piece of property to take care of. We try to maintain as much of it as we can based on how many workers come out to help. **We need additional helpers!**

If you are interested, please come on one of the scheduled days as is listed in our bulletin or Harbinger and find out what it's like. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to talk to me, Jim Mayer 375-8342, or anyone on our crew. We would really enjoy your participation. Thank you!

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.

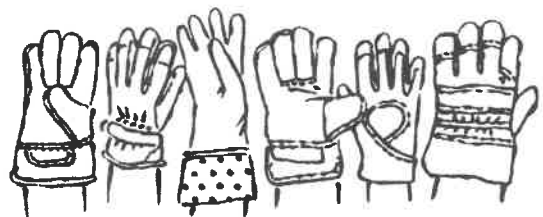
Fall Work Dates:

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.



Family Life

Family Ministry News

Continuing in March

What: Themed Family Potlucks

Who: Any families who like food!

When: The Third Sunday each month,
11:30am


Why: To gather together and share a
meal! Fellowship and Growth

The next one is March 17th. The theme is
Green Eggs and Ham (Breakfast foods!)

LENT

Lent is a season of preparation and reflection. It is a time to prepare your heart and mind, usually through a spiritual discipline, for Good Friday and Easter. Lent is a time many people typically “give up” an unhealthy behavior as a remembrance that Jesus gave up His life for the world. Some people “take on” disciplines such as reading the Bible each day, praying, or doing family devos to help remember that Jesus took on the sins of the world. Both of these practices are great at building your relationship with God...as long as that’s the focus! Sure it’s easy to give up sweets or soda—but how much reflecting on Jesus’ sacrifice are you focused on? This Lent, take some time as a family to reflect on Jesus and His love for you. Take some time to rest. Take some time to build your relationship with Christ.

MARCH 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:00 Men's Group Matheny Wedding 5:30 Communion Service
3 Transfiguration 8 and 10:30 Communion Svc. 9:15 Sunday School/Conf./ Sr. High/ Adult Classes 5:00 – 7:00 HS Chili Cook-Off Sunday – Friday Campus Servant Trip	4 6:00 Personnel	5 10:00 Bible Class 6:30 FOJ Ministry 7:00 Bell Choir	6 Ash Wednesday 8:30 LWR Sewing 12:00 Ash Wednesday Service 5:15 Soup Supper 6:30 Ash Wed Svc.	7 7:00 Choir	8	9 8:00 Men's Group 8:00 – 1:30 MS CompRenew 5:30 Communion Service
10 Lent 1 Daylight Savings 8 and 10:30 Communion Svc 9:15 Sunday School/Conf./ Sr. High/ Adult Classes 11:30 FOJ Reception 11:30 – 2:30 8 th Grade Project Sunday - Friday FOJ Lutheran Schools Week	11 6:30 Endowment	12 10:00 Bible Class 5:30 Finance 6:00 Family Ministry 6:30 Small Group 7:00 Bell Choir	13 8:30 LWR Sewing 12:00 Lenten Service 5:15 Soup Supper Hosted by FOJ 6:30 Lenten Service 6:00 Property	14 7:00 Choir	15	16 8:00 Men's Group 2-4 Prayer Shawl @ Biggby's 5:30 Communion Service
17 Lent 2 8 and 10:30 Communion Service 9:15 Sunday School/Conf./ Sr. High/ Adult Classes 11:30 Family Ministry Potluck	18 5:00 Campus Ministry 6:30 Board of Directors	19 10:00 Bible Class 7:00 Bell Choir	20 8:30 LWR Sewing 12:00 Lenten Service 5:15 Soup Supper 6:30 Lenten Service	21 7:00 Choir	22 9:00 – 10:00 FOJ Zoomobile on Site	23 8:00 Men's Group 5:30 Communion Service
24 Lent 3 8 and 10:30 Communion Service 9:15 Sunday School/Conf./ Sr. High/ Adult Classes	25 7:00 ZWBG	26 10:00 Bible Class 6:30 Youth Ministry Team 7:00 Bell Choir	27 8:30 LWR Sewing 12:00 Lenten Service 5:15 Soup Supper 6:30 Lenten Service	28 7:00 Choir	29	30 8:00 Men's Group 5:30 Communion Service
31 Lent 4 Physical Healing 8 and 10:30 Communion Service No Classes Spring Break No Coffee Hour						

March, 2019 WORSHIP LEADERS

	March 3	March 10	March 17	Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services	March 24	March 31
Head Ushers 8am	Alan Sarver	Brian Bauer	John DuBois		Larry Harding	George Geissel
Head Ushers 10:30am	Ken Lundquist	Garr Gast	Wayne Skalnican		Mark Hampshire	Dave Borck
Greeters Sat 5:30pm	Don & Marge Heath	Dee Wentzel	Bruce & Dorothy DeDee		Kathleen Jordan	Mary & Gordy Berkhausen
Greeters 8:00am	Terry & Gail Nelson	Bev Show & Kathy Pfeifer	Ted & Lucy Maxson		Dave & Linda Mayer	George & Ellie Hayward
Greeters 10:30am	Rolife & Sharon Preuss	Steve & Debbie Weber	Wayne & Elaine Skalnican		Mark & Erin Hampshire	Judy Dinda & Shirley Rohrer
Communion Assistants Sat 5:30pm	Kathleen Jordan	Dee Wentzel	Rita Linnenkugel		Mike Schlack	Roxanne Seeber
Communion Assistants 8:00am	John Buetow Matt Simmons Karen Chapo	Cyndi Bremer Ted Maxson Rich Rakow	Karen Chapo Jim Meyer Linda Steve		Matt Simmons Ken Toy Ted Maxson	John Buetow Jim Mayer Cyndi Bremer
Communion Assistants 10:30am	Chuck Wendling Nick Sward Ryan Bickel	Steve Buft Janis Dinda Garr Gast	Brent Butler Nick Sward One Needed		Mark Meyer Rolife Preuss John Roggow	Dan Seng Linda Seng One Needed
Carlors	8:00 – Linda Steve	8:00 – Pastor Brejle 10:30 – Danielle Field	8:00 – Dennis O'Brien		8:00–John Stiegemeyer 10:30 – Karen Chapo	Not Needed
Acolytes 8am	Kurtis Scheffler Claire Alsvig	Megan Bowers Rudy Linebaugh	Alex Kiessling Mary Besser	Lenten Services 3/6 Evan Schoonbeck 3/13 Landon Bauer 3/20 Riley Ketchum 3/27 Kate Phillips	Matthew Devine Curtis Chapman	Jacob Waterlander Landon Bauer
Acolytes 10:30am	Sean Skuratowicz Jacob Waterlander	Bella Frazier Audrey Hamilton	Megan Brennan Aly Hampshire		Maren Hampshire Kurtis Scheffler	Sean Skuratowicz One Needed
Lectors 8am	Candy Buetow	Ellie Hayward	John Buetow		David Mayer	Jayne Mayer
Lectors 10:30am	Chris Wilkins	Alison Carlson	Janis Dinda		Jill Hamilton	Erin Hampshire
Altar Ministry Sat. 5:30	Pat Frohnapfel Marge Heath	Pat Frohnapfel Eisie Autry	Phil Rettman Need One		Joey Miller Eisie Autry	Phil Rettman One Needed
Altar Ministry 8:00am	Carol Daenzer Amy Nelson	Joe Zerbel Larry Zerbel	Joey Miller Lucy Maxson	Ash Wednesday 3/6 Noon and 6:30 Dee Wentzel Marge Heath	Joey Miller Vicki Holt	Lucy Maxson Carol Daenzer
Altar Ministry 10:30am	Dee Wentzel Toni Dembski-Brandl	Toni Dembski-Brandl Joe & Larry Zerbel	Joe Zerbel Larry Zerbel		Carrie Chapman Mary VandenBerg	Joe Zerbel Larry Zerbel
Sound	8:00 – Neil Segerdahl 10:30 – Nick Alsvig	8:00 – Vicki Holt 10:30 –Grace Dinda	8:00 – Mark Schwerin 10:30–Neil Segerdahl		8:00–Neil Segerdahl 10:30 – Grace Dinda	8:00 – Vicki Holt 10:30–Neil Segerdahl
Coffee Fellowship	Kathy Pfeifer	Troy & Cynthia Cosgrove	Steve & Debbie Weber		Larry Harding	No Coffee

Youth News

High School:

Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, March 3rd from 4:30-7pm.

Help needed from 3:30-7:30pm.

Mandatory for NYG Participants!



Middle & High School Youth

CompRenew

Saturday, March 9th

8am—2pm

Come tear apart computers and
help the GR community!

Echoes

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

Last month the High School Youth had a discussion on Moses and the Israelites. Aaron shared a story of a crazy roadtrip and how the journey of life can include many roadblocks or detours. Trusting in God as our guide can be scary and usually comes in unexpected ways (water from a rock!?!). The thought to ponder for the week was this: How is God using me in an unexpected way to help someone else in their journey of faith, and how can I step up in a calling that I might be too afraid to do?

After our discussion we had a social event in which I asked a former youth and his girlfriend to help us out. None of the high schoolers knew either one. At lunch, one of the high schoolers went out of her way to be super inviting and friendly to these two new faces. She had no clue they were there to help, she just thought they were visitors. She went out of her way and out of her comfort zone to be welcoming!

God shows up all the time! Are you meeting Him when He does? Are you stepping up to His command to love others?

Campus Ministry

One of the things that I am doing over the next few weeks is to meet with students from both Solid Grounds and FCA, as well as WMU faculty and staff. I would like to learn what they are seeing and hearing from their fellow students and faculty/staff regarding needs, interests, hurts and fears, and what trends are evolving on campus. My hope is to find ways to do outreach and ministry with students on campus that are not involved in a campus ministry or church.



In February we volunteered at the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission to serve dinner. Our last Bronco Buddy mentoring event also took place in February when we rented a theater at Celebration Cinema to bring kids to a movie. We have been averaging between 50-60 WMU students and kids from Tree of Life at our monthly events.

There are currently 10 students, plus myself, that will be going to Panama City, Florida to help with the Hurricane relief effort on March 3-9 for our Spring Break Servant event trip.

There are two students involved in our campus ministry who are part of a Christian music group called God's Army. We are looking into the possibility of having them perform an outdoor concert at Solid Grounds, either in early-mid April (weather permitting), or sometime in the early Fall semester as a fellowship and outreach event on campus.

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

"Well done,
good and faithful
servant!"

Matthew 25:21, NIV



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 14th.

All contributions will be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin.

In Loving Memory of:

In Thanksgiving of:

In Honor Of:

Given By:

Giving Envelope # _____ Amount _____

Book Review: "The Magnificent Defeat." Frederick Buechner. Harper One. 1985.

Buechner is a favorite Christian writer, When I need to have my faith recharged, or think about familiar stories and faith-themes in new ways, I always go to one of my books by Buechner. He was always destined to be a writer and surprised everyone he knew by attending seminary and being ordained into the Presbyterian Church. But rather than serve as a parish pastor, he became a teacher and thankfully continued to write!

What I find unique about him is that he is not only theologically very faithful, but has always been given high praise by the secular press and other writers. He has been praised by the New York Times, Composer Leonard Bernstein, and Pulitzer Prize winner, Annie Dillard. He is a unique gift to our time. Whether you read his words of fiction, non fiction, or sermons, you will be lifted up and encouraged in your faith journey and be challenged to deepen your understanding of how God is alive in our world today.

His first chapter deals with Jacob and Esau. Here is a snippet of how Buechner reflects on that moment as Jacob realizes he has been wrestling, in the darkness, with God:

"The darkness has faded just enough so that for the first time he can dimly see his opponent's face. And what he sees is something more terrible than the face of death — the face of love. It is vast and strong, half ruined with suffering and fierce with joy, the face a man flees down all the darkness of his days until at last he cries out, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me!' Not a blessing that he can have by the strength of his cunning or the force of his will, but a blessing that he can have only as a gift ... Only remember the last glimpse that we have of Jacob, limping home against the great

conflagration of the dawn. And remember Jesus of Nazareth, staggering on broken feet out of the tomb toward the Resurrection ... bearing on his body the proud insignia of the defeat which is victory, the magnificent defeat of the human soul at the hands of God." [18]

This book is a collection of meditations written originally for college students. Each begins with a text from Scripture and then his insights and creative reflections on what that text means for us today. This would be a wonderful resource for a Lenten journey, a small group to study, for Lenten reflection, or for any time or place in your life. Buechner is best read slowly and given time to simmer in your reflection before moving on to his next series of thoughts.

Another sample: *"I believe that we know much more about God than we admit that we know, than perhaps we know that we know. God speaks to us, I would say, much more often than we realize or than we choose to realize. Before the sun sets every evening, he speaks to each of us in an intensely personal and unmistakable way. His message is not written out in the starlight, which in the long run would make no difference; rather it is written out for each of us in the humdrum, helter-skelter events of each day; it is a message that in the long run might make all the difference."* [47-48]

Buechner visits themes, over and over, such as paying attention to how God is at work in every moment of your life, maintaining faith even in the midst of doubt, and the hope that we have through the gift of Grace. His fiction and non-fiction alike are inspired and written in thoughtful ways. I have never found any of his work to be a waste of time, and go back to many of his books over and over again. Find any work by Buechner and you'll look for more! He is that good! Pastor Seeber

Your Gifts to Zion Are Investments in Ministry

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. For your faithful support of ministry at Zion!

My early morning walk, allows me special time for peaceful meditation and prayer. (Yes, I can pray and walk at the same time!) This not only helps me "wake up" but helps me to focus first on God, so that my day has a proper start. That seems to help ... a lot!

Over the past few months, I have been more intentional in praying not just for individual family members or Zion members who are ill, but for the entire congregation. What is more and more clear to me is an awareness of the special place Zion is for so many. And that is due to all of you! My role is made so much easier by the many wonderful people here, a dedicated staff, and resources that allow us to engage in a variety of ministries in and outside of Zion.

Everyone who reads this letter is or has been a part of ministry here. Each of you has supported ministry for others and been touched by the gift of ministry in your own lives. Each of us have different patterns of attendance, participation, and financial support. But we are all equally part of one congregation called Zion.

This letter concerns faithful and regular financial support for ministry. Your response in your own personal "gift giving" is between you and your God of love. What you do is what you do. This month we ask that you prayerfully consider your ability and resources to regularly support the many efforts of ministry that are available for so many.

There are times when we have no choice but to give less, and at other times we realize we have the ability to share more. There is no rule that works for each and all. As this is a month when people are focused on taxes

and resolutions for changes in the coming year, it seems an appropriate time for people of faith to consider levels of support.

In a secular world we are concerned about whether we are getting what we pay for. As people of faith, we know God gives more than we deserve! We can never repay God for his love, but that is not why we give.

Our giving is not out of guilt or obligation, but simply a joy-filled response to God's love in our lives. We don't give because we have to, but because we want to. Please, prayerfully consider how you might best (and regularly) support our common effort of ministry.

As I wrestle with this in my own life, I have found that when I am honest about what I am able to share, give joyfully, and make my gift to Zion before thinking about other wants and needs, everything seems to fit into place.

So, whether you use envelopes in the offering basket or our automated giving program, your gifts are appreciated and become blessings that grow like loaves and fishes. And don't forget Zion in your estate planning! A little bit goes a long way.

Even though Zion has been around for a long time, we still have a long way to go! The faithful gifts of so many good people in the past have given us a wonderful present. Our gifts in the present will enable and insure ministry for many years to come.

Thank you for all you do! May God continue to bless you daily and richly! Pastor Seeber

+++ *If you wish to include Zion in your estate planning, indicate "Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund" as the recipient.*

+++ *Call our office for details should you wish to donate appreciated stock as a gift.*

Happy 40th Birthday

Friends of Jesus Preschool!



Join us for a reception, art display, preschool tours, and the kids singing in worship on March 10th starting at 10:30am!

Also, if you have a special memory or experience you would like to encourage others with by sharing please submit it to Aaron by March 6th.



Welcome to
Preschool

Zion's Annual Meeting May 19th following the Late Service

After thoughtful deliberation, the Board of Directors has set the date and time for our Annual Meeting to be on Sunday May 19, 2019 after the late service. In the time leading up to the Annual Meeting, representatives from the Board of Directors will be available in Blends between services on April 14th and April 28th to answer questions or discuss topics of interest. By those two dates, the proposed budget and the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors will be published in the April Harbinger.

As stated in our constitution, "the business items placed before the voting membership at the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors shall include the reports prescribed in the Constitution, approval of an annual budget, and any other business appropriate for review by the voting members." Thus, the Board has set the agenda for the Annual Meeting to consist of 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).

Other items that you would like to bring to the Board of Directors can be presented on April 14th and April 28th. In addition, please feel free to stop a Director any time at Zion or share a note or email or phone call with the church office, any of the staff, or a Director (Jon Tomer, Steve Butt, Karen Stokes-Chapo, Stan Leitz, Richard Rakow, Todd Schierbeek, Joe Zerbel, Jill Hamilton, Pete Asaro, Linda Stieve, Lisa Frazier, Debra Jorae). We look forward to connecting with you.

Respectfully,

Steve Butt
Board President

MARCH

Parish Report

Baptisms

Dylan Asaro Scheffers 3/3/2019

New Members

Landon Ewers & Jennifer Pesch

Weddings

Kaitlyn Beuckelaere & Nathan Matheny
3/2/2019

- 3/2 Emma Hendricks, Ken Jorae, Alice Tomer
- 3/4 Pete Asaro, Jon Nelson
- 3/6 Kevin DeVries
- 3/7 Andrea Grube
- 3/8 Alan Sarver, Olivia VanDenBerg
- 3/9 Frank Geib
- 3/10 Addyson Emig, Kaitlyn Hamilton, Walter Kohnke
- 3/11 Lynne Gerfen, Kathy Harmon, Katie Woodhams
- 3/13 Ryan DeMorrow, Mark Meyer, Mike Proos
- 3/15 Graham Butler, Cathy Geib, Lynn Roe
- 3/16 Daniel Frazier
- 3/17 Nick Alsvig, Pat Frohnappel, Matthew Schuppel, Mary Tuttle Jason Whittaker
- 3/18 Philip Kunze
- 3/21 Kim Schommer
- 3/24 Andrew Gast, Jason Masek
- 3/25 Susan Ahrenholz, Mary Horensky
- 3/26 Stephen Beckner, Randall Parat
- 3/27 Marie Freudenberg, David Masek
- 3/28 Madison Geib, Brian Kiessling, Daniel Zerbel
- 3/29 Mary Berkhausen, Allison Watson Alexandria Whittaker
- 3/30 John Ehlich Jr., Tracy Hanson, Todd Schierbeek



Marriage Encounter Weekend

There is still time to register for the Birch Run Marriage Encounter Weekend, March 29—31. Please take a brochure for information or email/call Pete and Chris Wilkins. 269-381-6324 kalGal369@gmail.com



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

The wish list item for **March is Canned Fruit with no sugar.** Please put your donations in the gray tubs under the church office window. Thank you!



Friends of Jesus (FOJ): FOJ income for January was \$5,993, under budget by \$1,561 for the month. The YTD income is \$56,541, under budget by \$5,732. January expenses were \$5,587, under budget by \$2,489. The YTD expenses are \$48,334, under budget by \$860. The YTD net income is \$7,377 and is under budget by \$5,732.

Solid Grounds (SG): Total monthly income was \$9,884, over budget by \$1,154. Monthly expenses were \$8,815, under budget by \$1,145. The MTD income was \$1,069, over budget by \$2,299. The YTD income is \$79,811, under budget by \$4,562. The YTD expenses are \$78,394, over budget by \$1,258. The YTD net income is \$1,417, under budget by \$5,820.

Zion: Giving for January was \$46,603 which was under budget by \$5,951. Total income was \$52,596 and was under budget by \$7,512. Total monthly expenses were \$57,643, under budget by \$9,581. January ended with a net loss of \$5,047, better than budget by \$2,069. Giving YTD is \$474,353, over budget by \$2,756. Total YTD income is \$539,315, under budget by \$2,315. Total expenses are \$508,375, under budget by \$10,015. The YTD net income is \$30,940 and is over budget by \$7,700. If anyone is interested in attending a Finance Team Meeting, feel free to visit us. Our meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30, room 300. Any questions can be directed to Stan Leitz.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - January 2019 of FY 2019

INCOME & EXPENSE	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
Zion (Giving + Interest)	52,554	46,603	-5,951	479,357	482,774	3,417
Friends of Jesus	7,554	5,993	-1,561	62,273	56,541	-5,732
TOTAL	60,108	52,596	-7,512	541,630	539,315	-2,315
EXPENSES						
Staff Support	27,852	26,885	967	228,845	227,008	1,837
Office Operations	1,167	1,367	-200	11,214	11,796	-582
Church Property	9,190	5,932	3,258	56,301	52,909	3,392
Education Ministry	520	-839	1,359	9,215	7,860	1,355
Evangelism/Missions	300	250	50	600	529	71
Public Relations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worship Ministry	640	300	340	4,085	3,893	192
Other Ministries	200	76	124	2,632	1,924	708
Music Ministry	3,493	2,050	1,443	23,816	17,412	6,404
Finance Ministry	10,306	10,306	0	82,533	82,682	-149
FoJ Operations	8,076	5,587	2,489	49,194	48,334	860
Zion Haus Ministry	235	288	-53	2,795	5,043	-2,248
Missions - General	5,245	5,441	-196	47,160	48,985	-1,825
TOTAL	67,224	57,643	9,581	518,390	508,375	10,015
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-7,116	-5,047	-2,069	23,240	30,940	-7,700

SOLID GROUND - January 2019 of FY 2019

Solid Ground Income	8,730	9,884	1,154	84,373	79,811	-4,562
Solid Ground Expenses	9,960	8,815	-1,145	77,136	78,394	1,258
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-1,230	1,069	2,299	7,237	1,417	-5,820

BALANCE SHEET	6/1/2018	1/31/2019	YTD
ASSETS			
Cash	29,683	63,399	33,716
Investments	159,631	184,965	25,334
Other Assets	-8,125	-14,341	-6,216
TOTAL	181,189	234,023	52,834
LIABILITIES			
Payroll	3,235	8,003	4,768
Dedicated Funds	163,307	180,433	17,126
Unrestricted Funds	14,647	45,587	30,940
TOTAL	181,189	234,023	52,834

MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE - \$932,820

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

FOJ Estate Gift	8,394	Capital Campaign	6,958
FOJ Grushon Scholarship	2,861	Youth Ministry	9,877
Equipment Replacement	12,957	Pews	12,514
FOJ Fundraising	12,772	Benevolence	3,040
MI District	2,429	New Staff Savings	50,000
		Savings	46,500

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

March

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE
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KALAMAZOO, MI

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Ash Wednesday
March 6th 2019
Noon and 6:30 Services

Lenten Worship
Wednesdays in Lent
March 13- April 10
Noon and 6:30 Services