



Harbinger

February 2021
Volume 153 Number 2

Page 2
Ash Wednesday and Lent

Page 4
Catechism Review

Page 5 & 6
Letters from the Board

Page 7
Worship Helps

Page 8
Youth News / Echoes

Page 9
Family Life

Page 10
Campus Ministry

Page 12
Book Review

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

My brother was a member of a high school organization that existed to develop leadership through service to others. Many applied to join, but only a few were invited to be part of the group. I was one of the many who did not make the cut and was jealous when my younger brother was asked to join. In time, I got over it. But my brother had an incredibly difficult choice he was forced to make as part of that group. The organization had the usual officers like a president, secretary and treasurer. But it also had a chaplain, and my brother was elected to serve in that role. Of course times were different than now, and yet, maybe not. His principal responsibility was to lead a prayer in each meeting.

One evening he came home and casually remarked that he was no longer chaplain. That was a shock for there was no way I could imagine anything my brother could have done to be asked to give up that role. I was stunned! When asked about it, he said he ended his prayers "in the name of Jesus." He was told that was offensive to those who were of other faiths, and if he would just "drop that line" he could remain as chaplain. He said no.

His rationale was that if he was praying, he was praying to God as he was taught to do and comfortable doing. He saw prayer as a conversation with God, not words to be read or spoken with a sense of making others comfortable or not.

As a good Lutheran kid in the 1960's, he believed any prayer was influenced by Christ's love and grace in our lives. For him, prayer was also a witness of what he believed. He wasn't angry, as he was comfortable with his faith and how it fit into his life. To him, that was more important than being a part of a group in which he didn't fit. I learned a lot from him on that day, and have never forgotten how comfortable he was with losing what so many would have done anything to keep. Why not consider choices you might have to face. Faith might make some choices in life complicated, but will always guide your way. Pastor Seeber

ASH WEDNESDAY and LENT

Many of our traditions in the Church seem outdated in a modern world. Lent is one such endeavor. There is a wonderful reason for this season, which should not be ignored. For some this might be a brand new experience. In any case, here is what the season of Lent can mean for you.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and is a forty day journey to prepare us for Holy Week and Easter. 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 toward a rainbow. It remembers Jesus' 40 day temptation as his ministry began.

Lent remembers Jesus' loving journey to a cross and tomb, so that all the days of our lives will be flavored by his love for us.

Ash Wednesday (February 17) is a somber day of repentance and trust in the saving love of Jesus. We are used to making a sign of the cross (with ash), saying "you are dust and to dust you shall return." This year will be different for obvious reasons.

The Sanctuary Worship will be Noon to 1pm and 6:30-7:30 pm for Ash Wednesday.

Meditative music, and a guide for scriptures readings and prayer will be available. If you desire ashes, the pastors will do that for you as you leave the sanctuary. Come when you can, leave when you must.

Lenten midweek services will begin on Wednesday February 24 at 6:30 pm. They will be online on Facebook and YouTube (as we are doing with Sunday worship).

Pastor Seeber and Aaron will have their weekly Facebook devotions also focused on Lenten themes (like we did in Advent.)

This will actually allow more of you to participate in our Lenten journey, as you can go online whenever it is convenient.

Our hope is that Holy Week will see more of our members able and ready to be with each other in worship. Our plans will remain fluid and adapt to the realities of what we are dealing with. Portals of Prayer and other online resources will provide many resources for Lenten meditation and prayer.

Lent comes from a word meaning "spring." And what is Lent but 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?

When the pandemic began we thought we were delaying our Easter worship for a few weeks, but it will actually be a full year.

Let's plan on trying to COME HOME for EASTER! We want everyone who is associated with Zion to remember that this is our "home away from home." Our congregation is like a rest stop on a life-long journey, where we gather for renewal, refreshment, and a focus on what is really important in our lives. This year will also be an opportunity to welcome and invite others who have no church home!

And whatever you can do to make others feel "at home" here is a wonderful gift you can share. And whomever you know who is travelling alone, might be invited to find a new "home" for their own life journey.

Special Announcements

Dolores Rink and Family would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, and memorial contributions, when Carlton died. Special thanks to Pastor Brelje for presiding over the funeral service.

Patty Langworthy thanks everyone for the cards and prayers helping her through her recent surgery. She has never felt so much overwhelming kindness and is greatly appreciative.

Special thanks for the 2020 Sanctuary Christmas Decorations

Special thank you to Cindy Krill, Dave Mayer, Jayne Mayer, Jim Mayer, Laurel Miner, Melissa Noseworthy, Steve Nuyen, Tom and Roz Proos, Carol Rosin and John Stiegemeyer for decorating and maintaining the sanctuary and church this season. Everything looked beautiful and your efforts were sincerely appreciated.

Do You Need Delivery Assistance?

If you're having trouble getting out to pick-up groceries / supplies, please contact the church office. We may have some high school students that would like to volunteer to assist.

Curiosity Question.... Are you a Pastor's Child? We are interested in knowing how many in the congregation are; if so, please send us an email to zion@zionkazoo.org and let us know. Thank you!

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.
Peter 4:10*

CATECHISM REVIEW 10 Commandments

What Do They Mean? Part 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do not covet your neighbors property or family! By this point, we get it. Each life is sacred. Each person's reputation, body, possessions, and family are gifts of God to be used in ways that show our love to God and those around us. If we believe that God has made me, and gifted me according to his purpose and plan, why would I not be content with who I am? Why would I even think of wanting someone else's stuff?

Here is the summary, in Matthew 5:14 Jesus said, "you are the Light of the world." That summarizes all commandments ... You are to reveal God's love and God's love, through you, is to draw the world to God. (Get it?)

Letter from the Board of Directors regarding Pastoral

Dear Members of Zion,

In fellowship with you, our friends and church family, the Board of Directors wishes to convey our sincere thanks for the prayers and support for your church and our dedicated and tireless staff through some most challenging times. Their leadership over the past several months to keep Zion grounded in faith and steadfast on our mission of sharing the love of Christ, has been nothing short of inspirational. Following their example and honoring our commitment to you, we have given much consideration and prayerful thought to the way God would have us grow and change to better live out our calling.

By now you are aware that Pastor Seeber has approached us with the desire to change his role at Zion. He has expressed his love for this congregation and a willingness to continue ministering to it, albeit in a supportive role. Meanwhile, Pastor Brelje has indicated an interest in retiring except for teaching his weekly Bible study. Over the past several months we have met to discuss these changes with Pastor Seeber and the rest of the ministry team to understand their interests going forward as well as to assess the future needs of our congregation. As you might imagine, those needs have changed quite a bit since we began this journey a little over one year ago.

Soon we will be impaneling a call committee in accordance with the guidelines established by the LCMS Michigan District. As you may know, this is a very thorough and deliberate process that can take many months to complete. Pastor Tim has graciously agreed to continue his service, in full, while we search for a new senior pastor. However, out of respect for him, we have promised not to impose on his patience and generosity any longer than we must. Therefore, effective immediately, we intend to begin that process in earnest. The Board of Directors will elect the call committee members with the goal of obtaining an appropriate cross section of members that represent our diverse congregation.

We believe that God has richly blessed this congregation and that he will continue to do so as we turn the page to a new chapter in our journey together. The outpouring of support for Pastor Seeber and the entire worship ministry, including all the volunteer boards, committees, and outreach groups has been greatly appreciated. By God's grace and with your ongoing support, the future of Zion remains bright.

As we move forward, we will keep you informed of the board's progress, soliciting congregational approval at the appropriate times. In the meantime, should you have any questions or comments you would like to share, please feel free to contact anyone on the Board of Directors or Worship Team.

In His service and yours,

Zion Board of Directors

Friends of Jesus Preschool

A letter from the Board of Directors regarding Friends of Jesus Preschool:

A preschool has been a part of Zion since the 1970s when we decided not to have a parochial school but establishing a co-op preschool instead. This was a successful ministry for many years serving both Zion and the community. For a variety of reasons, the preschool was expanded, the name was changed to Hilltop, and a wrap-around (day care) component was added. Increased state regulations and the desire to greatly expand this program increased administrative and staffing costs. To maintain the cost effectiveness of the program and keep costs realistic, the wrap around aspect was discontinued and enrollment was capped at numbers we could support. We also restored the Friends of Jesus name to emphasize the ministry flavor of this program. The congregation continued to support this ministry financially and in many other ways, and it has maintained a reputation in the community as a quality Christian preschool. It has faithfully served both families of Zion and the community.

Taking a year off for COVID was difficult but has allowed the Friends of Jesus Ministry Team to really “dream” and clarify the vision, as well as commitment to having a 2021-22 school year, and beyond! The Ministry Team had very similar words and answers to the visioning questions and ended up with three categories in which FOJ carries out the mission to provide Christ-centered education and care that develops spiritual, social, intellectual, physical, and emotional skills in an age-appropriate learning environment where each student is recognized as a unique child of God.

Those three areas are relationships, ministry, and environment. Within each of those areas the word “personal” describes how Friends of Jesus operates.

After assessing the ministry needs of the congregation as well as opportunities, one of the ideas is a full time Called DCE/Teacher fulfilling the role of Preschool Director and Children’s Ministry Director. Someone who spends their time building relationships with preschool families would be the most natural in building relationships with congregation families and funneling those two groups together in a “joint” family/children’s ministry.

Our other option for staffing is to move forward as we have in the past, with a highly qualified part-time Director from the community who oversees daily operations for the preschool.

There is always more ministry a congregation can do. We have seen that throughout COVID. Our Pastors and staff have adapted and created new and different opportunities we never would have imagined. In an ever changing world we are thankful our ministry has grown and adapted. We are open to the direction in which God continues to shape our ministry at Zion and through Friends of Jesus Preschool.

In December the Board of Directors approved the formation of a search committee to seek out a qualified candidate for Preschool Director. We will be pursuing both of the above options as we continue this important ministry and attempt to find the right personnel.

-The Board of Directors

Worship Helps: The Altar

The most visible furniture in any place of worship is the altar. The word is connected to sacrifice. Almost every religion uses altars as a place of special connection to their deity. Old Testament, altars are always places where animals were killed and burned as gifts to God, usually on a high place. The stories are familiar, such as Abraham and Isaac, Noah after the flood, or Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The Jerusalem temple had two altars; one in front of the "Holy of Holies" (for priests only) on which the incense of prayer was burned. Outside was a large altar on which priests burned gifts of sheep, cattle, or birds. With the gift of Jesus, the theology of the altar changed! We don't do things to get God's attention. Instead, He has come close to us in Jesus and his "once and for all" sacrifice for the world. Matthew shares that the Temple curtain (in front of the Holy of Holies) was destroyed at Jesus' crucifixion, as a reminder there will never be the need for sacrifice again.

God is no longer a legal demand, but an act of love in response to what Jesus has so freely given by grace. We no longer go to high places and stone altars to give gifts to God, but are to make every moment and action a place of sacrificial, servant love. The New Testament Book of Hebrews powerfully proclaims how the old sacrificial system is replaced by Jesus who is both the great "high priest" and the "sacrificial lamb."

The early church didn't have altars of sacrifice, but worshipped in people's homes and gathered around the table for the meal of Holy Communion (just as Jesus and his disciples had gathered for their Last Supper.) Over time, special buildings were needed to accommodate larger groups of people and furniture (like altars) were built following the pattern of the Old Testament Temple. The medieval church developed a doctrine of "transubstantiation" (meaning the bread and

wine actually changed into Christ's body and blood.) With such a belief, the altar became seen as a place where Jesus was sacrificed over and over again for us. Rails were added to separate that "holy place" (where only priests were allowed to venture, much like the old Holy of Holies in Jerusalem.) Construction became more elaborate and often included gold, intricate carvings, statues, and art.

Gradually the idea of a table around which the family of faith gathered for a meal was lost, and the altar became the place where God really lived and was the most holy spot in the city. A major point of the Reformation was to understand the Sacrament of the Altar as a place for the faith family to celebrate Christ's presence in a special way, rather than the idea Jesus was sacrificed over and over again like the Old Testament burnt offerings. But change is difficult and altars remained. And they have a special place as a reminder of God's love.

The Lutheran church kept the altar and the idea of the family meal, but the Reformed churches came to use their altars as a speaking or reading platform. We believe the altar is a table for a meal, and in our practice we have brought the table closer so that all can access the meal, even though we really can't all sit around the table at the same time. And yet, the front of the church has a special presence and feel.

It is important we don't misunderstand what we believe or give the wrong impressions by our actions to those who are new to the faith.

I love the reverent and elaborate art of the cathedrals in Europe, but the theology today is closer to that of the early church and the first disciples. We certainly affirm the special closeness of God an altar proclaims, but must be careful to never think God is confined behind rails or on an altar. Or that we are closer there than in other places. Jesus taught every place is holy, because God is creator, and God is close as Holy Spirit.

Youth News

High School:

Bible Study

In-person Bible study continues Sunday Evenings at 6pm. As places open back up we might have a social opportunity to gather. Watch emails/Remind.

Middle School Youth:

Confirmation Classes

Class will remain virtual for the first 2 weeks in February. We will pause for worship during Lent.

As of now there are no social plans but watch email/Remind as opportunities will come up!

Echoes

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

God is at work. Ministry always has its challenges but this past year is one for the record books. Every time something to rejoice about happened, it seemed like the next day a bomb went off. Satan was at work, too. On the flip side, on more than one occasion when I was ready to call it quits in a certain area, I received some words of encouragement or a story that motivated me to continue on. The roller coaster of 2020 continues on into 2021. And God is still at work, as well as the devil.

Words from parents have been the most helpful in the past month. Positive stories of older kids going through the Sunday School packet with their younger siblings, middle schoolers excited to tune into confirmation class, and even people from all over the country sharing gratitude for online devotions. Young adults meeting to understand spiritual disciplines better, high schoolers utilizing leadership development skills in their daily lives, and Ministry Teams taking on huge workloads. These are the ways God has been speaking to me—how God has shown up in my life. Thank you! Share some kind words or encouragement with someone today—you may just be God at work to them.

Family Life

Family Ministry News

Calendar

I have not had any feedback regarding “in-person” Sunday School. So expect another packet at your house. If you haven’t been getting one and would like one, please let the office know!

Watch your email for future events. As things begin to open back up we will work on socially distanced events for you and your family!

STEADY

One thing I’ve noticed during the shut downs is the steady nature of older people. As I began some conversations I understood their demeanor a little more. It’s not that they are unconcerned with the day to day travesties, nor are they afraid. They just realize so much of this has happened before. As a Millennial (or Mega-llennial—new term!) I only know the world post Vietnam. The defining world tragedy in my lifetime was 9/11 and I remember images of the Berlin Wall being torn down but not fully understanding. I remember a time without a computer but other than that, day to day functioning hasn’t changed much throughout society. But there were times in the past where life was much different. Some of you may have lived through those times. In my conversations I came to realize that life/culture goes in cycles. The more cycles you have been through the less you overreact...or even react. As we enter another year and possible world unknown to so many, don’t overreact. Instead, what a neat way to initiate a relationship with someone older, wiser...who has seen a cycle or two.

GRATEFUL HEARTS / THANKFUL HANDS

As you look forward to Spring and perhaps are doing some after Christmas organizing, we hope you may have some unwanted items you will consider donating to the Bazaar. While Zion is not currently taking donations, we have made special arrangements for Bazaar items only to be dropped off on

Wednesday, February 3rd and Monday, February 15th

from 9:00am—11:00am.

Please DO NOT take items to the church office. Drive up to the door closest to the sanctuary and we will meet you there to assist with your donations.

MASKS are REQUIRED, please.

Any questions, please contact Jayne (375-8342) or Linda (375-1241) Mayer.

For everyone's safety ... These are the **ONLY DAYS DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR NOW.** Thank you for your support and understanding.



FINANCIAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE that might be helpful for some of our members:

LVM manages our endowment, and have shared the following facts:

The Tax Act of 2018 provides a tax savings opportunity for taxpayers who are older than age 70 ½.

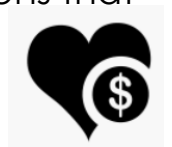
Consider gifting directly from your IRA to Zion or other charities. Gifts in this manner are not counted as taxable income to you.

Gifts such as this lower your taxable income and your income tax liability.

This can be accomplished through an electronic transfer of funds. Your IRA manager may provide a checkbook on your account if that would be easier.

We encourage you to discuss how to do this with your tax or financial advisor. Ask them about how to do qualified charitable donations (QCDs) beginning in 2021 and thereafter.

Our Finance Ministry Team may also be able to answer specific questions that can be directed through the church office.



CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT:

JANUARY 2021

Virtual classes began at WMU on Monday, January 11th and the in-person classes being offered this semester begin Tuesday, January 19th.

A new 10 week Conquer Series is being held on Tuesday evenings from 6-8PM. The Conquer Series is for men struggling with addiction issues. There will be 5 new WMU students in this series. One of the students who was a part of the first Conquer Series last year and I will be leading this new series.

We will be offering a virtual Bible study one evening during the week, probably on Wednesday or Thursday evening.

Now that winter has arrived and we are no longer able to do our outdoor service, I've encouraged the students who were attending the outdoor service to attend the 10:30AM service at Zion. There were 5-7 students that attended the outdoor service in the Fall semester.

We are looking at having another panel discussion event sometime this semester. The initial feedback from students that attended the event in October was to have a mix of students and pastors on the next panel.

I am anticipating this Spring Semester will be very similar to the Fall semester in that we will be doing most things virtually. I am hopeful that the combination of vaccines and time will allow for things to return to a point where we can resume most in person activities and events beginning in the Fall Semester of 2021.

I am very excited about a new ministry idea that we are looking at launching in the Fall semester 2021. Two of the students involved at Solid Grounds are in the music program. One is in Music Education and

another is in the Music Therapy program. Over Christmas break, I asked them what they thought about trying to have a "worship event" in the music building (Dalton Hall) one evening when the Fall semester begins, where we use the music students to lead music and have some type of spiritual growth time, whether it's a discussion about a passage in the Bible, some type of message, or a combination of things. They really liked the idea and want to be a part of helping with this launch.

I also spoke with Grayson for his thoughts about the idea and if he would help lead and oversee the music portion. He likes the idea and wants to help as well. We are going to reach out to some WMU faculty and students in the Music program to get their input and feedback on what they would recommend for this "worship experience" to look like.

At this point, I want to get as much input and feedback from both students and faculty in the Music program to help develop this experience. I am excited about the possibility of launching this new outreach in the Fall 2021.

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

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding

Proverbs 3:5



Book review: How the Irish Saved Civilization; the Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe. Thomas Cahill. Doubleday. 1995.

When I first read this book many years ago it caught me by surprise. I have taken many courses on western civilization without considering the role of Irish monks as guardians of the faith during the Dark Ages of Western Europe after the fall of Rome.

This is a powerful, easy to read book for anyone who appreciates history. It shows how God has been heard even in the darkest moments, and often in surprising ways. We all know of St. Patrick, but most don't really know anything about him, but there were many in Ireland whose faith allowed Ireland to become a guardian of the faith when it looked as if the western Church would be lost.

"Patrick's gift to the Irish was his Christianity. A Christianity without the baggage of the Greco-Roman world. Christianity had been received into Rome, not Rome into Christianity! Roman culture was little altered by the exchange and it is arguable that Christianity lost much of its distinctiveness. Ireland, lacking the power and traditions of Rome, had been received into Christianity, which transformed Ireland into something new — a Christian culture where slavery and human sacrifice became unthinkable, and warfare diminished markedly." [p. 148]

"However blind his British contemporaries may have been to it, the greatness of Patrick is beyond dispute: the first human being in the history of the world to speak out unequivocally against slavery." [p. 114]

The reality of being an island is that it was insulated for a long time from much of the world. That allowed much to be saved and treasured when most of Europe was ravaged by invasions, illiteracy, warfare and plague.

Ireland was also unique in that it felt no need to erase its past or pagan influences. They simply continued to celebrate them in the context of their Christian faith. Both May Day and Halloween came from ancient Druid or Celtic pagan festivals,

The practice of the faith was also often and more enlightened than in the rest of Europe. Respect for differences was written into the rule books of the Irish monasteries. Irish abbots "suggested; they did not enforce," meaning faith was not legalistic but colored by the love of the Gospel and grace.

The Irish also developed the form of private confession. *"The Irish innovation was to make all confession private affair between penitent and priest ... it emphasized the Irish sense that personal conscience took precedence over public opinion or church authority. Every confession was sealed forever by God himself. To break that seal was to imperil one's salvation; it was practically the only sin the Irish considered unforgivable."* [p. 177]

Irish monks copied and preserved Holy Scripture as well as many other important writings of the Western World. Eventually they began sending missionaries into Europe, and began to Christianize the countries that had fallen into chaos and darkness after the fall of the Roman empire.

During our own dark days of this pandemic, the book has even more of an attraction, and that is why I read it again. There was a time in the history of the West when all seemed lost. And in the solitary monastic communities of this island nation, faith continued to grow. As we struggle with our own culture that often seems to have abandoned faith, it just might be that we have an opportunity in a similar way to bring Light back into the darkness! Who knows?

This is a wonderful book.

Pastor Seeber

February BIRTHDAYS

- 2/2 Alex Koperdak, Xavier Wagner,
- 2/3 Gordon Berkhausen, Danielle Field, Frederick Klug
- 2/4 Cole Cullimore, James Mayer, Justin Thiede
- 2/5 David Watson
- 2/6 Carol Lueck
- 2/7 Mike Martin, Matt Simmons, Lucy Tomer
- 2/9 Mike DeMorrow, Scott Vandenberg, Edward Witkoske
- 2/10 Judith Maki, Stanislav Tinigin,
- 2/11 Andy Bentz, Rosemarie Griffith, Charlene Sauer, Jenny Woelzlein
- 2/12 Susan Curtiss, Linnea Gogan, Amy Johnston,
- 2/13 Glen Kellam Sr.
- 2/15 Robert Besser, Dustin Bremer, Ron Hoffman, Cindy Spiess—Malmstrom
- 2/16 Lola Frazier, Kathy Pfeifer, Jason Woods,
- 2/17 Douglas Boodt,
- 2/18 Sandra Krueger, Bob Solberg, Luke Stokes
- 2/19 James Hackenberg
- 2/20 Steve Butt
- 2/21 Dana Butt, Gabriel Carlson, Karen Kunze, Brittany Morrow, Gregg Powell
- 2/22 Lauren Alsvig, Dawn Fierke
- 2/23 Joanne Bowes
- 2/25 Janet Bremer, Mae Cutler, Abigail VanDyken
- 2/26 Alexander Dobbin, Brian Gogan, Doug Phillips, Walter Rettman
- 2/27 Pam Leitz, Joanna Nelson, Jean von der Osten,

PARISH REPORT

Deaths

Joshua Woodford 12/22/20



The wish list item for **February is Rice (box or bag)**. At this time, the Church is not accepting donations,

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

GOSPEL MISSION (269) 345-2974 is seeking people willing to volunteer. The needs are great this winter.

Ministry with Community (269) 343-6073

They are not seeking volunteers, but would greatly appreciate donations.

Please help if you can!

Many will remember the special gifts former member Tomi Mursch shared here at Zion. She passed away peacefully on January 1st.



Jim Hackenberg's Family asked that his address be shared for those who would like to send cards, and well wishes to him as he celebrates his **102nd birthday on February 19th**. They are confident he'd enjoy receiving greetings sent to him at:

Bronson Commons

23332 Red Arrow Hwy Rm #645

Mattawan MI 49071

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																															
	1 Pastor T Devotion 6:30 Personnel	2 Groundhog Day 10:00 P. Brelje Study 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Pastor T Zoom 6:30 FOJ Ministry	3 6:30 Confirmation Class	4 2:30 Aaron Devotion	5 Pastor T Devotion	6 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship																																																																																																															
7 8:00 Worship 10:30 Worship 11:15 HS Bible Study	8 Pastor T Devotion	9 10:00 P. Brelje Study Noon Finance 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Pastor T Zoom 6:30 Sml Grp Ministry	10 6:30 Confirmation Class	11 2:30 Aaron Devotion	12 Pastor T Devotion	13 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship																																																																																																															
14 Valentine's Day 8:00 Worship 10:30 Worship 11:15 HS Bible Study	15 Presidents' Day Pastor T Devotion 6:30 BOD	16 10:00 P. Brelje Study 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Pastor T Zoom	17 Ash Wednesday Worship Noon - 1:00p 6:30p - 7:30p	18 2:30 Aaron Devotion	19 Pastor T Devotion	20 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship																																																																																																															
21 8:00 Worship 10:30 Worship 11:15 HS Bible Study	22 Pastor T Devotion	23 10:00 P. Brelje Study 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Pastor T Zoom 8:00 Youth Ministry	24 Lent 1 6:30 Online Service	25 2:30 Aaron Devotion	26 Pastor T Devotion	27 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship																																																																																																															
28 8:00 Worship 10:30 Worship 11:15 HS Bible Study																																																																																																																					
	Above all, love each other deeply 1 Peter 4:8																																																																																																																				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">January 2021</th> <th colspan="7">March 2021</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							January 2021							March 2021							S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				31													
January 2021							March 2021																																																																																																														
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																																								
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																									
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																								
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																								
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																								
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31																																																																																																											
31																																																																																																																					

Financial Report for December 2020

ZION: December Giving was over budget by \$3,325. Expenses were under budget by \$11,982. December ended with a Net Gain of \$28,311. YTD Net Income Gain was \$22,892, over budget by \$13,224. YTD Contributions are under budget by \$49,959.

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL: Income was under budget by \$13,122. Expenses were under budget by \$10,444. December Net Gain was \$711. YTD Net Income Gain was \$1,917, under budget by \$4,905.

Solid Grounds: Income was over budget by \$311. Expenses were under budget by \$913. December Net Gain was \$2,903. YTD Net Income Gain was \$1,189, under budget by \$3,979.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
Zion Giving & Misc.	78,625	81,950	3,325	423,375	373,416	-49,959
EXPENSES						
Zion Staff Support	34,088	27,348	-6,740	203,353	201,499	-1,854
Office Operations	1,435	2,191	756	10,245	9,283	-962
Church Property	6,372	5,350	-1,022	53,552	38,841	-14,711
Education Ministry	1,385	345	-1,040	6,775	3,424	-3,351
Evangelism/Missions	0	0	0	300	0	-300
Worship Ministry	400	321	-79	3,575	3,114	-461
Other Ministries	150	0	-150	1,700	858	-842
Music Ministry	3,200	3,750	550	17,025	11,000	-6,025
Finance Ministry	10,341	6,423	-3,918	72,382	44,644	-27,738
Zion Haus Ministry	400	154	-246	2,800	1,612	-1,188
Missions - General	7,850	7,757	-93	42,000	36,249	-5,751
Total Expenses	65,621	53,639	11,982	413,707	350,524	-63,183
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	13,004	28,311	-15,307	9,668	22,892	13,224
FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL						
INCOME						
FOJ Income	13,833	711	-13,122	71,625	6,595	-65,030
FOJ Staff Support	9,749	0	-9,749	53,998	3,737	-50,261
FOJ Operations Expenses	695	0	-695	10,805	941	-9,864
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	3,389	711	-2,678	6,822	1,917	-4,905
SOLID GROUND						
Solid Ground Income	11,523	11,834	311	71,672	65,466	-6,206
Solid Ground Expenses	9,844	8,931	913	66,504	64,277	2,227
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	1,679	2,903	1,224	5,168	1,189	-3,979
BALANCE SHEET						
	6/1/2020	12/31/2020	YTD Change			
ASSETS						
Cash	78,336	135,972	57,636			
Investments	137,222	137,874	652			
Other Assets	10,944	4,994	-5,950			
TOTAL	226,502	278,840	52,338			
LIABILITIES						
Payroll	5,829	5,780	-49			
Dedicated Funds	87,136	114,614	27,478			
Unrestricted Funds	133,537	158,447	24,910			
TOTAL	226,502	278,841	52,339			
MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE						
	\$757,384					
Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000						
Youth Ministry	\$9,862	FOJ Estate Gift	\$3,799			
New Staff	\$50,000	FOJ Fundraising	\$11,518			
Ins. Claim Water Damage	\$27,824					

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

February

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 479
KALAMAZOO, MI

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Ash Wednesday

February 17th 2021

Noon and 6:30p Services

Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent

February 24—March 24

Online at 6:30 p.m.