

Harbinger

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One thing that has always surprised me about ministry is that the alleged “slow” summer months have never really been all that slow for me. Yes, it’s true that our Bible classes, Sunday school, and other offerings are on pause until the fall, but something is always going on at church to fill the void. This summer is no exception, as July brings the newly married Jack and Savannah Engelder and our year of working with “the interns” as I call them. We’ve talked about them quite a bit over the past number of months as we worked with both Concordia University Chicago and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne in setting up Jack’s vicarage and Savannah’s deaconess internship. Zion’s leadership made a lot of plans, adjusted the church’s budget, and did a lot of renovations to the campus ministry house (where they will be living) in order to bring this young couple to Zion for a full calendar year. So many of you were so generous with your gifts and talents to make this possible. Thank you!

Now the planning is over, the interns are arriving, and the time for learning has arrived. Quite simply, they are going to learn from you. Of course, they will be learning from the whole Church staff, but Jack and Savannah will also be learning from you what it means to serve others, to care for those around us, and to seek and follow the Lord each day. I’m excited for them to watch all of us in action. We are a congregation full of servants willing to meet the needs of those the Lord brings to us. Your example will help shape and mold them for a life of ministry and serving others in the years and decades ahead. Savannah and Jack have plenty to offer us, as well. They will bring enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to everything they’ll be a part of in both campus and congregational ministry. We are going to give them every opportunity to serve. In other words, we will keep them very busy, and I have no doubt they will be a great blessing to each of us and to the students at WMU.

However, we remember they are first and foremost students and are not yet professional church workers. They are here to learn from us, even as we daily continue to learn from Him, our Lord Jesus. So I encourage you all to reach out to Jack and Savannah and welcome them to Zion and to the community in the same incredible way you did for Laura and me last year. And let’s give thanks to God for the opportunity we’ve been given to be a blessing to our young interns!

-- Pastor Saylor

Catechism Review: The Lord's Prayer (part 7) "Deliver us from Evil"

We quickly say "lead us not into temptation" AND "deliver us from evil" as if that was the same thing. But it isn't. It is good to slow down and think about why Jesus dealt with temptation and evil as two distinctly different concerns in his prayer!.

Temptation is about an apple I wish to take a bite out of. Evil is about a serpent that wants to take a bite out of me. Temptation is my desire for something beyond my reach. Evil is a force of darkness that threatens to overshadow the light of God's love.

This last petition might be the most powerful of all. It is a wonderful summary of our trust in God's power to prevent anything that could separate us from God's love. This is not a demand, but a reminder of what only God can accomplish.

Jesus shared this prayer to teach how to pray and what the relationship of prayer is all about. These last words conclude his prayer in an incredibly perfect way. In Middle Eastern countries, stories and parables were told as a way of remembering. Many were delivered in a style where the end causes one to go back to the beginning. They are like a circle or a cycle and their very form teaches more than just the words on a page.

Think about the first word of this prayer, "Father!" (it is about God.) And the last word is about "Evil." (Everything that is NOT God or that is opposed to God.) *Deliver us from evil* is the cry of every child to a father or mother (even when they don't know that is their request!) It is the cry of "protect me, guard me, wrap me in your wings, keep me safe from all that can destroy me." It is the perfect complement to trusting God as Father.

This petition is not a demand, but a reminder that we are surrounded by evil and dark forces. As every night reminds us of how cold the world would be without the sun, these words remind us that there is a darkness that is lurking, an evil that is rumbling, a force of destruction that (if it could) would separate us from the love of the Creator and the power of faith. And God can protect!

That was the purpose for Jesus' journey into our world; to chase the darkness away. To deliver us from evil. To chase the shades of night away,

forever. In this prayer we acknowledge the battle, which is a true *holy war*, in which God comes to fight for our very lives and eternal souls. Deliver us from evil indeed!

It was no coincidence that Jesus was born in the darkness of night and in a dark manger far from the bright lights of Jerusalem? It was no quirk of fate that Jesus' climbed onto the darkest tree of all (a cross) and was immediately enveloped in his agony by an eclipse in which the earth was shrouded at high noon by an event that attempted to blot out the sun!

Our salvation, beginning in the Garden, repeated by the prophets, and announced when the Word became Flesh was to deliver us from ALL evil! From darkness! From death! From anything that can eclipse the Light of the World! Yes, Father, you will deliver us from evil. What a great way for Jesus to end his lesson on prayer (what to say and how to understand why our relationship with God is the answer to everything in life!)

These words remind us that the world is often a dark place. That God's Son is the Light of the World whose purpose is to conquer sin, death, and the devil — in other words, *to deliver us from evil!* 1st Peter 5 states: "*Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*" What a great description of a broken world, the forces of death, and the antithesis of God's goodness!

But there is more. This is not a mild request in which God's action is dependent on our faith! What this means is that God doesn't only deliver from evil IF we ask politely. God has already fought the war and won the battle. In these words we are encouraged to enter into the presence of the victory which already is our gift. Evil exists, but it can only destroy us if we embrace the darkness rather than bask in the light.

The world isn't perfect and heaven will come later, not now. But this prayer reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God, the Good News of the Christ birth, or the victory of Easter. Yes, deliverance has come — as a gift of grace. And our last prayer lesson (in these simple words) reminds us to celebrate that we have been delivered, and we are now set free!

—Pastor Seeber

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

We annually celebrate the anniversary of the congregation in July. This year marks the 156th anniversary of the beginning of our family of Zion.

In 1868, local businessmen finalized plans to begin Zion as a Lutheran congregation. No church hierarchy or pastors were involved! Five families felt a Lutheran congregation was necessary in downtown Kalamazoo and at a kitchen table they organized Zion, so they could worship, grow in faith, and raise their children in the faith. This was, in itself, an act of faith!

The original church structure was located on Pine Street and attached to a one-room schoolhouse. A brick sanctuary was built in 1923. Over the years the congregation grew and ran out of street parking. The property was sold to Bronson Hospital in 1955 when more space was needed.

Our present sanctuary was built at that time, with an educational wing added in 1962. Recent renovations and expansion were completed in 2009. A variety of pastors, DCE's, teachers and musicians have helped to lead ministry over the years. And thousands of people of all ages and walks of life have carried out ministry as part of Zion's character and fabric.

Zion has a history of an ecumenical, multi-faceted approach to ministry. The educational, scientific, and artistic strengths of our community have always given diversity and strength to Zion. Such a variety of gifts are revealed in Zion's personality and its dynamic and varied ministry efforts.

We have always been a strong emphasis on worship, outreach, and Christian education for all ages. When it was decided not to have a parochial school, a commitment to a strong ministry for children, youth, and families. Having a library, Director of Christian Education on staff, strong youth programs, and a preschool showed that commitment.

Beginning in the 1940's outreach ministries such as Braille, Lutheran World Relief Sewing, Campus Ministry, WKZO radio, and worship at the State Hospital are evidence of our members' passion for outreach and human care. Many new outreach efforts have been added such as our regular support of Loaves and Fishes, Ministry

with Community, The Gospel Mission, the Deacons Conference, YWCA, servant events, and Little Dresses for Africa.

Music has always been central to Zion and we have been blessed with musicians, choirs, and even assistance from WMU and other area musical efforts. And the volunteer efforts of all of our members have continued to make Zion

For many years Stephen Ministry and Pastoral Care visitors assisted pastors in one on one ministry with members. We continue to find new ways to continue such support. Midweek dinners and funeral luncheons have become mainstays of our support for our families. Our Prayer and Prayer Shawl Ministries have recently added even more ways for members to share Christ's love with each other when difficult moments arise.

Fifty years ago an Endowment Fund was established to support ministry an annual budget would never be able to finance. This has provided church worker scholarships, mission support, creation of new ministry efforts, and major support for upgrades to property, music, worship, as well as support for Friends of Jesus Preschool, WKZO radio ministry, and Campus Ministry. Over the years, well over one million dollars for mission and ministry support has been gifted for this mission.

We remain faithful to our Lutheran heritage, but allow God's Holy Spirit to lead us through the gifts He shares. Zion's history will always be related to its vision, which is not about buildings but building the body of Christ. Our property, people, and resources are gifts God entrusts to us today, so others in the future will be touched by Zion's ministry.

Jesus created no institutions, build no buildings, and copyrighted no programs. He changed people's lives so that we can be one with Him and agents of healing and hope for the lives we touch. Zion is blessed with building, grounds, and programs, but it is the people of God who are essential to what Zion is and will become!

Zion has always sought to joyfully live in the present while anticipating a blessed future. The cross and empty tomb are the motivation and message of our ministry.

- tws

Worship Help for Parents and Children

This continues our discussion on liturgy and worship in the Lutheran Church.

This month we focus on **“Worship Postures.”**

Do you sit or stand to read a book? Do you have a certain seat at the table for dinner? How do you greet a stranger? What do you do when you approach a long lost friend? What is your facial expression when you are confident, and how could someone look at you and know you are worried or afraid?

Posture is something we do without thinking, and yet our posture betrays our emotions, our innermost feelings, and our needs.

To accentuate praise we might stand, or raise our arms. If we desire to stress humility or reverence before God, we might kneel. We sit to listen, or merely to take a rest. Sometimes we need to even close eyes to block out distractions.

The visual elements of worship are as necessary and important as verbal. We participate in worship with our body, as much as with our hymns of praise or the silence of prayer.

People stand and people sit. We walk to receive communion and close eyes in prayer. We reach out to share Christ’s peace and smile as a way to welcome. The Pastor faces the altar and faces the people. Hands reach out in greeting or are folded in prayer. The sign of the cross is lifted over bread and wine, in baptism, or in benediction as we go into the world.

Posture is very much a part of worship.

The hymnal gives directions or “rubrics.” These are suggestions to indicate what posture we might adopt. The point of our actions is to involve our entire body in the act of serving God in worship — different postures denote different feelings (much like a frown or a smile.) And we do them together because we are “one body.”

For instance, when our legs start running our hands and heart usually follow along. And yet (like when we worshipped in the parking lot) sometimes our postures change. These rubrics are suggestions to aid in worship. Whether we bow our heads or not in prayer is not what determines whether heaven will be our home.

All of these suggestions are colored by reality and experience.

Some love to stand for prayer, and others can’t because of the pain of arthritis or the reality that their four year old keeps trying to wander away. And so, what’s a mother to do???

The most important thing is to understand why a particular posture is suggested. And, at the same time reflect upon what postures in worship are distracting and hamper worship.

But worship doesn’t end at the benediction, as we have been practicing for how we will live! The postures above merely concern our formal worship service. What postures will our worship of God take on at work, or home, or play? In those settings you and not the pastor are the worship leader, and your posture in how you live is a reflection of love for God and neighbor!

For Parents with young children

You spend much time at home helping your kids to learn through practice and the formation of good posture. There are certain places to sit and stand. There are times to touch and times not to touch. There are times to say thank you and times to sit quietly in a corner. Posture is part of all that you do.

Having children fold hands and close eyes in prayer is not the only way a prayer works but is a good practice to teach how not to be distracted when praying. Standing and sitting in worship when mom and dad stand or sit helps them to learn what is going on and why.

You can use each moment in worship as a teachable moment, if you remember everything we do happening is happening for a reason. Readings, hymns, bread and wine, water of baptism, and yes, even posture, all are part of responding to God’s love and sharing that love with each other.

Your kids want to know why we do what we do. Don’t be afraid to think about how you can help them to learn — even through your posture in worship. And if you have any questions or suggestions, just let us know.

- Pastor Seeber

ICONS: OLD and NEW

A display in BLENDS through the end of July.

Icon is the transliteration of a Greek word meaning "image." It is like a photo or a painting, but it is more than that.

A religious icon is a work of art, usually a painting, often on wood, that focuses on a sacred image to help one's meditative, devotional and prayer life. It is more than a work of art. It is an image used to assist people of faith to block out the world around us and focus on someone or something related to our gift of faith.

In a sense an icon is like a crucifix, or the wood carvings at Zion of Stations of the Cross, or Jesus and the children that welcomes all into our building. But an icon is different in many ways.

Icons are most familiar in the Greek and Eastern Orthodox branches of Christianity and often focus on Christ, the disciples, Mary and Joseph, or other saints who are well known and inspirational in terms of their faithfulness and witness.

A lengthy process is involved in the preparation of an icon. Prayer is the beginning for the artist who seeks inspiration that the icon will be a faithful and useful resource for other people of faith. An icon is not prepared for the glory of the artist, but as a gift to God and a gift to faithful people to assist in mediation and prayer.

Icons are most commonly painted on wood panels with egg tempera, but they may also be cast in metal or carved in stone or embroidered on cloth or done in mosaic or fresco work or printed on paper or metal. While styles might differ from region to region, there are certain colors and symbols with specific meanings in such icons.

The purpose of icons was to cause someone to slow down, focus on the icon itself, and allow the time of quiet reflection that followed to assist one in prayerful devotion to God. The traditional icons would have taken weeks and weeks of prayer and reflection as part of the process of painting.

As with anything created or used by humans there is always the potential for misunderstanding or misuse. That has, over time, led many to be critical of images such as icons that assist in the devotional life of the faithful. In the Sinai

commandments there was a prohibition against graven images. Idols were so prevalent in that primitive world as representations of the deities of various cultures. A golden calf, for instance, became an object of worship at the foot of Sinai, even as Moses was receiving this commandment.

Any idol is the attempt to control God by making an image that represents God and becomes an object of worship. An icon is not to be confused with an idol, just as the statuary and altarpieces of the medieval cathedrals are not idols either.

For many years, and in many traditions even today there is a reluctance to represent God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit in any form as it can become an idol or substitute. That is always a concern but these few words hopefully explain what icons are and what they are not. For many centuries icons have been a useful resource for a large segment of the Christian Church.

This display is a unique opportunity.

Our guest artist, Garrylee McCormick, shares the following artist statement regarding his work:

"The Icon plays a major role in my work. Although I work in the modern mediums of photography, photo silk screen egg tempera, and xerography, my work is based in the tradition of the Icon.

I strive to blend the old with the new. My inspirations are every day events, using them to show how an event from the Christian tradition might have occurred had it happened today.

My time as a Trappist monk and my experience studying traditional Icon painting in the Alexander Nevsky Lavra (Monastery) in St. Petersburg, Russia has greatly influenced my work as an artist. The monastery is a place of spirituality, peace, and contemplation. Having lived and studied there, I look at the world from a different perspective than those who have never had the experience of a monastic life.

This show is a blending of old and new work."

Garrylee McCormick has a studio in the Part Trades Center in downtown Kalamazoo.

Three Book Reviews: “A Timbered Choir” and “The Peace of Wild Things” by Wendell Berry. “Reduced to Joy” by Mark Nepo.

I have not reviewed poetry before, but should have. Poetry has a different style and rhythm than narrative story telling or devotional prose. Seeing as how much of the Bible is in the style of poetry, we might find inspirational poetry more helpful than we might imagine.

Poetry has a style and pace that is probably closer to our normal way of thinking and speaking than the long, complicated sentences of text books and fiction. For some reason, many of us do not pay as much attention to poets as we should. Considering that our hymns, psalms, and many portions of the prophetic books of the Bible are in poetry, we should consider this form for our own spiritual growth as well.

Wendell Berry hails from the farmland and small communities of Kentucky. He writes much in the style of an Old Testament prophet living in our time. His fiction and poetry are very much concerned with the connection of people to the earth, as well as God's plan for balance and care of creation. His fictitious town of Port William is the setting for many fantastic novels focused on a simpler lifestyle, familiar values, and a time before the hectic pace in which we now live.

He has a passion for the rural and natural, and has also been a vocal advocate in the political arena. But his love for nature and the rhythm and patterns of God's creation are at the heart of much of his writing.

Many have never read his poetry which contains many of the same themes. “**A Timbered Choir**” is a collection of some of his poems which were inspired by his habit of walking in the fields and woods of his native, rural Kentucky.

The poems are motivated by Berry's longtime habit of walking out onto the land on Sunday mornings. This is one of the poems in the book:

*The bell calls in the town
Where forebears cleared the shaded land
And brought high daylight down
To shine on field and trodden road.
I hear, but understand
Contrarily, and walk into the woods.
I leave labor and load,
Take up a different story.
I keep an inventory*

Of wonders and of uncommercial goods

Berry, much like Eugene Peterson is concerned with the busy, intense, competitive lifestyle that we are so familiar with. His poems, like his prose, slow the reader down to remember what life was like in the past and what it can be in the present. A selection from “**The Peace of Wild Things:**”

*Even in a country you know by heart
it's hard to go the same way twice.*

The life of the going changes.

The chances change and make a new way.

Any tree or stone or bird

Can be the bud of a new direction.

The natural correction is to make intent

of accident. To get back before dark

is the art of going.

“**Reduced to Joy**” is a book of poetry by Mark Nepo. He is a local poet, philosopher, and cancer survivor who uses some of his own life struggles as a background for his poetry. His concern is in helping people slow down and allow patience and love to change how we perceive and react to what is around us. While operating out of a secular spirituality, rather than an stated biblical one, his message sounds familiar to people of faith. This is a selection from a poem “*To Speak of Storms:*”

This is the nature of all poems. This is what we long for: to cry out with our little thunder to the big thunder. To ask in our small way: how to love the storm with out getting struck. I wonder what the thunder and birds talk about. I look at my friends and confess that what I know has been split like a tree by lightning ...

While Berry, for me, writes out of a spiritual background I am more familiar with, Nepo might be more influenced than he is aware by some of what is more familiar to you and I. Either way, just as a photograph, painting, or work of music can help us understand life in a new way, poetry has the same potential. These books are in our library and might interest you in some of the other writings of the same authors. - tws

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!

EDW 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

July 14th at 11am we hope you'll join us for some hot dogs/brats and some bubble fun! (Bring your parents)

SERVICE PROJECT

July 9 (Tuesday) 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.

Please keep Myla, Audrey, Kaitlyn, Anna, Siarha, and Aaron in your prayers as they serve North Carolina towards the end of the month!

Glimpses of Glory

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

We are the people of God...and we are all connected in Christ.

I brought dinner to a group of volunteer storm relief workers through Lutheran Church Charities. They were staying at St. Michael's in Portage for a few weeks back in May. As I talked with volunteers and recounted some of my favorite storm relief trips, I found out that two of the volunteers were from my hometown! They both knew the church I had grown up at and both knew my family! Another volunteer knew Savannah and Pastor Mark from various encounters! It was a great reminder that we are all connected in Christ!

This whole experience only happened because of an uncomfortable decision I made. The volunteer in charge of the kitchen asked if I wanted to stay for dinner. I already had a long day and a busy weekend ahead and could have used the extra hour and a half to cut the grass, but after a pause, I said yes.

We have opportunities every day to see God's name glorified...be ready to say yes!

Family Life

Family Ministry News

Upcoming Schedule

-July 9: Faith, Family, Fun 5-7:30pm

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

-July 14: Tailgate & Family Fun Day 11am

Join us for a Christmas in July! We will be doing some fun Christmas activities as well as digging into Jesus as the Promised Savior!

-July 20: Growler's Game

Our annual outing to the Growler's game will be July 20. Sign up on the kiosk or through the church office. Ticket's are \$20/adult with kids 18 and under being free.

First come, first serve!

Take 10

It's summer. Perhaps you are traveling a bit in the car. How do conversations as a family go? What topics or questions do you bring up? Lately I've asked questions centering around the Joining Jesus Take 10 format we were given at Greg Finke's workshop in May. A lot of the focus of those conversations isn't completely different from a normal conversation, it just rephrases the focus. Instead of saying "How was your day? What did you do today?" ask "What kind thing did you do today? Were there opportunities to do good?" The focus isn't on "good behavior" but rather around "what opportunities did God provide for you today, to show His love?" It could be a little difficult at first but after a few days of asking that question, kids (and you!) will start looking for those opportunities throughout the day.



Friends of Jesus Preschool

Friends of Jesus summer campers have been busy over the past month, and we are not slowing down! During the month of July we will be having a beach luau, screaming for ice cream, living a pirate's life, and exploring space! Most sessions still have a few spots left, so if you know someone who might want to join our adventures, please send them our way.

Behind the scenes, preparations are being made for next school year. We are looking forward to the addition of the Young 5's class and are busy preparing curriculum, projects, and field trips.

Our next Picnic in the Park meet-up will be on July 23rd at 6 PM. Keep an eye out for more information on location details.



**FAMILY
FUN
FAITH**

**MONDAY, JUNE 24
&
TUESDAY, JULY 9
5-7:30 PM**

**FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
PRESCHOOL THROUGH 5TH GRADE**

**DINNER AT 5PM WITH ACTIVITIES TO
FOLLOW**

Kalamazoo Growlers!

Saturday, July 20th at 6:35 pm

Tickets are only \$20/adult! Kids 18 and under are FREE!

Join other Zion families and friends on the annual trip to the Growlers! Family Ministry is covering the cost of kids 18 and under, so they are free! Tickets are first come/first serve and we only have 40 tickets this year. This event is open to everyone in Zion's congregation and family/friends. Ticket includes dinner and vouchers for drinks/hats/etc! To sign up, contact Aaron at dcegrube21@gmail.com or the church office!



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:

Tuesday, July 9

Wednesday, August 14

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

Family Faith Nights

Families with students up to 6th grade are invited to join us for some family faith nights.

Dinner at 5pm, activities start at 5:45pm:

Tuesday, July 9

Wednesday, August 14 (blanket tying event)

Save the date for Confirmation Orientation Camp August 6 & 7

If you have a student entering 6th-8th grade in the Fall you'll need to be around August 6th and 7th for some community building and orientation to our Confirmation Ministry. First Communion instruction for 6th graders will be August 4th at 6:30pm. For more information please contact Aaron at dcegrube21@gmail.com.

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 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.

ZION LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF GUILD

Our Guild is making quilts now. Quilts are essentially important for those living in tents, keeping them warm and helping their personal hygiene and dignity. It's also amazing psychological support for them to know that all around the world, people are supporting them, understanding and sharing in their pain and grief.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

meets every 3rd Saturday from 2:00 to 4:00 & 5 Lakes on Main St.

All are welcome to stop by and share your talents or simply see the beautiful shawls that are being created. The group is always eager to share the work that they do!



HELPING OTHERS MINISTRY

Look for a display table in the hallway for donations to help benefit area schools and Friends of Jesus Preschool. Sales have already started. Questions? Call Jayne Mayer 269-375-8342

SCHOOL ITEMS NEEDED

- Spiral bound Note-books
- 2 pocket folders
- Scissors Rulers, pencils erasers
- 12 inch rulers
- Crayons/washable marker
- Gluesticks/bottles
- Pencil sharpeners
- construction paper
- Mechanical pencils
- Watercolor paint sets
- Stamp Pads
- Play Doh
- Construction Paper
- Gallon Ziploc Bags
- Kleenex
- Any other school supplies you want to donate!

Thank you Zion for reaching out with Jesus' love & putting smiles on the faces of many local school children.

JULY 2024 WORSHIP LEADERS

	JULY 7	JULY 14	JULY 21	JULY 28
Head Ushers 8:00am	Steve Weber Mark Schoonbeck	Stan Leitz Ted Maxson	Fred Bierlein Troy Cosgrove	Matt Simmons Richard Rakow
Head Ushers 10:00am	Joe Zerbel Garr Gast Steve Stakes	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak Bob Folck	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien Brent Butler	Dan Buchtrup Eric Carlson Dave Alsvig
Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm	Joanne Bowes	Judy Adlam	Kathleen Jordan	Mike Schlack
Communion Assistants 8:00am	Dave Newman		Greg Gerfen	
Communion Assistants 10:00am	Garr Gast		TBD	
Lectors 8:00am	Andrew Niedbala	Greg Gerfen	Linda Stieve	Carol Daenzer
Lectors 10:00am	Janis Dinda	Alice Tomer	Erin Hampshire	Alison Carlson
Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm	Arlene Masek	Arlene Masek	Arlene Masek	1. 2.
Altar Ministry 8:00am	1. 2.		1. Joe Zerbel 2. Larry Zerbel	
Altar Ministry 10:00am	1. Diane Alsvig 2.		1. Jayne Mayer 2. Linda Mayer	

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

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 FOJ CLOSED	2 FOJ CLOSED	3 FOJ CLOSED	4 FOJ CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED	5 FOJ CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED	6 5:30 Comm Worship
7 8:00 Comm Worship 10:00 Comm Worship	8 FOJ Summer Camp Luau on the Beach 6:30 Endowment Mtg.	9 INDEPENDANCE DAY FOJ Summer Camp Luau on the Beach 5-7:30 Cong Servant Event Family/Faith Fun	10 9:00 Sewing FOJ Summer Camp Luau on the Beach	11 FOJ Summer Camp Luau on the Beach	12 FOJ Summer Camp Luau on the Beach	13 5:30 Comm Worship
14 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Tailgate / Family Fun Christmas in July	15 FOJ Summer Camp I Scream for Ice Cream 6:30 BOD	16 FOJ Summer Camp I Scream for Ice Cream	17 9:00 Sewing FOJ Summer Camp I Scream for Ice Cream 6:00 Property	18 FOJ Summer Camp I Scream for Ice Cream 12:00 Finance	19 FOJ Summer Camp I Scream for Ice Cream	20 8:00 HS Servant Event Departs 2:00 Prayer Shawl 5:30 Comm Worship 6:35 Growlers Game
21 8:00 Comm Worship 10:00 Comm Worship 11:00 Pastor Mike's 25 Years of Ministry Lunch	22 FOJ Summer Camp A Pirate's Life for Me	23 FOJ Summer Camp A Pirate's Life for Me 2:00 Womens Book Grp 6:00pm Picnic in the Park 7:30pm Hike w Mike	24 9:00 Sewing FOJ Summer Camp A Pirate's Life for Me	25 FOJ Summer Camp A Pirate's Life for Me	26 FOJ Summer Camp A Pirate's Life for Me	27 5:30 Comm Worship 9:00 HS Servant Return
28 Parents' Day 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	29 CAMP FOJ Space Explorers	30 CAMP FOJ Space Explorers	31 9:00 Sewing CAMP FOJ Space Explorers 8:00 Triple B Mens Grp	CAMP FOJ Space Explorers	CAMP FOJ Space Explorers	5:30 Comm Worship
8:00 Comm Worship 10:00 Comm Worship		Notes				

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7/1 Derek Ketchum
 7/2 Keith Kenter
 7/5 Thomas Bremer
 7/6 Judy Erdmann & Rebecca Miller
 7/7 Dick Coffinger
 7/8 Steve Emig, Sam Madison,
 Sondra Phillips, Jack Sauer,
 Pamela Tritsch
 7/9 Larry Brelje & Aidan Brennan
 7/10 Terry Adlam
 7/11 Michelle Larason
 7/12 Eloise Powell
 7/13 Corey Hendricks & Sydney Ketchum
 7/13 Lachan Niedbala
 7/14 Lucy Maxson
 7/15 David Dorman & Indy Linebaugh
 7/20 Katie Freudenburg & Gabriel Hampshire
 7/21 Kyle Fill
 7/22 Shirley Rohrer, Lindsay Scheffers,
 Adrianna Schoonbeck, Greg Schurig
 7/23 Jacob Gumbleton, Wil Kellam,
 Sean Skuratowicz
 7/24 Daniel LaPorte
 7/25 Erin Emig, Oliver Emig, Shea LaPorte,
 Kelly Thiede, Nathan Woodford
 7/27 Amanda Militzer
 7/28 Lydia Decker & Mark Sperti
 7/29 Troy Cosgrove, Cheryl Roggow,
 Mark Schwerin
 7/30 Luke Johnston, Arlene Masek,
 Dennis O'Brien
 7/31 Michelle Devine, Laura Saylor

Board of Directors for 2024-2025

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Greg Gerfen | (President) |
| John Buetow | (President Elect) |
| Joe Zerbel | (Past President) |
| Marta Warren | (VP Personnel) |
| Rhonda Newman | (VP Finance) |
| Ron Masek | (VP Property) |
| Chris Wilkins | (Director at large) |
| Eric Carlson | (Director at large) |
| Joe Moulton | (Director at large) |
| Shelby Waterlander | (Director at large) |
| Jason Woods | (Director at large) |
| Sue Bickel | (Director at large) |

PARISH REPORT

Deaths

Brent Militzer 05/26/2024

GRATEFUL HEARTS/THANKFUL HANDS

Have you been told you make the most delicious banana bread? Your cookies are the best? Your pies mouthwatering? It's not too early to start thinking of the bake sale that will take place during our bazaar. This is THE most popular spot of the bazaar!! It's also not too early to start baking and freezing! Please consider what you might contribute.

Another popular area is the attic treasures section. Holiday items, especially Christmas, sell very quickly. We are currently low on Christmas items and coffee mugs and would greatly appreciate any help in those areas!

We continue to accept all kinds of donations from crafts to attic treasures. Please bring donations to the church workroom. Questions? Call Jayne Mayer 269-375-8342



You are Invited!

Women's Coffee and Craft

Saturday, July 27th 9:00am -11:30am

at Zion Lutheran Church

Free Event! Bring a Friend!

Sign up at the kiosk or call the office.

Questions? Call Sue Bickel (269) 823-4493 or Dana Butt (269) 352-0063

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

The wish list item for **July is Juice and Cereal**. Please put your donations in the gray tubs under the church office window
 Thank you!

Zion Financial Report for May 31st, 2024

ZION: May Spending exceeded Expenses by \$ (10,435)
 YTD Spending exceeds Income by \$ (51,130) *23/24 Budget included a deficit of \$49,183 to come from previous year donations
 YTD Giving is over the budget by \$ 14,318
 YTD Spending is under the budget by \$ 17,277

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
INCOME						
FOJ	11,736	8,474	-3,262	97,489	69,585	-27,904
Soild Grounds	5,100	3,901	-1,199	73,200	77,481	4,281
Zion Giving & Misc.	54,718	56,067	1,349	692,040	706,358	14,318
Total Income	71,554	68,442	-3,112	862,729	853,425	-9,304
EXPENSES						
Church Property	9,350	6,285	3,065	112,200	113,701	-1,501
Education Ministry	1,000	590	410	15,000	14,454	546
Evangelism/Missions	75	-579	654	900	562	338
Finance Ministry	6,396	6,415	-19	76,750	77,282	-532
FOJ Expenses	1,302	395	907	13,723	4,056	9,667
FOJ Staff	8,967	10,650	-1,683	83,700	83,051	649
Missions - General	5,333	5,534	-201	67,500	69,335	-1,835
Music Ministry	2,645	2,445	200	33,200	29,012	4,188
Office Operations	1,386	1,962	-576	16,587	21,508	-4,921
Other	3,942	355	3,587	7,000	3,132	3,868
SG Expenses	894	1,907	-1,013	10,710	13,936	-3,226
SG Staff	9,848	8,530	1,318	113,976	106,333	7,643
SG Zion Mission Support	-3,275	-3,109	-166	-41,500	-37,780	-3,720
Worship	490	417	73	6,480	6,593	-113
Zion Haus	445	405	40	5,350	4,804	546
Zion Staff	32,155	36,675	-4,520	400,256	394,575	5,681
Total Expenses	80,953	78,877	2,076	921,832	904,555	17,277
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-9,399	-10,435	-1,036	-59,103	-51,130	7,973

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2023	5/31/2024	YTD Change
ASSETS			
Cash	120,658	127,660	7,002
Investments	160,547	164,945	4,398
Due To/From Endowment	-12,713	-45,928	-33,214
Dedicated Funds	-73,123	-98,688	-25,565
TOTAL	195,369	147,990	-47,378
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities	5,850	4,317	-1,532
Unrestricted Funds	189,519	143,673	-45,846
TOTAL	195,369	147,990	-47,378

MORTGAGE LOAN

Balance 5/31/2024 \$403,380
 Monthly Payment \$6,350.00
 Additional Principal \$0.00

Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000

Youth Ministry \$13,030
 New Staff \$60,734
 Midweek Dinner/Kitchen \$4,185
 FOJ Fundraising \$5,013

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

July

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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