



# *Harbinger*

**September 2021**  
**Volume 153 Number 9**

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Years ago, when I could still carry Abby in a backpack, I took her to the zoo. She was only two at the time; small enough to carry and old enough to engage in a conversation (of sorts.) It was a hot summer morning and felt good when we entered the air conditioned penguin house. When we were ready to head back into the heat I heard a large thunder clap and rain started to pour. We waited for the downpour to stop, resting against the wall by the exit doors. As the rain stopped, I started to move but was stopped in my tracks when the fire alarms went off. My first thought was "how could there be a fire in a building full of aquariums and water?" But emergency strobes were flashing and the alarm was screaming. I looked around to make sure Abby wasn't panicked by the noise. She wasn't. Then I saw it! The alarm pull was right behind me, next to Abby and the backpack. I knew who could have pulled the alarm, as little hands are always in motion and exploring. I had leaned right next to an alarm without even thinking about that. What next? Well there was only one thing that made sense to me which was to casually follow the crowd outside and I then moved as far away from that building as I could. I didn't know for certain whether or not she pulled the alarm. I did know she was too young for being handcuffed and questioned. But my heart was thumping like crazy. Even if she had pulled that alarm, nothing would change other than a lecture and embarrassment for me. Surprises are always followed by panic or pain, embarrassment or over reaction. This was a non-consequential moment, yet it was filled with anxiety. Surprises bring unplanned responses. We react without forethought. And we do the best we can with the facts at hand. We can never be prepared for what we can't anticipate, so what is the point of worry or guilt? Life will always be full of surprises, but forgiveness and God's presence are always on the table. With such gifts assured, faith guarantees there is nothing we cannot handle and we'll always have help when we worry needlessly!

Pastor Seeber

Dear Church *family,*  
It's time for a New Directory!



*Celebrating faith.  
Connecting families.  
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

*Directory Committee*

## *Connections Event*

***Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.***

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



*Gathering families,  
Connecting generations.*



**Online Scheduling Available!**

**Beginning August 31st**

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on **photography appointment scheduling login on the right side**, enter **mi1607** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday beginning August 31st. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.**

**FOR THOSE UNABLE TO SCHEDULE ONLINE THERE WILL BE SIGN UP SHEETS AVAILABLE AFTER EACH CHURCH SERVICE**

**UNTIL SEPTEMBER 26TH.**

**Call Committee Update** Zion has submitted our self-study materials and congregational surveys to the LCMS Michigan District. We have been told that the District President should be providing the Call Committee with a list of candidates for the Senior Pastor position in late September. While we are waiting, the Call Committee will be meeting with Pastor Galen Walther, Assistant to the President, to review the call and interview process.

Members of Zion have the opportunity to submit names of potential pastoral candidates to the District for consideration. If you would like to submit the name of a Pastor for consideration, please complete the attached form and submit it to Zion's Church Office **by Wednesday, September 8th.** All applications will be sent to the District for review by the District President. It is at the President's discretion as to whether individual candidates will be included on the call list or not.

**Candidate Information Form  
for Consideration for the Call List of**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Church & Location)

Name of Suggested Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

His Current Church \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know this candidate? If you do not know him personally, state the source of your information and the basis on which you are making nomination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are related to this candidate, please state the relationship: (Note: It is usually not wise to consider a candidate who has family in the congregation.)

\_\_\_\_\_

I believe he will meet our needs for the following reasons:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of person making nomination:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ congregation

Location (City/State) \_\_\_\_\_

*I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:4)*

## Faith and Life: Christian Education

Some assume worship is only for adults and Christian education is only for kids — the truth is that both are necessary for all! As with any aspect of our lives, to grow we need to learn and without learning there is no growth. So *let's agree that just as worship is for all ages, so is Christian education.*

Faith is like a seed planted by God, who offers nutrients and fertile soil for that “living thing” to grow. God offers the warmth of the Son and the gentle breeze of the Spirit. Faith is a gift that is alive — but without proper care and nurture it can wither and die. Remember the parable Jesus told about a farmer who went out to plant seed — some fell on rocks, some amidst thorns, and some on fertile soil. *God plants but we are called to be the gardeners of God's gifts.* Worship, Bible study, fellowship, and prayer are all fertilizers and injections of life into our faith, *Faith is a gift we have the responsibility to care for and use!*

Would you invest in a house and not take care of it? Do you spend good money on a car or furniture and not take care of them? Why is it so easy to neglect the gift of faith, or give it a lower priority than going to the movies, taking a vacation, or enjoying a club or sports that seem so important at the time?

For that reason, Christian education begins at Baptism and continues until the day we are welcomed into the kingdom of Heaven. We celebrate Baptism in worship because of its sacramental nature, but also to reaffirm the beginnings of faith in our own lives.

Our Sunday children's classes has many aspects, but they all are related to growing and nurturing a young faith. We want our children to become familiar with Bible stories, so that when they reach “confirmation classes” they already have a background on which to build. But they also are learning

about worship and servant love and Christian fellowship, in appropriate ways for their ages.

When our young people are in sixth grade, we have a special class on Communion so that they can begin to join the entire family in that meal of the altar. Confirmation ministry builds on all of this, and the Bible stories and worship that is the foundation is explained more fully. They discover how all of this is tied into a lifestyle of faith. As they begin to face so many choices and decisions it is important to integrate faith into every part of their lives. Our goal is to help parents with that process.

Why should any of this end at the end of 8th grade when so much has been invested in the start? Would you plant a vineyard and when the grape vines finally start to mature not keep working so the harvest is all that it can be? Education is a hallmark of the Lutheran tradition. That is why Luther translated the Bible into worship and wrote hymns and catechisms that helped parents and adults to learn more about faith.

As high school and college students move into the adult world, the continued nurture of faith is a gift that can offer guidance and strength for difficult and complicated choices. Adults deal with relationships, parenting, grief, estate planning, ethical and business decisions every day. And so learning and growing must continue! How to do all of this as people of faith comes as a result of spiritual growth. Sermons hopefully help, but prayer, Bible study, devotional reading, and wrestling with issues of faith are important for a maturing faith! Education in the Church is no different than in our profession or daily lives. We do need to keep growing! As with everything, it is a matter of priorities and new patterns in our living. We have many resources to offer. Ask Aaron or Pastor Seeber if you don't see something which will be helpful for you! Please share with us what has worked for you! *(A seed has been planted...)*

## Catechism Review: Holy Communion

### Part One: "Context"

Context is crucial for the important actions and moments in our lives. Birthdays and Christmas, for instance involve the gathering of family, the sharing of gifts, and the gift of a special meal. It is the context that gives meaning to the actions of those rituals. The context for Holy Communion is found in the Passover of the Old Testament. Without understanding that meal, there is much that is misunderstood or never digested in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. When we prepare our children for their first taste of this meal of the kingdom, we begin by telling them the story of the Passover. And the reason is simple. Jesus and his disciples (on the night that he was betrayed and handed over to be crucified) were celebrating the annual Passover meal. Jesus ended that meal by adding something new and using that to cement in their memory what he was doing for them and for us.

Several thousand years ago, the children of Israel spent 400 years as slaves in Egypt. (10 generations!) One day God sent Moses to tell them, *"for the first time in your lives you will become free people. And that freedom will begin a journey that will lead you to a new home where you have never lived before."*

Anticipating a quick and hard journey, Moses told them to prepare a special meal. It would provide the subsistence necessary for a long journey, but also would have symbolic value to assist in their freedom. This meal would become a ritual that they would celebrate over and over again so that they would never forget how God had delivered them from slavery and set them on the journey to the "Promised Land." The first Passover would be a miracle for the ages, and is the context for the Sacrament of Holy Communion that is central to our congregation's time of worship, renewal, and refreshment for our daily faith journey that will one day lead us home.

There were various visible elements of the meal: a lamb was sacrificed and its blood was spread on the wood around the door of their homes, so that as the first born of Egypt would die, this Last Plague would "pass over" the homes and lives of God's chosen ones.

And the lamb that was sacrificed became the strength for the journey that was before them. When it was time to go they would have to move quickly, with the energy necessary to walk miles and miles through the dry bed of the Red Sea and into the sand of the desert. These Passover lambs would exchange their lives so that the dads, moms, and children would be given strength for the journey and marked as people of faith, untouched by the angel of death. (In Baptism, by the way, we do a similar marking with the water in the sign of a cross, as a sign of deliverance, and a reminder of how death passes us over by God's grace.) There were other aspects to the meal too: bitter herbs to remember the suffering in Egypt, an apple mixture to remember the mortar they mixed to build pyramids as slave laborers, salt water to remember their tears of suffering, and unleavened bread, as there was no time for normal bread baking, while several glasses of wine were blessed with a special prayer.

As Jesus gathered his disciples, preparing to become the Perfect Passover Lamb, how appropriate that He chose the Passover meal to begin that journey. The themes of an escape from slavery, thanksgiving for such a miracle, death of sacrificial lambs, and a meal of deliverance were all forefront in the disciples' hearts and minds. And then Jesus said, *"Now for something new! We aren't simply remembering, but building on the past to better understand the future! This Bread is MY BODY! This wine is MY BLOOD! And every time you eat and drink you will do so with ME in mind. I am with you always!"* And so, this is the context with which we will begin to talk about this meal of grace. Pastor Tim



# Youth News

## **High School:**

### Bible Study

Resumes September 12th at 9:15am. We will meet every Sunday for about an hour!

### National Youth Gathering

Interest Meeting September 19th at 6:30pm.

## **Middle School Youth:**

### Confirmation Class

Confirmation class has begun! Our first Wednesday class is September 8th at 6:15pm (dinner available at 5:15pm) and our first Sunday class is September 12th at 9:15am (please come early this day!!!!).

### Paint Slip 'n Slide

September 19th join us at 11:30am for a GIANT slip 'n slide doused with paint! Wear clothes you can get messy!!!

## Echoes

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

Janet.                      Christie.                      Joyce.

Three people you will never meet.  
Three people our group will probably never see again.

Three people that were impacted through our weeklong effort of service.

We didn't do great things. We didn't save them from losing their house or create some great space for them. We simply painted, did some repairs, cleaned, and landscaped. But the most important act of service we did that week was simply being present. We all got to know Janet very well. Some of our group talked more with Kristie and Joyce as well. Each lady we served had their own story. Each was very different. The fact that we showed up to help, meant so much to them.

We are all headed to different places this year. Some are going back to school, others off to college. Our group will forever have the memory of serving together and forever the impact on the three homeowners.

WE didn't do great things...but God sure did!

## Calendar

**-Education Hour for students PK (3 year old) through High School Seniors STARTS September 12th at 9:15am. Use the staircase by the bathrooms to head downstairs and follow signs! EVERYTHING is going to be different this year so come check it out!**

**-Operation Christmas Child is back! Watch for more info towards the end of September/early October.**

# Family Life

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

## COMMUNICATION

What a key element...communication that is. When a speaker and receiver connect with the message intended to be conveyed, miraculous things can happen! But how about the opposite...miscommunication or even a lack of communication. That creates problems.

How has your family communicated over the past year? Well? Needs improvement? What's communication?

Communication is something that always needs work. Even when we communicate well at one point, there is no guarantee good communication will happen even within the next 24 hours.

As the year kicks off with many adjustments and changes happening due to the evolving situations, be sure to communicate. Be a good receiver. Be a good clarifier. Be good at asking questions. We'll do our best too!

## CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT

This month, I have been meeting and talking with a number of students as we are putting together two new ministry events for this academic year, as well as trying to figure out how to resume our Bronco Buddy mentoring program.

Beginning on Monday September 13<sup>th</sup>, our new music/outreach event, which we are going to call "The Gathering" kicks off. The Gathering will be on Monday evenings at 7:30PM at Solid Grounds. This is not a worship service, but rather an event where we will be discussing relevant current event themes/ issues and how Scripture can inform those issues. We will "gather" together for music, conversation and community. We are hoping to use a wide variety of WMU music majors, groups and ensembles each week. My hope is that The Gathering will be a place where non-Christian students can learn about the love of Jesus and we can engage in conversation with one another.

On Tuesday September 14<sup>th</sup>, our weekly catering event with Popeye's and Chick-fil-A will begin. Each week, we will alternate between Popeye's and Chick-fil-A. This event will take place on Tuesday's between 11:00AM-1:30PM. The goal and vision of this weekly catering event is twofold: 1) We are hoping that this will give us an opportunity to meet and interact with a wide range of students, faculty and staff. For those that are interested in being involved with our ministry events and activities, this will give us a chance to invite them. For others, we are hoping to build on those interactions and learn where students, faculty and staff are in their lives and respond to their needs and interests as conversations arise. 2) The weekly catering event will also be a community outreach. The profits from the sales will go to the Kalamazoo YWCA for their work with victims of human trafficking. We will be promoting this weekly event on campus and hope that supporting the victims of human trafficking will generate interest within the WMU community.

Over the past 12 years, I have been involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). We have met on Wednesday evenings over the years. The year before COVID hit, attendance at FCA was dropping. FCA did not meet in person last year and we don't know exactly what this year will look like. The chaplain for FCA and I talked about a month ago and

he is trying to figure out what to do this year. So, I'm not yet sure what will be happening on Wednesday evenings. I continue to stay in touch with a number of WMU athletes. A few weeks ago, a number of athletes and I volunteered for a painting effort for the YWCA and they are interested in other volunteer efforts as they arise during the school year. Volunteer projects have been a great way for Christian athletes to invite their non-Christian friends to serve.

The past 1 ½ years of COVID also affected our Bronco Buddy mentoring program. There are currently 7 returning mentors. They want to continue serving as Bronco Buddy mentors once a month as we were doing before COVID. I told them that it is important that we do things well and start back slowly and add new mentors as the year unfolds. So, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, starting September 26<sup>th</sup>, we will resume Bronco Buddy mentoring.

The last change will be our Sunday worship. Instead of our 12 noon service at Solid Grounds, we will be worshipping at Zion at the 10:30AM service, beginning on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have pizza after the service and invite other college age students to join us and hopefully build off of their interests and needs. The plan is to have pizza after the service for a few weeks and see what type of interest is generated.

The reason for switching our Sunday service from Solid Grounds to Zion is that the past few years, attendance at our service at Solid Grounds has dwindled. There are 4 students that have attended our Sunday service on campus that are returning students this year.

My attention and focus for this upcoming academic year is our two new ministry outreach events: The Gathering and our weekly catering events will Popeye's and Chick-fil-A.

It is going to be interesting to see what this upcoming academic year looks like. New routines and new normals will be established and we are hopeful that our two new outreach events will help us reach WMU students, faculty and staff with the love of Jesus.

God's peace and blessings to you all!

Pastor Mark



## Spiritual Growth for Adults

This fall will offer several approaches to our spiritual growth, life together, and assistance in being the servant people of God. We will continue to offer a variety of Bible study and faith growth throughout the week as we have in the past.

### Pastor Seeber's classes

**Sundays at 9:15 am** in the Gathering Place will explore some of the Old Testament **PROPHETS** and their application today. You do not have to be here every week to participate. This is for adults of all ages.

**Tuesdays online at 6:30** will be **CROSSWAYS** which is an overview of the entire Bible and how it fits seamlessly together. Each week will feature a presentation of a particular book, which can be viewed online or later in the week. Those who watch later can address questions to Pastor Tim via email.

**Saturdays at 8am the Men's Study** will meet in the Gathering Place. We will also offer it live on ZOOM for those who cannot be present. This year we will discuss the amazing and powerful **Gospel of John**.

### Pastor Brelje's Class

Pastor Brelje meets on Tuesdays at 10am in the Gathering Place. Everyone is welcome.

This fall he will be focusing on the origins and gift of the historic prayers of the Church.

### Pastor Couch

Working on a new college event to be held here at Zion immediately after late service which will encourage and provide fellowship opportunities to WMU students. Watch for details!

## \*NEW\* Wednesday Evening Specials!

Each series meets one Wednesday a month, immediately after Fellowship Dinner. They will feature a topic presented by a member or guest who is trained in a particular area of interest. This is not only for Zion members but for neighbors and friends who might benefit from some of the topics.

**2nd Wednesday of the month** will deal with physical, emotional, and spiritual issues adults of all ages will need to deal with. **(September schedule is one week off due to Labor Day.)**

### Topic for September 15 "HEALTHY AGING"

The longer we live the more changes we experience, but which of these changes are normal aging, which are not? What can I do to help myself age in a manner that will increase my quality of life that I might live life to the fullest as intended by my Creator? Dr. Jeannette Meyer, who specializes in caring for older folks will lead this discussion.

**3rd Wednesday of the month** will deal with Christian care giving. **(September schedule is also one week off due to Labor Day.)**

### Topic for September 22 is "CHRISTIAN

**CAREGIVING**; what does it mean and why is it part of congregational life. Members of Zion who would like to support those confined to home or in need of support will find this helpful. Each topic will also be helpful for all of our members and many of your friends. Come when you are able and as a topic suits your needs.

We will have a variety of special topics and programs planned on other Wednesdays throughout the year!

**Small Groups meet at a variety of times and have ever changing topics.** Consult the weekly email and monthly Harbinger for times and topics you might be interested in.

Zion Lutheran Church

**Thursday, September 30**

**2:00pm-3:30pm**

Vaccines Available	
<i>If you are unsure which vaccine to choose, please talk with your healthcare provider.</i>	
Flu	Pneumonia <i>(discuss with your healthcare provider)</i>
High Dose Quadrivalent (65 years and up)	Pneumovax 23 (19 years and up)
Quadrivalent (6 months and up)	Pevnar 13 (19 years and up)
Quadrivalent FluMist Nasal Spray (2-17 years)	

**NOTE:** All vaccines listed may not be available at every clinic. Delivery times are expected to be delayed due to the increased quantities manufacturers are producing.

Flu and pneumonia vaccines are FREE with most insurances.

All Medicare Part B plans and most commercial insurances are accepted.

We are not able to accept any Medicaid or Medicaid HMO insurances. Anyone with Medicaid or Medicaid HMO insurance should contact their primary care physician for an immunization.

**Appropriate COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.**  
Each patient will undergo COVID-19 screening.



**Effective September 7**  
**Zion Church Office**  
**Mon—Thurs 9:00a—4:00p**  
**Fri 9:00a—Noon**

**Solid Grounds Office**  
**Mon Noon—5:00p**  
**Tues —Thurs 10:00a—4:00p**  
**Fri Closed**



## GRATEFUL HEARTS / THANKFUL HANDS

Do you have **SHELLS** you aren't sure what to do with...? We received a request for shells that will be transformed into amazing items for this year's Bazaar.

Also, do you **CAN**? Can you **CAN**? Will you **CAN**? Canned goods are one of the most sought after bazaar offerings! Vegetables, fruits, pickles, jams and jellies are all big sellers. As you **CAN** your garden harvest, please consider donating a share to our annual bazaar.

Another **REAL** need is our set-up and especially **CLEAN-UP!** Please donate just an hour in this way. It is an excellent way for teens to work on their community service.

Any questions?  
Call Jayne Mayer 375-8342

**Helping Others Ministry** is collecting school supplies for the Community In Schools Kalamazoo. There is still time to donate. Please see the display in the hallway. Baskets are set up for donations.

**Items are due by Sunday, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Needed Items:**

**Spiral bound notebooks**

**Two pocket folders**

**Scissors**

**12 inch rulers**

**Pencils (regular, colored and mechanical)**

**Erasers**

**Crayons / Washable Markers**

**Glue sticks or bottles**

**Pencil Sharpeners**

**Regular Boxes of Kleenex**

**Assorted Band-aids**

Thanks for helping put a smile on the faces of some of our community students in need!

### **GLORIA DEI Singers**

**SINGERS:** Zions adult choir, the Gloria Dei singers, will begin fall rehearsals again on Thursday, September 9th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

We all know that this has been a difficult time to gather and especially to sing. Depending on the number of people and voice parts, the look of the choir may vary.

Past and new members are welcome! Please come and share your voices with Zion.

Any questions, please call or text Wanda Jewett at (269) 327-9873. Thank you.

### Why Liturgy is Important — The Benediction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### For Parents with young children:

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

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

— Pastor Seeber

**Book Review.** River of the West; Stories from the Columbia. Robert Clark. 1995. Harper.

If you are interested in history, the settling of northwestern states of America, or how landscape and culture have changed over the past few hundred years you will enjoy this book. The narrative combines first person narratives, journals, and the research of Robert Clark. He offers a very readable and informative book. I have been reading a few pages at a time over the past year. It is easy to pick up and put down without losing any sense of the feel and flow. The opening paragraph sets the stage well.

*No one remembers the river's coming. It has been among us so long that it scarcely bears thinking about, a presence as enduring as dust. No one asks why the river came. The river requires only itself: it moves over the land, as God is saved to have moved over the waters, for no other reason than it pleases itself to do so. The river is powerful and unknowable, and is spoken of in stammers and fragments, never with confidence or comprehension: Does the water shape the river or does the river shape the water? Or is the river neither water nor reverbed, but the force of water falling down between its banks? [p. IX]*

It is difficult to realize how young our nation is. Different tribes of people have moved in and out of this region over the past thousand years or so but there weren't very many at one time at all. This region was true wilderness until the last three hundred years. Thousands of years earlier it had been a warm swamp, gradually was replaced by an ice age and brought glaciers. Then warming came and we see land formations we are familiar with today. It was obviously a beautiful creation!

"Columbia the Gem of the Ocean" is most likely no longer an acceptable or popular song in schools; but we knew it well in my grade school. We often talked about how

beautiful an anthem it might be for our nation. I remember having to sing it but didn't know what the Columbia River was, what it looked like, or why it was so important. I am more familiar with the Missouri, Maumee, Mississippi, Hudson and many others, but have never been to the Northwestern areas of our nation. This book took me there.

One section might include excerpts of a diary of a young English woman who set up housekeeping for a husband who was a miner and hunter. Reflections of a river boat captain, native American, or someone interested only in gold might follow. Less than three hundred years ago there were very few of European descent settled in that part of this country. There were actually very few native tribes either. The land was full of beavers, wolves, badgers and bears. Many hundreds of thousands or more! Like the buffalo which were wiped out in the Great Plains many of these animals disappeared due to a desire for their pelts which were sent throughout the world. With our renewed sense of the fragile nature of the physical world we are meant to be stewards of, this an interesting reminder of what changes in the environment look like. Here was a native tradition that sounds familiar:

*At first the world was inhabited by a race of animals who were like people in some respects. They could speak, and each was wise but only in one thing: thus might Fox be remarkable in cunning and Beaver in assiduousness, but foolish and selfish in every other way. The Old-One repeople the world with men and women, the ancestors of the River People. He formed them from clay and kindled them into life with breath. They were helpless, ignorant and much oppressed by other creatures and people. So Old-One sent them his son Jesus, who was a priest, a spirit doctor, and a walker in the desert. Evil men seized him and crucified him and he returned to his father in the sky. [153]*



# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/1 Haven Besser, Brad Glasser,  
Annette Nickel
- 9/2 Christine Eichaker, Veronica  
Schoonbeck, Dolores Wentzel,  
Austin Wordell
- 9/3 Cassidy Eastman
- 9/4 Nathan Adlam, Jackson Bierlein,  
Alexander Schultz, Laura Tinigin
- 9/6 Laura Holt, Nathan Holt,  
Glen Kellam Jr., Lee Kneer,  
Avery Leitz
- 9/7 Beth Fletcher, Ginger Skuratowicz
- 9/8 Gail Nelson
- 9/10 Daniel Buchtrup, Deborah Klug
- 9/11 Adam Brege
- 9/12 Karl Dinda, Sharon Preuss
- 9/13 Cynthia Bremer, Piper Soppelsa
- 9/14 Ruth Norton, Steve Nuyen
- 9/15 Todd Hansen, Horst Jendralski
- 9/16 Erik DuBois
- 9/18 Collin Klein, Brenda Rakow
- 9/19 Paul Bowes, Evie Linebaugh,  
Blake Scheffler
- 9/20 Yvonne Wordell
- 9/21 John Boettcher, Paul Noseworthy,  
Kelly Stetten,  
Cheryl Zerbel
- 9/23 Fred Bierlein, Lauren Stetten
- 9/24 Carol Beutler, Patricia Kenter, Samuel  
Klein, Allison Weber
- 9/25 Isabella Greene, Roxanne Seeber
- 9/27 Gregory Meimers,
- 9/28 Genevieve Miller
- 9/30 Anthony Parente

**Happy Grandparents' Day**

**September 12th**

## Parish Report

Deaths:  
Veryl Cutler 07/24/2021

## Staff Anniversaries

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

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



## KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

The wish list item for **September is Canned Meat**. Please use the gray tubs under the church office window. Thank you!



**Starts Sunday, September 12**

**Parking Lot 10:30a.m.**

(weather permitting)

## SPECIAL THANKS TO TED MAXSON

for the two new tables he has built for the sanctuary. They are now being used for the bread of Holy Communion, and match the altar and baptismal font. We are blessed in so many ways by the people God has placed in our midst.





# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:00 Worship 10:00 Worship	<b>6</b> Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	<b>7</b> 10:00 Brejje Bible Stdy	<b>8</b> 5:15 Dinner 6:00 Special Series	<b>9</b> Noon Finance 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>10</b>	5:30 Worship <b>11</b> Patriot Day 8:00 Men's Study Group 5:30 Worship
<b>12</b> Grandparents Day 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Class <b>10:30 Worship (time change starts)</b>	<b>13</b> 6:30 Endowment 6:30 Personnel	<b>14</b> 10:00 Brejje Bible Stdy Seeber Bible Study	<b>15</b> 5:15 Dinner 6:00 Healthy Aging	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:00 Men's Study Group 5:30 Worship
<b>19</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Class 10:30 Worship	<b>20</b> 6:30 BOD	<b>21</b> 10:00 Brejje Bible Stdy Seeber Bible Study	<b>22</b> 5:15 Dinner 6:00 Care Giving	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:00 Men's Study Group 5:30 Worship
<b>26</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Class 10:30 Worship	<b>27</b> 6:00 Care Gvg Plan'g	<b>28</b> 10:00 Brejje Bible Stdy Seeber Bible Study	<b>29</b> 5:15 Dinner	<b>30</b> 2:00-3:30 Flu Shot Clinic		



October 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2021

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Financial Report for July 31, 2021**

**ZION:** July Giving is under budget by \$24,475. Expenses are over budget by \$1,418.

July ended with a Net Loss of \$28,435. YTD Net Income Loss is \$18,324, under budget by \$19,188.

YTD Giving is down by \$19,903.

**FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL:** Income is under budget by \$200. Expenses are under budget

by \$2,580. July Net Gain is \$10. YTD Net Income Gain is \$329, over budget by \$5,029.

**Solid Ground:** Income is under budget by \$1,131. Expenses were under budget by \$370.

July Net Gain is \$162. YTD Net Income Loss is \$217, under budget by \$4,122.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
<b>INCOME</b>						
Zion Giving & Misc.	52,125	27,650	-24,475	113,950	94,047	-19,903
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Zion Staff Support	31,422	30,804	-618	62,843	60,489	2,354
Office Operations	903	959	56	2,505	2,205	300
Church Property	5,725	4,891	-834	11,450	11,610	-160
Education Ministry	0	165	165	0	900	-900
Evangelism/Missions	0	139	139	0	139	-139
Worship Ministry	488	640	152	975	1,010	-35
Other Ministries	130	0	-130	285	239	46
Music Ministry	1,250	1,500	250	2,500	3,375	-875
Finance Ministry	9,370	11,890	2,520	18,740	21,256	-2,516
Zion Haus Ministry	259	324	65	518	539	-21
Missions - General	5,120	4,773	-347	11,290	8,609	2,681
Total Expenses	54,667	56,085	-1,418	111,106	110,371	735
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-2,542</b>	<b>28,435</b>	<b>25,893</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>18,324</b>	<b>-19,188</b>
<b>FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL</b>						
<b>INCOME</b>						
FOJ Income	625	425	-200	1,240	744	-496
FOJ Staff Support	2,575	231	-2,344	5,150	231	-4,919
FOJ Operations Expenses	420	184	-236	790	184	-606
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>-2,370</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>-4,700</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>5,029</b>
<b>SOLID GROUND</b>						
Solid Ground Income	10,653	9,522	-1,131	22,790	18,583	-4,207
Solid Ground Expenses	9,730	9,360	370	18,885	18,800	85
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>-761</b>	<b>3,905</b>	<b>-217</b>	<b>-4,122</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>						
	6/1/2021	7/31/2021	<u>YTD_Change</u>			
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash	86,738	98,854	12,116			
Investments	188,271	188,443	172			
Other Assets	8,046	-5,040	-13,086			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>283,055</b>	<b>282,257</b>	<b>-798</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Payroll	5,030	5,277	247			
Dedicated Funds	132,481	147,433	14,952			
Unrestricted Funds	145,544	129,547	-15,997			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>283,055</b>	<b>282,257</b>	<b>-798</b>			
<b>MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE</b>						
	\$715,874					
Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000						
Youth Ministry	\$7,044	FOJ Estate Gift	\$3,346			
New Staff	\$50,000	FOJ Fundraising	\$11,518			
Ins. Claim Water Damage	\$6,546	Benevolence/Wise	\$4,476			
Future Debt	\$30,000	Capital Campaign	\$20,000.00			

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Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

September

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT NO. 479  
KALAMAZOO, MI

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



*Psalm 62:6*

## Fall Worship Schedule

BEGINS

September 12th

Parking Lot 10:30