



Looking Up | Reaching Out

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Harbinger

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Many of you know, my mother, Dora Saylor, has late-stage dementia with total short-term memory loss. Recently, my four siblings and I made the decision after taking care of mom in her home for 7 years as the disease progressed, the time had come to move her to an appropriate facility.

I'm very grateful for sibling unity when it comes to making these decisions; all wanted the best for her even amid some disagreements. The conversations always respectful and focused on meeting mom's needs. Such a blessing as this doesn't always happen in families.

Thus, by God's grace our decision to move mom was unanimous. We all agreed it was definitely time. The move went very well. Mom is very content with her new room, and we are very pleased with the care she is receiving.

Now the focus has turned to selling our childhood home. We moved in on July 20, 1969, the very day Neil and Buzz landed on the moon and took that "giant leap for mankind." I was only 4. Perhaps this is why I like rockets so much!

You gain a lot of memories over five decades. Not all my childhood memories are good ones. In fact, probably more bad than good, if I'm honest.

But there has been a measure of redemption in what we've done in taking care of mom over these past years. It has drawn us closer together as siblings, and my respect and admiration for my two brothers and two sisters has grown tremendously. Dora might have had some issues, but she did raise some pretty good kids.

The five of us were able to get together at the house one last time. It included a walk around the neighborhood and talking about all the kids that lived up and down the street. Again, it was a time of blessing to be able to share many good memories of growing up on Elmhurst Drive.

As I write this, my childhood home, my mother's house of nearly 55 years, stands empty and up for sale. The emptiness of that house is in stark contrast to the fullness of the heaven our Lord has promised us. Yes, our Resurrected Lord has promised that He is preparing a place for us in eternity (John 14). A place where He Himself will be with us. An eternal home where...

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain... Rev 21:4

Let us look forward in faith to the heavenly home Jesus has prepared for you and me!

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-- Pastor Saylor

May 19 is Pentecost, the Anniversary of the Beginning of the Christian Church.

This special season began as a Jewish feast (or festival) celebrated since the Old Testament. It was called the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks in Jewish tradition. It is mentioned in five places in the first five books of the Old Testament.

Pentecost is the Greek name of the festival, and is used to refer to the events in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit intervened following Jesus' ascension to heaven. This day marked the moment in time when disciples embraced their mission as emissaries of Christ to an entire world.

Remember how Jesus' passionate love for us culminated in his crucifixion and resurrection began during the Jewish festival of Passover (with the sacrifice of lambs to celebrate God's deliverance of Israel out of slavery.)

Seven weeks after Passover is when the Feast of Weeks occurred on the calendar. Pentecost (from the root word for fifty) is the Greek name for the festival that pilgrims throughout the world had gathered in Jerusalem to commemorate.

At the same time, Jesus' disciples were in the same city, as they had been told by Jesus to remain and wait for something special. They had spent time with him after his Easter resurrection and were filled with joy at such a miracle. They had then seen him ascend into heaven and a sense of emptiness had filled their hearts again.

They were sequestered in that upper room, waiting for what Jesus had promised but not sure of what to expect. Certainly they had discussed how that year's Passover had been an incredible timing for Jesus sacrifice that set them free forever. It was a new exodus event, not only for them but for the world!

As they waited, they must have been discussing all the commotion in Jerusalem, as thousands upon thousands of people had gathered to remember the miracle of the giving of the Law at Sinai and the beginning of that covenant relationship with his people.

Because of the festival at hand, they must have been remembering the story from Exodus as Moses was enveloped by clouds and lightning as

he camped out on the top of Sinai and met face to face with God. He came down from that mountain-top experience a changed man.

He had been given his marching orders from God and shared the commandments he had been given. The Law put into writing the covenant relationship with God and Israel, which called them to be changed by love for God and love for each other which would serve as a Light for the nations. That wind and fire of that holy mountain were reminders of the powerful love of God who had come to earth for the sake of his people.

And then, suddenly, the disciples were surrounded by wind and light, like clouds and fire, and the presence of God in their midst was impossible to ignore or forget. Just as that Passover had been changed by Jesus' ministry for the world, so this year's Pentecost would be one the world would never forget.

The Book of Acts relates the story of this day and how it changed uncertain and passive disciples into men and women who were filled by the Holy breath of God and went out into the streets, villages, and countries to let the world know of the miracle of Easter and the assurance of God's love. What we call the Church of Christ began with the events of that day called Pentecost.

We have not given this day the same attention as Christmas and Easter and yet it is the day which Christmas and Easter prepared the world to embrace. Jesus completed his mission on earth, doing what only he could do, so that his faithful children could now assist in doing by being a Light to the world.

Dr. Paul Maier has captured the essence of this salvation story in his book "The Genuine Jesus," which shares the historical setting and events of the first Christmas, the first Easter, and the first Pentecost. This is a wonderful synopsis of the biblical message which you and I are called not only to believe but to share in how we live in each and everyone of our days.

Pentecost is the birthday party of Christ's Church on earth. We have been gathered to be sent and blessed to be a blessing. We are called to be Christ's Light in a world that darkness seeks to capture and lead astray.

- tws

Catechism Review. The Lord's Prayer (part 5) "Teach Us To Forgive"

The word forgive is so important to our lives of faith. In this part of the Lord's Prayer Jesus helps us learn how to use this incredible gift of grace.

First, a question. Do any one of us want sins piling up on our scorecard of life? Of course not. We want God to let us off the hook. Forgiveness is alike a waterfall washing away every mistake, missed opportunity, and selfish action that we want God to act as if they had never happened.

We want God to forgive and forget! We don't want anyone, especially God, holding anything over us. Right? But, when it comes to forgiving someone who has hurt me – well then we are not so sure. This is where the prayer gets more personal and complicated.

Forgiveness is easy to ask for but hard to share with someone else. Jesus makes clear that we are to tell God that we have done, trusting that he will indeed wipe the slate clean. We are to share with God how we have forgiven those around us in similar fashion. But wait! Do we forgive?

And if so, is that why God forgives us? This sounds like forgiveness is dependent upon our actions. Or are we missing something? In Matthew this is translated "Forgive AS we forgive." Do we really want our treatment by God based on our treatment of others? Don't we really want God to forgive us even when we don't forgive others? Or is something else at play?

This is troubling! For if that were to be the case, would any one ever be forgiven? And what about grace? Doesn't God love and forgive despite our sinfulness? So what is the point? Shouldn't these be unrelated issues? "God forgive me. Thanks. Now, there is that matter of how I forgive others, can't we just save that for later?"

Consider this phrase about "forgiving as we forgive." First of all, we know forgiveness is a reality of God's love. God forgives ALL sin! Period! Jesus died to forgive ALL people, whether deserving or not. Period! Yet, until someone admits sin and celebrates God's forgiving and forgetting, are they truly forgiven?

For example, if I had a million dollar trust fund, but was not aware of its existence, would I really be wealthy? Such wealth would not be mine unless there was a way to get the cash into my hands.

So it is with forgiveness. The gift is real. But one must open their arms to receive such a gift. Forgiveness binds the broken, mends the torn, and repairs the loss of God's good creation! It is the ultimate superglue. But superglue doesn't do any good in the tube. And even when the glue is poured out, broken pieces must be held together until the glue bonds them as one.

In the same way, if someone doesn't reach out and embrace God's gift, forgiveness will dry up and be wasted. God gives, but we must receive. Forgiveness only has meaning for the forgiven. Healing only has value for those who know that they were sick. How many die without even knowing they are lost? How many live as orphans, unaware of a loving heavenly father? Who do you know who struggles with the brokenness of sin unaware of where to turn for healing and health? Forgiveness heals! And those who are healed learn to heal.

Being showered with forgiveness opens our eyes to the importance of splashing others! What right do I have to withhold such love from another? Shouldn't forgiven people be forgiving people? We might have a better understanding of this prayer if we said, "*Dear God, thanks for the gift of forgiveness – now help me to show thanks by sharing this gift with others.*" That is Jesus' point!

Forgiveness overflows like a faucet that won't turn off. It escapes like light from a room full of windows. Once this loving forgetfulness of God started flowing at Calvary, it became an infinite source of energizing, healing love that continues to explode and surround the entirety of creation. What God has let loose can't be turned off or hoarded for our use alone.

If one refuses to forgive, it is obvious he or she has never allowed God's gift to flow freely. If I have been filled to overflowing, why would I refuse to share what has been so freely given first to me? Yes! Forgive us even while we are still learning to forgive others! What a gift that even as we pray, God is teaching us how to pray and how to live.

- Seeber

Worship Help for Parents and Children

(It is OK for everyone else to read too! We'll keep finding other ways to help, but this page will deal with worship in the Lutheran Church.)

This month: **HOLY COMMUNION**

For Dads and Moms and other adults:

To discuss Holy Communion, we must first begin with the Passover account from Exodus 12. That meal prepared Israel for their night time escape from the slavery of Egypt. Once Israel was free, Moses, inspired by God, instructed them to celebrate this meal every year as powerful reminder of God's miraculous deliverance.

On that Passover night, the blood of lambs marked the homes of the faithful and they were spared the last plague (death of the firstborn) that ravaged Egypt. This finally persuaded Pharaoh to let Moses take his people home. The lambs also became the nourishment for their embarkation of a difficult desert journey. This miraculous rescue set Israel on the path to a land of Promise.

Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples on the night of his betrayal. He was preparing them to understand he would become the new Passover Lamb. His blood would mark the lives of faithful, his life would become the nourishment of faith as we travel through the wilderness of life on our way to our own Promised Land.

At the end of the meals, Jesus added something new! *"This broken bread I share is my body ... This cup of wine I share is my blood."* And soon after that meal with his disciples, Jesus sacrificed his life for once and for all!

Jesus, the new Passover Lamb was sacrificed that all people might be set free. The waters of death were held back so God's people might be set on the path of life. From the earliest days of the Christian Church, Holy Communion was celebrated every time the congregation gathered together. There is no way to underestimate the importance of regular participation in the meal of the new kingdom. This is our meal of deliverance, a means of grace, and sign of things yet to come! It celebrates our deliverance by grace.

Lutheran liturgy is centered around both Word (Bible) and Sacrament (Holy Communion). God's

gifts are so much more powerful than anything we can create! Holy Communion is a meal of remembrance, God's presence, and peace! This meal is a foretaste of the kingdom to come — a preview of coming attractions. It celebrates Christ in our midst. It is the wedding feast in which Christ marries himself to his Church. It is the family meal in which our Savior again and again comes to us in a most special way. In this meal we receive the gifts of forgiveness and strength for our daily lives. This is a spiritual meal for our spiritual lives.

Nowhere in scripture is there a command that communion is necessary for salvation. And yet, with such a gift available, and understanding its power as a means of grace, why would we ever take this meal for granted?

For Parents with young children:

Talk with your children about traditions at home, like birthday parties and Thanksgiving meals. Why do you have a certain menu and routine for those annual events? Why are tables decorated and special attention given to the traditions year, after year, after year?

When those questions are answered, it is easier to begin talking about this special meal we call Holy Communion. It is holy because God has given it, and He is present with us in this meal in a special way. It is communion because it gathers God's family and makes us one with Him. Explain that the altar is like a table that the whole family gathers around (and since we can't all fit at once, we keep coming up until everyone has had a chance to sit at the table.)

The tradition in the last few centuries of the Church has been to wait until children are older for them to take communion. We begin at Zion in grade 6, but our younger children come to the table and receive a blessing, so they are not left out. This begins the opportunities that you, as parents, have to begin talking about communion with your children at home.

As soon as your kids express an interest or wonder when they can take communion is the time to start answering their questions and teaching them what communion means. And please, let us know if there are any ways we can help with that effort of love.

- Seeber

Upcoming Schedule

-Midweek Kids has ended for the year! We look forward to a return in Fall!

**-May 18: Mission Roadmap Weekend,
9am-Noon**

-May 19: Last Day of Sunday School

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

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

MAY

It's a simple three letter word that just so happens to be the title of the current month: May. When used in a sentence such as "May I..." or "You may go..." we understand the meaning of the word to be pleading for permission or possibility.

What context does this "may" have for this May? Well, God grants permission to share love with others. He shows us the possibilities the Holy Spirit can utilize to bring others to faith. But how much have you "asked" for lately? What if this May, you start to ask God:

"May I be brought into an encounter with someone to love?"

"May I see others with the same eyes you see them?"

"May I do what you want me to do?"

"May you provide me with an opportunity to serve?"

What an amazing opportunity God has given our family to be His hands and feet, to be given permission and possibility in sharing His love. We don't need to ask but we should ask for these opportunities. What can...no, What MAY your family do to bring His love to others?

Family Life

Family Ministry News

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!

Confirmation Class (6th-8th)

Pizza Party May 1 from 6-7:15pm

Bible Study

Sundays, at 9:15am in the High School Youth Room (May 19 is last day)

Mission Roadmap Weekend

Students in 6th-12th grade are welcome to join in on the Mission Roadmap Weekend on May 18 from 9am-Noon.

SERVICE PROJECT

Saturday, May 11 we hope to do some Spring Cleaning at Zion. If you can help out we would greatly appreciate it! We will plan to work from 9am-Noon, with the possibility of leaving/arriving when you need to

Echoes

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

Quick Hitters:

- Praying for staff. One couple prays for staff each week. Our Prayer Ministry sends cards and “prayer butterflies” reminding staff they are prayed for regularly.
- ”In kind” donations. So often our members grab something...could be affordable, could be expensive...and don’t ask for a reimbursement. These gifts do not go unnoticed but might never be known to anyone else.
- Meals to help out. So many of our small groups hear of a need and jump right in to help out...whether it is a meal or a gift card, our supporting community is **STRONG** here.
- Leadership. Our Board of Directors is mission minded and focused on sharing God’s love. Whether it is an inward support for the congregation and staff or an outward support of ministries in our community, our Board of Directors is filled with servant leaders.

Regularly ask: God, how can I be your hands and feet?

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT:

Wrapping up this school year I have reflected heavily on the over 23 years that I have served as Campus Pastor at WMU, I have shared on numerous occasions how this call has been so special to me and that I can't imagine doing anything else over the past 23 years.

But, I also realize and know campus ministry could prosper well with someone newly energized with a passion to work with college students and the campus community.

I am excited by the prospect of this upcoming year to mentor and work with Jack and Savannah, God willing. My goal and plan is to give them the opportunity to work and serve with students in ways that match their strengths and interests and let them try ministry ideas that interest them the most.

My hope and plan for the months of May and June is to ready Solid Grounds for it's next chapter, making a smooth transition for a yearlong vicarage and internship year on campus and at Zion, we can get to know one another and then give them every opportunity possible to make their time serving on campus as meaningful as possible.

I'd like to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support and prayers as I continue to navigate my new normal. You are a true blessing.

God's blessings, peace, and care to you all!

Pastor Mark

FRIENDS OF JESUS

It is hard to believe, but Friends of Jesus Preschool is wrapping up the 2023-2024 school year. On May 23rd, 6:00pm we will be having our Moving Up, Moving On celebration as a culmination to all the learning and growing that has taken place this year. We especially want to recognize the four preschoolers who will be moving on to kindergarten next year! Congratulations to all our little learners!

May also brings our Muffins with Moms event to celebrate Mother's Day and Teacher Appreciation Week. We are so excited to honor these very important people.

With the close of the school year comes the start of our summer camps. Registration is currently open, with a new, exciting theme each week. Full- and half-day options are available. Contact Jen LaPorte if you would like more information.

Lastly, with the spring weather (finally) here, Friends of Jesus Preschool yard signs are available. If you would like a sign to spread the word about our preschool with a yard sign, please stop by the main office or preschool office.

Thank you!

Jen LaPorte, Director

Review of two books by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

“Jesus, A Novel” (Zondervan) and

“Paul; A Novel.” (Harper Collins)

Walt Wangerin was a Lutheran pastor and university professor. While on the faculty of the University of Evansville, he was also pastor of an inner city congregation. Following that, he was on the faculty of Valparaiso University for thirty years teaching literature, theology, creative writing, and was writer-in-residence. He is the author of over forty books in a variety of styles. We have these and many of his other works in our church library.

These novels, are well worth reading — more than once. They are creative, easy to read, and add an incredible reality to stories we know so well. Once you get started are difficult to put down. They are much like Dr. Paul Maier’s “Pontius Pilate” and “Flames of Rome. Dr. Maier described his books as documentary fiction, in which he creates dialog and scenes of historical Biblical characters and historical facts are never contradicted. Wangerin has taken a similar approach in the writing of these books. He intersperses biblical text within his narrative.

We know all that we do of Jesus and Paul from the writings of the New Testament. Wangerin has taken the facts of the biblical texts and woven them into fascinating novels which add more color, flesh, and blood to the lives of Jesus and Paul. They do not contradict anything in scripture but create conversations that could likely have taken place. This gives more of a feel for the scriptural setting of the lives of Jesus and Paul.

The Gospels tell the salient facts and theological realities of Jesus. Wangerin crafts a novel around those facts with conversations and situations that are consistent with the Gospels. It is an interesting way to delve more deeply into the earthly life and ministry of our Savior.

This is not a commentary on the biblical texts but a novel that uses those texts as food for his creative and powerful writing. Here is a sample from the life of Jesus:

Jesus halted and drove his staff into the soil. It stood upright when he let it go. He moved [to the disciples and asked] “Are you so thickheaded? Don’t you get it yet.” he said, his lops retraced,

his eyes like sickles. “We are going to Jerusalem. But not chiefly for the Passover ... “The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn him to death. They will hand him over to the Gentiles.. They will mock him and spit on him and flog him and kill him.” Almost everyone received this punctuated speech in silence. Everyone except (Mary could scarcely believe the audacity for the brothers) James and John. These had bent their heads together and were whispering.... We’d like you to do whatever we ask of you.” Mary started at them astonished. Who was their mother? How had she raised them?” [p.247]

Wangerin uses a similar pattern for his novel on the life and ministry of Saint Paul. I would suggest reading this novel and then going back and read the narrative of Paul’s ministry in the Book of Acts, as well as his Epistles to the early Christian congregations. What I find helpful in this novel is that Paul becomes more than a Sunday School character but there is more of a sense of the passion and ministry of this former opponent of Jesus the Messiah, who became one of his greatest disciples and missionaries.

Here is Wangerin’s creative energy at work as Saul encounters a blinding light and the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. This is the narrative of a traveling companion:

Suddenly, in the noonday silence, I felt a blow a the back of my skull. I started to turn around, but was struck a second time, snapping my jaw shut. The third hit came down so hard if felt like a rock against my neck. It drove me to the ground. But I swear there was no thing, and no one was hitting me. It was light, a brighter light beating us down, blocks of a blinding light from the sky ... But then, as if the firmament had torn apart, there came a roaring form above, a steady thunder like waterfalls ... I recognized Saul, flat on his back, his own eyes gaping straight to the light. He said, “Who are you Lord?” [p. 58]

Both of these books will be helpful for your own Bible study and would be great gifts to friends who like to read but maybe don't know the story of Jesus and his love for us. For those who have never read or understood the Bible, either of these books might interest them in learning even more from the real thing!



BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Rhenda Pease
5/2	June Schurig
5/3	James Niedbala, Mandy Scheffler
5/4	Thomas Cooper, Kayla Eichaker, Meredith Freeby, Shawn Schipper, Paul Vickery
5/5	Judith Adlam, Crosby Field, Hunter Laurin, Daniel Phillips,
5/6	Eli Frazier, Kevin Morrison, David Ostrem
5/7	Matthew Folck, Carter Simmons,
5/8	Bruce Huston
5/10	Scott Adams, Diane Alsvig, Karen Stokes Chapo, Marti Nuyen, Zoey Soppelsa
5/11	Myles Ream, Jacob Waterlander
5/12	Celia Schipper, Jeffrey Thiede
5/13	Steven Glascock, Amy Hendricks, Aiden Woods
5/14	Thuy Martin, Parker Wagner
5/15	Zoe Tinigin, Aaron Whittaker
5/17	Wanda Jewett,
5/18	Jill Koning, Kurt Weber
5/20	Steven Stokes
5/22	Christopher Glasser, Robert Klein,
5/23	Carrie Chapman, Sue Ann Coffinger, Laine DeMorrow
5/24	Donald Klug
5/25	Eliza Grube, Eleanor Hayward, Riley Ketchum, Diane Koning, Samantha Leitz
5/26	Patty Langworthy
5/27	Greggory Dinda
5/28	Don Eastman, Nicole Greene
5/29	Laurel Cullimore, Kirk Decker, Hannah Laurin
5/31	Brandon Hamilton, Linda Hoepfner, Paul Maier

PARISH REPORT

Deaths

Jeannine Longjohn

3/27/2023

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting to immediately follow second service on **Sunday May 19**. In addition to voting on candidates to fill open board positions, we will review and approve the operating budget for the new fiscal year which begins June 1st. We'll also update the congregation regarding the status of our interns (Jack and Savannah) which we expect to be working at Solid Grounds and Zion beginning this summer.

Thank you,
Joe Zerbel

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

The wish list item for **May is Canned vegetables, low-sodium**. Please put your donations in the gray tubs under the church office window. Thank you!

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 Sewing 6-7:15p Conf Class Pizza Party	2	3	4 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship
5 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship	6	7 10:00 P. Brejle Bible Stdy	8 9:00 Sewing	9	10	11 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9-Noon Spring Clean Project 5:30 Worship
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship	13 6:30 Endowment	14 10:00 P. Brejle Bible Stdy	15 9:00 Sewing	16 Noon FINANCE	17	18 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9-Noon Mission Road Map Workshop 2:00 Prayer Shawl 5:30 Worship
19 <i>Pentecost</i> 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:30 Cong Meet'g Last day for Youth Bible	20 6:30 BOD	21 10:00 Last Brejle Class 2:00 Womens Book Group	22 9:00 Sewing	23 6:00p FOJ Moving Up / Moving On Celebration	24	25 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship
26 8:00 Worship 9:15 SS, Bible Study 10:00 Worship Late service time change	27 <i>Memorial Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED	28	29 9:00 Sewing	30	31	
		Notes				

MAY 2024 WORSHIP LEADERS				
	May 5	May 12	May 19 Congregational Meeting @ 11:30	May 26 Time Changed to 10:00a.m.
Acolytes 8:00am	Nikko Quezada	James Mayer	Grayson Field	n/a
Acolytes 10:30am	David Hampshire	Crosby Field	Noah Bentz	n/a
Head Ushers 8:00am	Walt Kohnke Alan Sarver	Dave Mayer Mark Schoonbeck	Brian Bauer John DuBois	Fred Bierlein Donya Mosher
Head Ushers 10:30am	Dave Alsvig Eric Carlson Dan Buchtrup	Garr Gast Steve Stokes Joe Zerbel	Ken Lundquist Dave Borak Bob Folck	Steve Nuyen Dennis O'Brien Brent Butler
Communion Assistants Saturday 5:30pm	Judy Adlam	Kathleen Jordan	Mike Schlack	Ted Maxson
Communion Assistants 8:00am	Jim Mayer	N/A	Matt Simmons	N/A
Communion Assistants 10:30am	Dee Wentzel	N/A	Steve Nuyen	N/A
Lectors 8:00am	Jayne Mayer	Dave Mayer	Carol Daenzer	Donya Mosher
Lectors 10:30am	Erin Hampshire	Alison Carlson	Rollie Preuss	Alice Tomer
Cantor 8:00am	Karen Stokes Chapo	Dennis O'Brien	Linda Stieve	Vicki Holt
Cantor 10:30am		Danielle Fields		Vicki Holt
Altar Ministry Saturday 5:30pm	1. Phil Rettman 2. Melissa Noseworthy	1. 2.	1. Mary Lou Wright 2. Phil Rettman	1. 2.
Altar Ministry 8:00am	1. Linda Mayer 2. Jayne Mayer	1. N/A 2.	1. Nicki Klein 2.	1. N/A 2.
Altar Ministry 10:30am	1. 2.	1. N/A 2.	1. 2.	1. N/A 2.

Zion Financial Report for March 31st, 2024

ZION: March Spending exceeded Income by \$ (15,262)
 YTD Spending exceeds Income by \$ (50,800) *23/24 Budget included a deficit of \$49,183 to come from previous year donations
 YTD Giving is over the budget by \$ 1,948
 YTD Spending is under the budget by \$ 17,238

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH	Current Month			Year-To-Date		
	Budget	Actual	Over/Under	Budget	Actual	Over/Under
INCOME						
FOJ	10,680	7,090	-3,590	75,205	52,662	-22,543
Soild Grounds	5,100	5,144	44	63,000	68,854	5,854
Zion Giving & Misc.	60,986	52,153	-8,833	573,021	574,969	1,948
Total Income	76,766	64,387	-12,379	711,226	696,484	-14,742
EXPENSES						
Church Property	9,350	9,377	-27	93,500	99,659	-6,159
Education Ministry	750	572	178	13,500	11,625	1,875
Evangelism/Missions	75	511	-436	750	1,141	-391
Finance Ministry	6,398	6,845	-449	63,958	64,459	-501
FOJ Expenses	1,144	467	677	10,555	2,991	7,564
FOJ Staff	8,609	10,155	-1,546	65,996	61,986	4,010
Missions - General	5,956	4,849	1,107	55,878	56,349	-471
Music Ministry	3,590	2,715	875	28,045	23,666	4,379
Office Operations	1,717	2,724	-1,007	14,335	18,132	-3,797
Other	167	429	-262	2,891	2,588	303
SG Expenses	894	1,000	-106	8,922	10,737	-1,815
SG Staff	9,448	8,530	918	94,680	89,273	5,408
SG Zion Mission Support	-3,664	-2,684	-980	-34,355	-30,455	-3,900
Worship	700	1,511	-811	5,460	5,374	86
Zion Haus	445	872	-427	4,460	4,191	269
Zion Staff	32,155	31,776	379	335,946	325,567	10,379
Total Expenses	77,732	79,649	-1,917	764,521	747,283	17,238
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-966	-15,262	-14,296	-53,295	-50,800	2,495

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2023	3/31/2024	YTD Change
ASSETS			
Cash	120,658	82,390	-38,268
Investments	160,547	164,342	3,795
Due To/From Endowment	-12,713	-6,424	6,290
Dedicated Funds	-73,123	-92,217	-19,094
TOTAL	195,369	148,092	-47,277
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities	5,850	4,088	-1,762
Unrestricted Funds	189,519	144,004	-45,515
TOTAL	195,369	148,092	-47,277

MORTGAGE LOAN	
Balance 3/31/2024	\$413,320
Monthly Payment	\$6,350.00
Additional Principal	\$0.00

Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000

Youth Ministry	\$15,005
New Staff	\$55,734
Midweek Dinner/Kitchen	\$3,914

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

May

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

PERMIT NO. 479
KALAMAZOO, MI

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**Mission
Roadmap
Workshop
Saturday,
May 18,
9—Noon**

**See Kiosk for details and to
sign up**

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 19th after Late Worship Service