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I have an old black sweatshirt that I wear quite often when the weather is cool. It's comfortable and I got it from my son, Adam, so it has meaning as well. It also has a graphic on it that says in white lettering, "W." And underneath the "W" it says, "swimming and diving." I don't know what the "W" stands for. Some school or college I'm sure. Adam used to work for a screen printer and the sweatshirt was leftover from an order they had put together for the infamous "W." So, it's a bit of a mystery. That doesn't bother me because, again, it's a great sweatshirt. But recently a surprising number of people stop me (I often wear it when I'm hiking) and ask me if I coach "swimming and diving," and is the "W" for Western Michigan University.

Yes, my sweatshirt has become an unintentional conversation starter. Which is great, because I don't mind chatting with people, and one never knows where those conversations might lead - perhaps to a conversation about faith in Jesus. Except there is one question that I can always anticipate being asked when I'm chatting with someone new: *So, what do you do for a living?*

I try not to answer that question. I never lead off a conversation with the fact that I am a pastor, for the simple reason that this one bit of information changes how people look at me and respond to me. Either they immediately think they need to clean up their language and speak in more spiritual terms in front of me, or they begin to withdraw and bring the conversation to a close. (There are a lot of people out there who don't want to talk to a pastor, and for a lot of reasons.)

To see people make faulty assumptions about me based off what I do with my life has allowed me to see how I can do that myself with people I come across each day. It's too easy for us to judge someone according to their appearance or occupation or by the sweatshirt they wear. No, I've never coached swimming and diving! I can barely swim! Indeed, it takes time and effort to truly get to know someone. And that effort, that time invested in another person, this is what God calls love. Friends, we are called to love God and our neighbor. As we enter the summer months, let us take the time to hear from our Lord as we spend time in His Word. And let us talk with strangers, not judging them by outward appearance, but seeing them as they are: children of God who are loved by Him.

-- Pastor Saylor

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## Catechism Review: The Lord's Prayer (part 6)

### "Lead us not into temptation"

A misunderstanding of "lead us not into temptation" is the assumption that temptation comes from God. That would mean unless we ask God to stop, he will keep tempting. That would mean God has a dark side, and insinuates God is devious. It would follow from such a perspective that our strength can stop God from luring us into temptation. But nothing can be farther from the truth!

Such a perspective misses the point of Jesus' words. Temptation is the word we use to describe our sinful tendency to wander from God's guidance and listen to the selfish voice of a broken world. The result of God's gift of freedom is that we daily chose whom we will serve. And sometimes it is not God we serve. but self or something more sinister. God does not lead us into such temptation. It is our frail, selfish, human nature that does so.

A young mother dying from cancer told me she was tired of hearing, "God won't give you more than you can handle." She said, "That makes me feel I am being punished for having faith! That if I had no faith, I wouldn't have cancer." Do you see how such a misunderstandings and lack of faith can hurt others? This young mother was never tempted, not by God, but by those who had misrepresented God! We all deserve better!

Temptation is nothing short of turning our backs on God, saying, "I know better than God!" This is not God's doing, but ours alone. It is the brokenness we call sin rearing its ugly head and biting us back. Temptation separates us from God's love. God doesn't tempt, it is what we call Satan that does. Taking a bite of forbidden fruit is something we do all on our own! Temptation is the desire for something that will harm me, my relationship with God, or with others.

In this prayer we ask God to deflect temptation; to cover and protect us from its power. Temptation is the hiss of the serpent, the lure of worldly things, and the weakness we call sin. In these words we

confess our addiction to this world, and ask God to lift us from selfishness by his forgiving and empowering servant love. Most have learned that shooting stars are not stars but grains of dust or tiny pebbles? Isn't it amazing something so little can burn so bright? We know it is all about speed and friction caused by the atmosphere, but is that any different than the destructive nature of a little lie, or something shoplifted, or disobeying our Mom or Dad?

The Space Shuttle was covered with heat tiles to deflect the power of earth's energy during re-entry. Without that protection, friction caused by such speed would destroy any life or object that enters the boundaries of earth's atmosphere. This is what Jesus is teaching us to understand and ask for in this prayer. In this prayer we are asking God to keep us in the orbit of his love, and to become a shield and protection from the destructive results of our sinful choices.

Temptation is the friction of sin. Faith trusts God to be strong where we are weak, and knows He will lead us away from what would harm our faith, our lives, or our love. And just as heat tiles on the shuttle deflected what could destroy the lives inside, so Jesus deflects the power of sin, death, and the devil through the loving gift of his sacrificial death and resurrection.

He literally takes the heat for our failures, buries them in the tomb, and returns us to life with burdens left behind.

His descent into the darkness of death was no different than the blackout that occurred when the space shuttle entered the time of greatest heat and friction as it returned home. In this prayer we surround ourselves with the God who deflects every weapon Satan has in his arsenal.

We are reminded prayer is no different than any other exercise; the more often we do it the easier it becomes. When we think we can live without God's help we face rude surprises. This is no different than an alcoholic who stays sober for three years and takes one drink just to prove alcohol no longer has any power over her ... and then a real problem returns.

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Why take the drink when you know what your weakness is? Why fail to pray, when you know God's promise to help? Prayer does change all things. In this petition we say, *"Dear God, we know you alone can lead us safely through any and all things that can be destructive to us. We trust you will lead us safely away from what could harm me or someone I love. Thank you God!"*

-- Pastor Seeber

### ***Why Liturgy is Important — The Benediction***

The elements of liturgy 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.) With this blessing we are sent out into the world, where our daily worship and witness will continue. We aren't leaving church, the Church is moving out into the world. This is a most fitting send off for ministry and living in faith.

The most familiar benediction is, *"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 are the words God spoke to Moses, who later taught them to Aaron. He was instructed to

share these words for two reasons. First is that like blanket, God wanted his people to know that he was covering them wherever they went; a reminder that we are never alone! Secondly, God chooses to remind us that we God's presence is a blessing and will bring blessings. These good words send and sustain God's people wherever we go and whatever we do.

As formal worship ends, our daily worship begins. The Church is not a place but a people. Having gathered in a bigger family for worship, nurture, and fellowship we now go out into the world as the hands and feet of Jesus. We are the Church and are sent into the world for a special purpose.

Having been blessed by God through Word and Sacrament, we are sent to be God's people (actually a kingdom of priests) in how and where we live out our faith! These good words send us with a reminder of whose we are and how we are to live. Like a graduation speech or pep talk they send us on our way as people who are 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.

Remember the water, sign of the cross, and blessing that touched you at Baptism. That was followed with the reminder to let our light shine! The words of benediction touch our hearts with similar strength. We are sent for service, and we don't alone. The benediction is a blessing that goes with us and a reminder that we are never alone. It covers us. It changes us. It surrounds us with the promise and peace of God's love.

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!*

**-cont. pg 4**

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 benedictions of parental love. They cover our kids with a blanket of protection and they remind our children how important they are to us, and how important their lives are to others.

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 loving guidance is a gift that is always with us touching 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 even 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

## LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM

Valparaiso University 2024

Music has been an important component of the heritage of the Lutheran Church. Martin Luther wrote hymns. J.S. Bach composed music. This was a significant gift to the reformation of worship that sought to very scriptural and assisted Christ's flock. Such gifts helped develop the idea that worship is not a spectator but a participatory gift of all Christians in praising God.

Bach signed each of his compositions with the letters SDG, as the first letters of the Latin phrase "soli deo gloria," meaning "to God alone

be the glory." God (and not the performer or composer) is to receive the glory for the wonders of His work of creation and of redemption. The point of music in worship is not about us, but about giving sacrificial praise to our God of love.

**Lutheran Summer Music** is a faith-based residential music academy for high schoolers (students who have completed grades 8-12). Students come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in joyful music-making and build a supportive and welcoming community, living together on a Lutheran college campus.

Talented instructors mentor these young people with their technical skills. They also assist them in appreciating gift of music in the life of the Church and prepare them to assist in the worship lives of their home congregations.

During the day, students receive advanced musical instruction through large ensembles, chamber music, private lessons with collegiate-level faculty, and elective classes. In the evenings, students attend recitals and Evening Prayer services based on Lutheran liturgy, and social events with friends. Instruction is available for woodwinds, brass, percussion, strings, voice, piano, organ, guitar, and harp.

**Lutheran Summer Music** was founded in 1981 to celebrate and extend the rich musical heritage of the Lutheran church. Our founders believed that by providing high-quality training and performance opportunities to young musicians they could cultivate a lifelong love of classical and sacred music, thus preserving these art forms for generations to come.

In 1982, "Sounds of Summer" (as the Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival was initially called) was launched. Each summer since then students, faculty, staff, and conductors have gathered in intentional community to make and perform music and celebrate the Lutheran faith tradition.

-cont. pg 5

In the final Festival Week each summer, student performances serve as a fitting conclusion to this four-week immersion of accelerated learning and highlight inspiring progress to friends and family.

Lutheran Music Program also maintains a close relationship with Lutheran colleges across the country as host campuses over the years have been at Augsburg College, Augustana College-Rock Island, Augustana College-Sioux Falls, Concordia College, Gustavus Adolphus College, Luther College, Valparaiso University, St. Olaf College, and Wittenberg University. Since its founding, LSM has expanded programming to reach musicians and music appreciators of all ages and faith traditions, but our work remains rooted in Lutheran music, worship, and liturgical traditions.

June 30-July 24 is when this summer's session will be held. During the first three weeks there are daily recitals by students or faculty that are open to the public.

The program concludes with the Festival week in which there are major performances, also open to the public. There is a daily event which is open to the public. July 22-28 is the Festival Week with major afternoon and evening performances open to the public.

The Lutheran Summer Music Academy website <https://www.lsmacademy.org/2024>

Through the gift of Norm and Elda Helm, and Joyce Zastrow, Zion has money available in our Music Endowments as scholarships for any Zion students who might wish to attend. The church office can provide the proper forms to request such assistance. All members of Zion are invited to look at the festival week schedule and see if there might be performances that might be of interest to attend.

For more information feel free to talk to Rollie Preuss or Pastor Seeber.

## Have You Seen the Lights?

During the past year we have been upgrading our electrical lights throughout our entire facility with LED's. These lights use far less energy creating a savings, produce brighter light enabling us to actually reduce the number of bulbs needed to properly light an area, will last much longer than older traditional lights, and will ultimately require much less maintenance.

There were around 900 lights replaced by a company from Grand Rapids called, LEaDer Lights. Many light fixtures had to be rewired to accommodate the new LED's. We were able to replace around 200 bulbs ourselves with many of these in our sanctuary troughs.

The total number of lights replaced was around 1,100.

The total cost of the project was \$37,684.75. We received two thoughtful financial gifts from LEaDer Lights totaling \$1,500.00, rebates from Consumers Energy for \$6,003.74, anonymous gifts totaling \$18,931.79 leaving us with a final bill of \$11,249.22 paid from our Endowment Fund. We hope to reap the benefits of these new lights for many years to come.

Our thanks to the Board of Church Property for overseeing and completing this project.

## It's Graduation Season!

**Please take a moment to congratulate all the Zion graduates!**

### High School:

Claire Alsvig

Megan Brennan

Isabella Essink (Frazier)

Aly Hampshire

Maren Hampshire

Riley Ketchum

Alex Kiessling

Rudy Linebaugh

### College:

Tessa Butt

Avery Eastman

Hunter Laurin

Siarha Tangeman



# Family Life

## Family Ministry News

### Upcoming Schedule

#### **-June 9: Tailgate & Family Fun Day 11am-???**

Join us for a Bubble Baptism Bash as we learn about being a Child of God and have some awesome Bubble experiences.

#### **-June 24: Faith, Family, Fun 5-7:30pm**

As we continue our topic of Promises, come hear about God's covenant with Noah. We will be doing some awesome family activities after a delicious dinner!

### NEIGHBORHOOD MISSIONARIES

What an amazing time of life: parenthood. Yes there may be some stressful and busy times but right now you have an opportunity you might not realize...many others relate to you simply because you have kids and they have kids. Our big opportunity as God's people is to build relationships with these other families—not with an agenda, but simply to show them the love that Jesus showed us.

We DO have some awesome family fun opportunities at Zion this summer in which you can invite them but the more important time spent with them will be in your own neighborhood, in your own house, in your own backyard. God calls us to build relationships with others and in doing so we show them the same love God showed us.

Seems simple. Then why don't we do more of it? When God calls us to love our neighbor we typically think this means the world. What if it simply means the person living next to us? Again, no ulterior motive, just simply because it is what God commands...love Him, love others.





**DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.**

**Blood Drive**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo

**Monday, June 3, 2024  
12:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.**

For an appointment visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code: ZLC,  
or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

# OUTDOOR SUMMER WORSHIP

10:00AM SUNDAYS



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

# BRING LAWNCHAIRS

## Youth News

We will continue to meet as a combined Middle School/High School Youth Group. Any student entering 6th-12th grades is invited to attend unless specifically noted! Friends are also invited!

### Baccalaureate Service

June 2nd during the 10am service

### EWG Gatherings

Watch (and respond) to the text chain to be informed of where and when we are going to meet for a treat and some discussion. To be included text Aaron at 269-271-2848

### Tailgate and Family Fun

June 9th at 11am we hope you'll join us for some hot dogs/brats and some bubble fun! (Bring your parents)

### SERVICE PROJECT

June 24 (Monday) at 5pm we will gather for dinner and then local service projects! This includes congregation members homes as well as local organizations such as Diaper Bank, Loaves and Fishes, the YWCA, etc.

## Echoes-Glimpses of Glory

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

I'm in the middle of a devotional book called "A Shelter in the Time of Storm" by Paul David Tripp. He has a phrase he uses for the "echoes" of God at work. He calls them Glimpses of God's Glory. I'm changing the title of "Echoes" to "Glimpses of Glory" to better reflect and slightly change the approach of this article. We will still mention examples of how God is working through the people of our community but with an additional focus of how this service brings us a glimpse of our God.

Example: The tornados that ripped through Portage last month. Even amidst destruction and chaos there was opportunity to serve. This service and willingness to help gives us just a glimpse of God's love for humanity. When we were lost in the chaos of sin, God sent His only Son to save us and clean up our mess.

The word "glorify" means to make known. In this case we help make God known through who we are and how we love others.

-Aaron



## **CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT: MAY 2024:**

Plans are underway at Solid Grounds to prepare for the arrival of our two interns, Jack and Savannah. A new shower and sink are being installed in the upstairs bathroom and a new dishwasher and stove in the kitchen area on the main floor.

I am really excited about working together with Jack and Savannah this upcoming academic year and giving them the opportunity to serve and work with the students on campus in whatever way(s) will maximize their strengths and gifts from God.

Savannah and her parents visited Solid Grounds and Zion on May 16-17 to drop off some of her belongings and Jack and his parents came in a few days later to drop off some of his things at Solid Grounds. It is going to be fun to work with two young people and their excitement and energy.

I continue to enjoy visiting and calling on our shut-in/home bound members of Zion. There are close to 20 different members that are a part of our shut-in/home bound ministry. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. A number of them are dealing with serious health issues and have Hospice involved in their care.

At the end of May, Jackson and I traveled to upstate New York to visit with Melody's sister and brother and their families. Melody's request was that half of her ashes be spread in the Smoky Mountains and the other half in the Catskill Mountains of New York where she grew up. Back in October, Jackson and I visited Tennessee to spread part of her ashes in the Smokies and on this trip to New York, we will spread the remaining part of her ashes in a part of the Catskills that was a favorite hiking area of Melody and her siblings, who grew up close to the Catskills.

God's blessings and peace to you all.

Pastor Mark

## **FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL**

Summer Camp 2024 is here! We are especially thankful and blessed that Friends of Jesus campers will be enjoying summer camp in air-conditioned classrooms for the first time this year. Thank you to the Zion congregation for supporting this project. Preschool students (and staff) greatly appreciate it!

June's Summer Camp themes include The Open Ocean, Gone Fishin', Bubble Party, and Camp FOJ. We will be taking a week off for Independence Day before coming back with four more exciting themes for the month of July.

We are excited to team up with Zion Children's Ministry for a Summer Tailgate on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> following the 10 AM parking lot worship. Past, present, and future Friends of Jesus Preschool students are also invited to a Picnic in the Park at Oshtemo Township Park on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Bring a picnic dinner and spend some time with old (and new friends).

Have a safe and enjoyable first few weeks of summer!

**Interested in FOJ?** For more information or to schedule a tour please contact Jen LaPorte at 269-382-2360 or [jen@zionkazoo.org](mailto:jen@zionkazoo.org).



# Tailgating

June 9

July 14

August 4

Outdoor worship at 10am  
And afterwards, delicious  
food for all!

# Family Fun

Join us on these tailgating days for  
some family fun opportunities! We'll  
have activities, games, crafts, and  
conversations about the Bible!

**Book Review:** The Book of Buechner; A Journey Through His Writings. Dale Brown. Westminster John Knox Press. 2006.

Dale Brown was on the faculty of Calvin College and became an expert in the life and writings of Fred Buechner. He left Calvin College to become Director of the Buechner Institute at Kings College in Bristol, Tennessee.

This book is a labor of love and a wonderful introduction to the powerful and diverse work of Frederick Buechner. Each chapter picks up a theme, using one of his books, as the means of illustrating his work.

For the reader who has never opened one of his books, this will help know where to start and what to expect. He has such a diversity of creative effort there truly is something for everyone.

His books such as "The Alphabet of Grace" are brief, self contained chapters on a basic theme of faith. His novels of famous biblical characters are helpful in bringing color and depth to stories we assumed we knew so well. He adds much to the table in such efforts.

His fiction, such as The Book of Bebb seems, at first glance, strictly secular but that shows his creative genius. The more time one spends in this series of stories, the greater the appreciation for Buechner's diversity of style and approach to sharing the faith.

Here is a selection from the Introduction:

*Buechner is indirectly religious from his first novel to the most recent. His ponderings on the possibility of grace, which he offers with neither sentimentality nor simplicity, explain the increasing embrace of religious audiences now coming to him as the once came to C. S. Lewis.*

*Buechner's attention to the ambiguities of human existence is the persistent chord echoing throughout his work, and the infrequent glimmering of hope is he persistent confusion. Doubt and darkness stalk all of his major characters, and their emergence into occasional light is laced with enormous struggle. Such thematic preoccupations, when combined with Buechner's increasingly lucid and engaging style, suggest that Buechner belongs in any catalog of significant contemporary writers.*

For anyone who is a fan of Buechner, this is a wonderful resource for all of his work, and will cause the reader to go back and reread, gaining much in the process.

This book focuses on his novels, such as *The Book of Bebb* (four novels featuring the con man and evangelist, Leo Bebb), *Godric*, *The Son of Laughter*, *the Storm*, and *On the Road with the Archangel*.

Buechner graduated from Union Theological Seminary, was ordained, and developed the religion program at a prestigious well known academy for high school students. He then became a full time writer. Most of his early work is non fiction and his later work fiction.

The following is a summary from the book jacket:

*The Book of Buechner explores the ways in which Buechner's writing, particularly his fiction, presents the possibilities of grace in the midst of the ambiguities of human existence and introduces themes of Christian faith. This is a much overdue literary journey through one of the most significant American writers of the last fifty years.*

If you only read one chapter, either to introduce yourself to Buechner or refresh your appreciation, for his writing, you must read his chapter on "The Son of Laughter." This is a retelling of the life of Jacob (later named Israel) which is a major component of the book of Genesis.

Buechner said he was fascinated with the "notion of a saint who's just as much clay-footed and full of shadows as the rest of us, but is used nonetheless by God." Buechner uses his literary gifts to help Scripture come to life and inspire our own faithful, daily living.

Buechner was a prolific writer who used his unique background and creative gifts in sharing the Gospel in a powerful way. He was truly a unique gift to the Church who will be appreciated even more in years to come.

We have many of his books, including this one, our Zion Library.

- Pastor Seeber

**TRIPLE B:****Backyards, Bourbon, and Bibles**

If you are a fan of lawncare, bourbon, and God's Word we invite you to join us for a new Men's Group this summer! We will meet at various locations but our scheduled dates are May 29, June 26, July 31, and August 21, all at 8pm. If you're interested in coming to one of these contact Aaron Grube at [dcegrube21@gmail.com](mailto:dcegrube21@gmail.com).

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## **Congregation Summer Servant Events**

The entire congregation is invited to join us in serving our community on these days. Dinner at 5pm, work starts at 5:45pm:

**Monday, June 24**

**Tuesday, July 9**

**Wednesday, August 14**

Watch for more specific details regarding each event in the weekly email!

**Lutheran World Relief Ministry**

Our Lutheran World Relief Guild is extremely low on baby booties. The booties can be gently used or new. Knitted booties are fine. A pattern is available if you like to knit. Contact Leona at 381 4268

**Zion -Board of Directors Meeting April 15, 2024**  
*We aspire to be a welcoming and growing community in Christ, providing daily opportunities to live, learn, and share His love.*

**Senior Pastor:** Jack and Savannah will receive their official placements at Zion in the next week or so. They will move to Kalamazoo in late June / early July.

**DCE:** There was a brief discussion of the idea of having short receptions after late service once a month as a part of publicizing ministry teams and fostering fellowship.

**FoJ:** Enrollment for both the coming year and Summer programs is going well. Jen suggested supporting Kelsey gaining her certification through a possible scholarship. The program cost is less than \$1000.00.

**Finance:** Rhonda shared the proposed FY 24-25 Budget draft. The current proposal is frugal but shows a shortfall against projected giving. The Directors discussed ways to allow electronic giving in ways that are more in tune with the practices of some of our younger members. The budget will include all of Zion's ministries, FoJ, and Solid Grounds.

**Personnel:** The Board approved the wages for Debbie Kipp as temporary office staff.

**Summer Outdoor Services:** After discussion, it was agreed to continue with the 10:00 service outdoors weather permitting. Tailgating will take place once a month as well.

**Endowment Grants:** After presentation and discussion, the Board approved disbursement of the following grant:

23-30 AC for Preschool Area  
\$30,245.00

23-31 Solid Ground Maintenance/Upgrades  
\$ 8,515.00

**Marketing/Communications Ministry Team:** Greg shared a proposal for a marketing / communications Ministry Team at Zion. The focus would include reaching new and current members, increasing community awareness, and centralizing resources for the congregation. Included in the plan is a format/template for the weekly emails.



6/1	Ruth Stokes
6/1	Robert Rosenthal
6/1	Jeff Schommer
6/1	Alyson Hampshire
6/1	Maren Hampshire
6/2	Jon Tomer
6/2	Morgan Freeby
6/2	Lynette Gumbleton
6/3	Jason Emig
6/4	Briley Vander Veen
6/5	Cynthia Krill
6/6	Vicki Holt
6/6	Amy Woznick
6/7	Rollie Preuss
6/7	Philomene Rettman
6/7	Sam Proos
6/9	Margo Bridges
6/9	Christopher Hurry
6/10	Joshua Vickery
6/10	James Siek
6/11	Candace Buetow
6/12	Kimberly Stiegemeyer
6/12	Ellie Bentz
6/12	Hanna Brege
6/13	Marilyn Fager
6/13	David Rossi
6/13	Michael O'Connor
6/13	Renae Morgan
6/15	Phyllis Huberty
6/16	Roberta Thomas
6/16	Tricia Dinda
6/17	Susan Buchtrup
6/17	Nancy Heineman
6/17	Philip Parr
6/17	John Skuratowicz
6/18	Paul Gilbert
6/18	Pam DeMorrow
6/19	Larry Harding
6/20	Tom Proos
6/20	Donya Mosher
6/20	Sarah Schierbeek
6/20	Megan Collins
6/21	Michael Hovde
6/21	Dillon Wollberg
6/21	Benjamin Bickel
6/22	Joye Mayer
6/23	Kathleen Jordan
6/23	Daniel Woodford
6/23	Natalie Asaro
6/23	Tessa Butt
6/24	Barbara Witkoske
6/25	Trish Madison
6/27	Angela Bowers
6/27	Scot Miller
6/27	Ryan Bickel
6/28	June Ver Sluis
6/28	Bobbie Dorow
6/28	Cynthia Cosgrove
6/29	Daniel Wilson
6/30	Patricia Kaukola-Weber
6/30	Heidi Fuhrman
6/30	Megan Brennan

## PARISH REPORT

### Baptisms

Brooklynn Nicole Nuyen 5/5/2024

### Deaths

Sharon Preuss 5/13/2024

Walter Mutz 5/17/2024

## **Staff Anniversaries**

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

- Pastor Seeber 6/01/1987
- Pastor Brelje 6/01/1994
- Michelle Devine 6/19/2006
- Rebecca Craft 6/07/2012
- Pastor Saylor 6/01/2024

## **GRATEFUL HANDS/HELPFUL HEARTS**

Last month we addressed the number of people involved with making the bazaar a success. We had **50** active participants!!! Amazing! That doesn't include those who donated attic treasure items and all those who prayed all year long for us. A huge THANK YOU again to everyone who supported this fun event!

We are always accepting attic treasures, which can be placed in the workroom. Garage sale time is the perfect time to bring leftovers in. As you begin to plan your garden, please consider what you could donate. Canned goods are always a popular item!

Have questions? Contact Jayne Mayer at 269-375-8342.

## **KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES**

**June is peanut butter, almond butter, jams and jelly.** Please avoid glass wherever possible for transportation ease. Gray donation tubs are under the church office window. Thank you!

# June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 5:30 Comm Worship
<b>2</b> BACCALAUREATE 8:00 Comm Worship 10:00 Comm Worship 10:00 Installation of New Board Directors	<b>3</b> FOJ Summer Camp "open ocean" 12-5:45 BLOOD DRIVE 6:30 Personnel	<b>4</b> FOJ Summer Camp	<b>5</b> 9:00 Sewing FOJ Summer Camp	<b>6</b> FOJ Summer Camp	<b>7</b> FOJ Summer Camp	<b>8</b> 5:30 Comm Worship
<b>9</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Tailgate / Family Fun summer kick-off	<b>10</b> FOJ Summer Camp "Gone Fishin"	<b>11</b> FOJ Summer Camp	<b>12</b> 9:00 Sewing FOJ Summer Camp  6:00 Property	<b>13</b> FOJ Summer Camp  12:00 Finance	<b>14</b> FLAG DAY FOJ Summer Camp	<b>15</b> 5:30 Comm Worship
<b>16</b> FATHER'S DAY 8:00 Comm Worship 10:00 Comm Worship	<b>17</b> FOJ Summer Camp "bubble party" 8:30-9:30 FOJ D/W/D 6:30 BOD	<b>18</b> FOJ Summer Camp 2 Womens Book Grp	<b>19</b> 9:00 Sewing FOJ Summer Camp	<b>20</b> FOJ Summer Camp  6:00 Picnic in the Park Oshtemo Twp Park	<b>21</b> FOJ Summer Camp	<b>22</b> 5:30 Comm Worship
<b>23</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>24</b> CAMP FOJ 5-7:30 Cong Serv Event Family/Faith/Fun	<b>25</b> CAMP FOJ	<b>26</b> 9:00 Sewing CAMP FOJ  8:00 Triple B Mens Grp	<b>27</b> CAMP FOJ	<b>28</b> CAMP FOJ	<b>29</b> 5:30 Comm Worship
<b>30</b> 8:00 Comm Worship 10:00 Comm Worship		Notes				

JUNE 2024 WORSHIP LEADERS					
	JUNE 2	JUNE 9	JUNE 16	JUNE 23	JUNE 30
<b>Head Ushers 8:00am</b>	Troy Cosgrove Alan Sarver	Steve Weber Dave Mayer	Stan Leitz John DuBois	Dave Newman Rich Rakow	Matt Simmons Donya Mosher
<b>Head Ushers 10:00am</b>	Eric Carlson Dave Alsvig Dan Buchtrup	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast Steve Stokes	Bob Folck Ken Lundquist Dave Borak	Dennis O'Brien Brent Butler Steve Nuyen	Dan Buchtrup Dave Alsvig Eric Carlson
<b>Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm</b>	Joanne Bowes	Judy Adlam	Kathleen Jordan	Mike Schlack	Ted Maxson
<b>Communion Assistants 8:00am</b>	Dave Newman		Matt Simmons		Greg Gerfen
<b>Communion Assistants 10:00am</b>	Jim Mayer		Garr Gast		Janis Dinda
<b>Lectors 8:00am</b>	Andrew Niedbala	Greg Gerfen	Linda Stieve	Carol Daenzer	Donya Mosher
<b>Lectors 10:00am</b>	Chris Wilkins	Jon Tomer	Jill Hamilton	Jayne Mayer	Dave Mayer
<b>Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm</b>	1. Mary Lou Wright 2. Dee Wentzel	1. Dee Wentzel 2. Melissa Noseworthy	1. Dee Wentzel 2.	1. Dee Wentzel 2. Mary Vandenberg	1. Dee Wentzel 2. Melissa Noseworthy
<b>Altar Ministry 8:00am</b>	1. Joe Zerbel 2. Larry Zerbel	1. 2.	1. Vicki Holt 2.	1. 2.	1. Vicki Holt 2.
<b>Altar Ministry 10:00am</b>	1. Carrie Chapman 2.	1. 2.	1. Melissa Noseworthy 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.

\*PLEASE NOTE: Gray boxes indicate no communion that Sunday. If there is an empty space and you are available to assist, please call the Office at 269-382-2360 to add your name. Thank you.



**Zion Financial Report for April 30th, 2024**

ZION: April Income exceeded Spending by \$ 10,458  
 YTD Spending exceeds Income by \$ (40,341) \*23/24 Budget included a deficit of \$49,183 to come from previous year donations  
 YTD Giving is over the budget by \$ 12,969  
 YTD Spending is under the budget by \$ 15,555

Questions? Please email Rhonda Newman at rnewmancpa@sbcglobal.net

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
<b>INCOME</b>						
FOJ	10,548	8,449	-2,099	85,753	61,111	-24,642
Soild Grounds	5,100	4,726	-374	68,100	73,580	5,480
Zion Giving & Misc.	64,301	75,323	11,022	637,322	650,291	12,969
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>79,949</b>	<b>88,499</b>	<b>8,550</b>	<b>791,175</b>	<b>784,983</b>	<b>-6,192</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Church Property	9,350	7,757	1,593	102,850	107,416	-4,566
Education Ministry	500	2,233	-1,733	14,000	13,858	142
Evangelism/Missions	75	0	75	825	1,141	-316
Finance Ministry	6,396	6,408	-12	70,354	70,867	-513
FOJ Expenses	1,866	322	1,544	12,421	3,313	9,108
FOJ Staff	8,737	10,416	-1,679	74,733	72,402	2,331
Missions - General	6,289	7,451	-1,162	62,167	63,800	-1,633
Music Ministry	2,510	2,900	-390	30,555	26,566	3,989
Office Operations	866	1,414	-548	15,201	19,546	-4,345
Other	167	190	-23	3,058	2,778	280
SG Expenses	894	1,292	-398	9,816	12,029	-2,213
SG Staff	9,448	8,530	918	104,128	97,803	6,325
SG Zion Mission Support	-3,870	-4,217	347	-38,225	-34,671	-3,554
Worship	530	802	-272	5,990	6,176	-186
Zion Haus	445	208	237	4,905	4,399	506
Zion Staff	32,155	32,334	-179	368,101	357,900	10,201
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>76,358</b>	<b>78,040</b>	<b>-1,682</b>	<b>840,879</b>	<b>825,324</b>	<b>15,555</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,591</b>	<b>10,458</b>	<b>6,867</b>	<b>-49,704</b>	<b>-40,341</b>	<b>9,363</b>

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2023	4/30/2024	YTD Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash	120,658	112,001	-8,657
Investments	160,547	164,639	4,092
Due To/From Endowment	-12,713	-27,270	-14,557
Dedicated Funds	-73,123	-95,024	-21,901
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195,369</b>	<b>154,346</b>	<b>-41,023</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current Liabilities	5,850	-497	-6,346
Unrestricted Funds	189,519	154,843	-34,676
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195,369</b>	<b>154,346</b>	<b>-41,023</b>

**MORTGAGE LOAN**

Balance 4/30/2024 \$408,358  
 Monthly Payment \$6,350.00  
 Additional Principal \$0.00

**Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000**

Youth Ministry \$14,750  
 New Staff \$55,734  
 Midweek Dinner/Kitchen \$4,504  
 FOJ Fundraising \$5,739

**Monthly Publication of**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**June**

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**2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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ORGANIZATION

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