



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Harbinger

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The summer of my senior year in college I installed fiberglass insulation for food service equipment in a factory in Fort Wayne. It was hot, tedious work. In case you wondered, sweat and fiberglass insulation are not good partners! My supervisor was a fifty year old guy named Ed, whose education ended after the eighth grade (or sooner.) He first worked on his family farm and then got a job in this factory. He was very difficult to work with as conversations were not easy, and he tended to hover over me all the time, even though my tasks were relatively simple. No matter what I did, it was never right. We constantly butted heads. I was never certain what was worse, his daily criticism or getting fiberglass inside my shirt sleeves and collar. Both got under my skin. The job paid well but it was not an enjoyable summer. I had no idea why we couldn't find any common ground. I accepted the daily confrontations, but our most difficult moments were when he gave instructions that made no sense. Some tasks that could have been done in five minutes took fifteen if I did it "his way." He didn't like my questions and I just tried to go along with what he said, out of respect. It was a frustrating time. I came to realize we could never be friends, but didn't understand why he was so hard to get along with. He probably felt even more so about me. He is one of the few people for whom I found no way to establish common ground even for casual conversation. But my last day of work at the end of summer offered a surprise. As I was leaving for the last time at the end of our shift, he handed me a brown lunch bag with three tomatoes from his garden. He told me he wanted to thank me for helping him over the summer. This was his gift! I was the one then with little to say. I had judged him and thought he had no ounce of compassion or understanding. He caught me by surprise by his simple act of generosity, which I knew was a big deal for him and something he had thought about quite a while. He was more complex and caring than I assumed, and it was a wonderful lesson for me to learn. The best gifts are such unexpected surprises!

Pastor Seeber

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UPDATE ON THE "CALL PROCESS"

As you are aware, we are beginning a process to call a pastor to succeed Pastor Seeber in his call as our Senior Pastor. He is quite comfortable in his role and enjoying ministry but feels that it is a good time for someone else to assume the mantle of leadership and begin to lead Zion into the next phase of its effective ministry.

You will be asked to participate in an **ONLINE SURVEY** which will be part of the information the Michigan District uses to help select a suitable list of candidates for a new Senior Pastor for Zion. More information will be forthcoming on this process.

We will make special arrangements for those who do not have internet or computer access and want to fill a survey out by hand. Watch for that information to come soon.

In the Lutheran tradition, we do not "hire" pastors and full time church workers but "**call**" them. The word call comes from the Latin "voco" meaning to call. Our word vocation is from that same root word. In our theological understanding of the pastoral ministry we believe that one is "called" by God into this vocation. And when a congregation is led by discussion and prayer to seek pastoral leadership in a congregation, they respond by issuing a "call" to that person. In practical language what that means is we feel God has led us to this person we are calling, and it is after prayerful consideration that a pastor or DCE comes to an awareness of where God wants them to be engaged in ministry for his sake. We are currently involved in such a call process here at Zion.

When a new Senior pastor arrives, Pastor Seeber will assume a reduced schedule and hours as assistant to the new pastor. The new Senior Pastor will be THE pastor of Zion, and responsible for the servant leadership of this congregation. He will

be the worship leader, perform marriages and funerals, and be the one to visit in hospitals and offer counseling and leadership for our many ministries.

When the new pastor arrives, Pastor Seeber will take a sabbatical of sorts and "disappear" for awhile to assist in this transition. He will need time to adjust to his new role and the congregation will need time to become acquainted with the new pastor and he will need time to get to know all of you.

Once a suitable transition time has occurred, the new roles will be clearly understood and we will continue to move forward for the sake of God's ministry in this community.

Pastor Seeber will assist in a reduced role, but the new pastor will be THE pastor. Our Board of Directors has begun a process, working with the Michigan District office, to find suitable candidates for this position. The Directors and staff are currently gathering information for a congregational study that will be helpful in this process. Once that is completed, the call committee will begin meeting and developing a process for evaluating and interviewing candidates. Congregational members will have opportunities to suggest appropriate candidates at the appropriate point in this process. Once we have received a list of candidates from President Maier, our District President, the work of the call committee will begin in earnest. The congregation will be fully informed and updated during this process and there will be times to meet for discussion and comment.

Members of the Call Committee, approved by the Directors are: Ryan Bickel (chair), Chrissy Brege, Dan Buchtrup, Steve Butt, Eric Carlson, Danielle Field, Helen Fierke, Jill Hamilton, and Ted Maxson. Pastor Brelje will serve as the pastoral advisor. President Maier and Pastor Walther of the District office are leading this process for us. Your prayers and support for this process are most important!

CATECHISM REVIEW: Apostles Creed (part 2)

Today we can jump on the internet to gather information on almost any subject. We forget that for most of human history, books (and especially libraries) were few and far between. For most of recorded time, even if there were books or scrolls available, they were available only to the rich and powerful.

For thousands of years, important information was shared "orally." People would memorize important facts such as the names of grandparents, or the stories of where families came from. That is how they remembered.

The Apostles' Creed was one such gift. Like a hymn or poem, it was memorized and people would "teach the faith" by saying the creed. Rather than tell a child to "look it up," parents and grandparents recited the creed over and over until the next generation had it committed to memory. They then were able to carry the facts of the Christian faith wherever they went, and could teach others what we believe. The Creed is divided into three parts, as it proclaims the three different ways in which God reveals his presence and carries out his actions in our lives.

We talk about each section as an "Article" of the creed. Since Scripture reveals to us a "Triune God" (one in three, or three in one) we talk about God in three different articles: Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit. Each Article of the Creed is a summary of what we believe about God. And each deals specifically with one aspect or "personality" of God. While we talk about the three "persons" of the Trinity, this can confuse some into seeing God as having three heads and three bodies. But the concept really is about the three distinctly different ways that God comes to us, as ONE!

There is not a 'daddy god, a child god, and a wispy, spirit god' ... there is ONE GOD and we believe that all that God is, has always been and will always be. Our problem is that we

are limited to our own experience and ability to use reason and language to explain what is beyond our ability to completely understand or explain. Hence, "faith!" And so we begin: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."**

Rather than getting sidetracked by those who argue whether such language is politically correct, it is more productive to understand what Scripture and the Church has always taught, and accept at faith value what this proclaims about our God. "Father" means that God is the source of ALL life. "Almighty" means nothing and no one has more power. There is no life without God and God alone is responsible for all life. It is not for us to say "how" God has produced life, but rather to confess that Life is ultimately a gift from God.

The implications of that are tremendous! This means God is responsible for the purpose and the nurture of all that is. In this statement of the ALMIGHTY FATHER, we confess that God is up to the task and celebrate that we have such a God, who is tied to us and takes care of what is needed in a powerful way.

But God is not just the "father" of a family of people, but the CREATOR of everything. (Get that? EVERY THING!) That certainly leaves nothing out; not mold, sunsets, gamma rays, starlight, jelly fish, hummingbirds, poison ivy, or mountains, or ... well, you get the point. And if God is the Source of every thing, then God is also the owner. God (not you or me) determines the purpose of each thing. God is the landlord and the patriarch of every clan. We believe the only response to such a loving God is to care for all that God has made. That means it is for us to seek to learn what and why God has created, and use and support all LIFE and all THINGS to his glory! We aren't the deciders, but rather the stewards of great mysteries and gifts. To be responsible takes constant faith and prayer. That is being responsible and faithful with the gift of creation and the gift of life.

- tws

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY MAY 23 11:30 AM

The annual meeting of members of Zion is held each year to elect new leadership and adopt a budget for the next program year. Last year we were unable to meet due to the COVID shut down.

Our annual meeting will be held immediately after the 10:30 service. We have shared a summary of the proposed budget on a page 13 of this newsletter so that you can see it ahead of time. For all practical purposes it is quite similar to this year's budget and was developed based on anticipated giving and the programs we are currently supporting.

We will elect four members to the Board of Directors who will serve a three year term: President Elect, Vice President Personnel, and two Directors at Large. Please join us for this meeting!

Thank you for all who have continued to support our ministry with your presence and prayers! For those who have not yet chosen to participate in our automated giving program, the link is listed here should you wish to make your gifts in this fashion.

<https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/zionkazoo>

We are hopeful that as people are able to receive COVID vaccine that all will come back for worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and the ministry we share together. Many have gotten into new routines and habits, but without all of our Zion family we are just not the same. We are doing a responsible job of keeping everyone safe and the next step is to start helping our ministry into our new normal!

HELPING OTHERS Besser Family Update

As most of you know, the Besser family experienced a fire at their home on March 7th and mid-April, Cheryl succumbed to her cancer entering her heavenly home. Additionally, Bob and two of their daughters are recovering from COVID. Many have asked how they can help while the Besser's work through insurance and contractor details and delays!

Meals and monetary donations along with prayers are at the top the list.

The Board of Property and Board of Directors have offered the Zion Haus (our parsonage) as temporary housing for Bob Besser and his daughters until the insurance company is able to renovate their fire-damaged house. Their insurance company has been very supportive and will get them back in their house and buy new furniture and furnishings for them, hopefully within six to nine months. Thanks to Dave Mayer and his Small Group who have been and will continue to offer support for the Bessers. Thanks for all the prayers, financial support, and assistance with meals.

Monetary donations may be made out to **Zion and noting "Home Charities—Besser"** while other forms of assistance are being coordinated by Dave Mayer at 375.1241.



Friends of Jesus Preschool



WELCOME NEW ZION STAFF MEMBER -

ANGEL CALNIN,

DIRECTOR, FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL

Angel is a long-term Kalamazoo area resident. She holds a Masters Degree in Education / Early Childhood along with many years of teaching experience. Most recently, she has been working as a Realtor in the Kalamazoo area and as a Literacy Coach in a Michigan Intermediate School District.

Angel has four children: ages 21, 19, 15 and 13. She loves the outdoors and anything at the beach. She also enjoys reading and spending time with family / friends.

She feels blessed to have the opportunity of joining the Zion Team.



Please join us in welcoming Angel to Zion and helping her acclimate to her new role.

Worship Help for Parents and Children

While there is a tendency to look for 'new' ways to worship, our liturgy always brings us to a familiar pattern and place that has served Christians well and lifts up the "basics." This month we focus on:

"Prayers and Hymns"

For Dads and Moms and other adults:

PRAYERS are a special time of communion with God. Prayer is literally a "surrender" to God. The **Prayer of the Day** is based on the readings for each Sunday, and introduces us to the theme of "today's worship." The **Prayer of the Church** is our opportunity to join with Christians everywhere in sharing joys and sorrows with God. This is our response to the Sermon, and reminds that God listens to all of his children and cares about all of our needs. The **Offering Prayer** is said after we bring our gifts to God, and prepares us for God's healing touch in His gifts of bread and wine. The **Lord's Prayer** is Jesus' gift to teach us how to pray. By saying the same words He did, we are tied closely to his love!

Silent Prayer is always a personal time for you to open your hearts, and join in communion with the God who loves you so much. In the front of the hymnal, you can find the Prayer of the Day AND individual prayers for special needs, situations, or times when you need guidance in "how" to pray.

Hymns are prayers set to music! An index in the back of the hymnal lists them by themes as well as title or tune. Hymns allow us to express the emotions of faith, and teach us about faith, as many texts are mini-sermons based on scripture. Be bold in your praying and your singing, as these are gifts that connect you with God and God with you! Hymns are chosen to fit the seasons of the church year or the theme of worship. The **Opening Hymn** is usually a hymn of praise or celebration. The **Sermon Hymn** is based on the message for the day. All **Hymns** offer a chance to reflect. The **Closing Hymn** is the "tune we carry" into daily ministry.

For Parents with younger children:

Think about what children sing! Whether nursery rhymes or made up songs, they allow a chance for expression. They are a teaching tool to learn patterns and remember words. They are a familiar place in which our kids are secure (because they have "been there before.") The more children sing a song, the easier time they will have in remembering it, because of the melody that carries those words. (How else did we ever learn the alphabet?) Hymns and prayers teach the "alphabet of grace!" Let the children sing!

These words imprint a message in our hearts, and the music flavors how we live. Prayers and hymns help kids to touch and be touched by God. When your children are happy or sad they sing different songs. Help them to identify happy and sad songs in worship. (Why is Christmas a happy day, and why is Ash Wednesday a sad day?) Kids instinctively can tell by the feel of the music what the mood of the day is — just as you can tell by their songs what kind of day they had in school. The more familiar hymns become, the more comfortable they will be in faith. Singing is just as much about teaching as it is expression. If you sing, they will sing. If you sit quietly, they will be quiet.

Set an example in how and when you pray and sing. Why not buy a hymnal to keep at home? Read a hymn text as a prayer, or sing a prayer just for fun! What a gift this can be to your children. Too easily we are tempted to gravitate to songs with catchy tunes, but the words are what carry the message!

Our prayers and hymns in worship are teaching tools to help your children as they live in the world. These are gifts that will carry them through life and help them to remember they are never alone. And remember, if hymns and prayers are full of love and faith, you can never be "off key." What a gift this can be for our kids!

Calendar

Sunday School packets will end May 23rd.

Check out summer opportunities:

Vacation Bible School in “family pods” will take place the week of June 21-24

Middle School/High School families are invited for a week of service projects: June 21-24

NEW SPACE

COVID has created a lot of changes in the past year. We found we had gotten very comfortable doing the same things over and over again—even if they weren’t effective. Due to some flooding issues last summer, the undercroft has an all new floor! It looks great! We will get new paint soon as well.

This space will look different in the Fall. As we consider different ways to meet the needs of our families at Zion, we will create a space conducive to our plan!

We are also looking for servant leaders to help bring the joy of the Gospel to our kids! If you’ve ever wanted to share the love of Jesus with someone, who better than kids!?!?

They are eager to hear the Gospel...a Gospel that is so needed as a foundation for the next generation.

Pray about this opportunity...take some time to think about serving in this role...please let Aaron know if you have any questions!

Family Life

Family Ministry News

Youth News

High School:

Bible Study

Sunday's 11:15am—Noon

Last day before summer is

May 23rd!

Summer Servant Event

We are planning on taking a week to serve July 17-24. If you are interested, let Aaron know immediately!

Middle School Youth:

Congrats to our Confirmands:

Audrey

Evan

Sean

Echoes

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

This year has certainly been a different year. While we were able to have in person classes for Middle School and High School, we simply did not have the opportunity to have Sunday School in person. Rather, we have seen God at work through our families! Each month a packet was dropped off or picked up with lessons for each week, sharing the Good News of the Gospel. God was at work in each and every conversation that happened and each and every activity that was made. Families sang together, laughed together, and read the Bible together.

Even amidst a pandemic, God doesn't stop working! How have you seen His hand at work in your life or the lives of those around you?

Are you ready to tell your story???

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORT:

On Friday, April 9th, I met with 5 students involved with the WMU School of Music to discuss offering a worship experience one evening a week in Dalton Hall, once the Fall semester begins in September.

The hope and goal of the worship experience is to utilize the gifts and talents of the music students and to offer them a chance to grow in their faith. We also want to create a space and environment where non-Christian students feel welcome and have an opportunity to play and hear about the love of God through the music, singing and discussion.

I asked the students what they would like to see the worship time look like and what would be the most meaningful thing to draw students to join us. They suggested that we start off with the first 20 minutes or so devoted to singing songs/hymns. Then, we will have a time of teaching from a passage in the Bible that involves discussion in small groups. We will end with a closing song.

It was also suggested that we have at least one song where we would feature a different group of music students each week performing a song or an instrumental piece.

The students mentioned that they have a number of friends in the music school that they want to invite to play and participate.

Currently, the plan is to have the weekly worship experience on Monday evenings at 7PM beginning in early September in Dalton Hall.

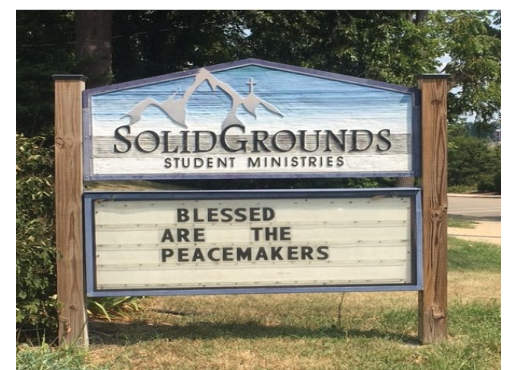
Our Tuesday evening 10 week Conquer Series designed for male students struggling with addiction issues ended last week. The students involved in the Conquer Series found help and healing these past 10 weeks and we plan on continuing to meet once a week to support and encourage each other.

Our Thursday afternoon Zoom Bible study involves two students who have been a part of Solid Grounds for the past 6 years. Both Jasmine and Tanisha have been actively involved in our campus ministry both as undergraduates and now as master's students. Jasmine will be graduating at the end of April and will be starting a job in early May in Holland. We held a celebration for her on Friday, April 16th. She has been a tremendous blessing to our campus ministry over the years.

God's blessings to you all!

Pastor Mark

**HAVE A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND
ENJOYABLE SUMMER**



Book Review: Jacob and the Prodigal; How Jesus Retold Israel's Story. Kenneth Bailey. IVP. 2003.

Ken Bailey served much of his adult life as a pastor, missionary and teacher in Egypt, Lebanon, Jerusalem and Cyprus. In recent years he returned to the U.S. to teach in seminaries. He has written many books which help to explain the customs of the region and the times which allow us to have a better feel for the power and message of many of Jesus' parables and encounters in the Gospels.

Bailey's books are a great resource or commentary to help with bible study. They are not for those who really want to dig deeper and learn more.

One of my Bible classes this year has focused on the Book of Genesis. What we forget is that most of Genesis is about the "first family" of Israel, and most of the narrative is focused on Jacob (later named Israel) and his sons. The themes of these narratives are many, but reach their climax with the loss of his youngest son Joseph. You remember how his brothers were so jealous they sold him into slavery and Jacob (or Israel) was told that his son was dead. What greater grief could there be for any father than to lose a child? And Jacob lived much of his adult years grieving the loss of his favored son, Joseph.

But we know how the story ended and they were reunited and wound up in Egypt during a world wide famine. The narrative of Genesis ends with the children of Israel, safely living together and becoming the promised nation that had first been told to Abraham.

In this book, Bailey looks at the parable Jesus told which is recorded in Luke 15. It has the same themes as the narratives of Genesis with a family torn apart, sibling rivalry, and a son that was feared dead begin returned to his father. This book focuses on those themes.

Luke 15 contains three of the most memorable parables Jesus shared. First comes the parable of a shepherd leaving ninety nine sheep to find one that was lost.

The next parable was about an old woman who lost one of ten coins and searched high and low until it was found. Those were followed by the parable of a father and two sons that most of us know by heart.

This parable contains themes that are seen so often in the Old Testament, such as the jealousy of brothers, the struggle between older and younger sons, family members who are lost and assumed to be dead, and the joy which follows surprise reunions. The Old Testament accounts follow patterns similar to our own lives, and Jesus' parables take such themes and weave them into his many parables to teach about God's love for his broken and wayward creation.

Bailey focused much of his research over the years on Luke 15 and these three parables of the lost being found (which is, of course what the Good News of Jesus is ultimately all about.)

Bailey had a breakthrough as he began to wonder in the parable of the Father and two sons might indeed have been used by Jesus to recast the story of Israel's journey in a parable that would seem familiar to them and open their hearts and eyes to the gift of grace which is the underserved love of a heavenly father for his children, no matter what they have done or how far they have strayed.

Our study of Genesis has opened many new facets of God's love as revealed through the exploits of a real family headed by father Israel. Luke 15 builds on that narrative as Jesus reveals the power of the Gospel in a parable about finding the lost, and the celebration that is the only way to respond!

Pastor Seeber



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------|---|
| 5/1 | Rhenda Pease |
| 5/2 | June Schurig |
| 5/3 | Mandy Scheffler |
| 5/4 | Thomas Cooper, Kayla Eichaker, Meredith Freeby, Shawn Schipper, Pete Tanz, Paul Vickery |
| 5/5 | Judith Adlam, Crosby Field, Hunter Laurin, Daniel Phillips, |
| 5/6 | Eli Frazier, Mike Kamphuis, Kevin Morrison, David Ostrem |
| 5/7 | Matthew Folck, Carter Simmons, |
| 5/8 | Bruce Huston |
| 5/9 | Ella Krill |
| 5/10 | Scott Adams, Diane Alsvig, Karen Stokes-Chapo, Marti Nuyen, Steve Slesinski, 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, Alex Schmidt, |
| 5/18 | Jill Koning, Kurt Weber |
| 5/20 | Tim Klein, Steven Stokes |
| 5/22 | Christopher Glasser, Robert Klein, Andrew Pridgeon |
| 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 | Patricia Langworthy |
| 5/27 | Greggory Dinda |
| 5/28 | Don Eastman, Nicole Greene |
| 5/29 | Laurel Cullimore, Kirk Decker, Hannah Laurin |
| 5/31 | Brandon Hamilton, Linda Hoeppner, Paul Maier |

PARISH REPORT

New Members

Andrew Niedbala
Lachan Jaarda
Vince LaPorte
Jennifer LaPorte

DEATHS

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| John Stiegemeyer | 4/13/2021 |
| Cheryl Besser | 4/13/2021 |

Staff Anniversaries

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

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Monica Slesinski | 5/29/2018 |
|------------------|-----------|

EMAIL and Technology has been
very helpful especially during these
past months, enabling us to
communicate and worship
remotely.

Please keep your **EMAIL ADDRESS**
current with the church office.

Also, as cost of paper, ink and
postage continue to rise, if you
would prefer to **receive an**
electronic version of the Harbinger
each month, please let the church
office know.

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!



T-SHIRT BAGS UPCOMING PROJECT

WE ARE IN NEED OF LARGE (OR LARGER!) T-SHIRTS!

They can be used but please, no holes. Middle and High School families will be making "t-shirt bags" for the Mattawan Food Pantry (and possibly others!).

Please bring your clean t-shirts to the bin next to the Loaves and Fishes bins in the entryway at Zion before **June 15th**.

Thanks! Aaron

Lutheran World Relief Sewing

We hope to resume sewing beginning May 12th at 9:00a.m. implementing a few precautions to ensure everyone's safety.

1. No quilting projects at this time
2. Masks required — the area will be set up for social distancing, too!
3. No food or coffee; feel free to bring in bottled water.

We will reassess as COVID improves or should it worsen.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and continuing our goal to serve the Lord.

Thank you, Leona Van Antwerp

Note: Fabric donations are welcomed along with if anyone is interested in joining our sewing mission.

2022 PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR ZION, FOJ & SOLID GROUND


ZION: Income remains consistent with our 2021 Budget. Staff Support increase is due to under-estimated expenses in 2021 for Salaries and Benefits.
Finance Ministry will continue to pay additional principal to pay down our Mortgage with available funds.

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL: FOJ will start again in September with a part-time Director and one part-time Teacher. Class size will be limited as our Preschool grows.

Solid Grounds: Income and Expenses are consistent with 2021 Budget.

| ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH | 2022 BUDGET | 2021 BUDGET | DIFFERENCE |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Zion Giving & Misc. | 715,000 | 712,500 | 2,500 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Zion Staff Support | 384,971 | 344,165 | 40,806 |
| Office Operations | 14,430 | 17,400 | -2,970 |
| Church Property | 89,100 | 93,405 | -4,305 |
| Education Ministry | 11,000 | 13,500 | -2,500 |
| Evangelism/Missions | 500 | 750 | -250 |
| Worship Ministry | 6,150 | 6,800 | -650 |
| Other Ministries | 2,510 | 2,975 | -465 |
| Music Ministry | 29,100 | 31,525 | -2,425 |
| Finance Ministry | 112,440 | 124,097 | -11,657 |
| Zion Haus Ministry | 3,235 | 4,800 | -1,565 |
| Missions - General | 70,470 | 70,600 | -130 |
| Total Expenses | 723,906 | 710,017 | 13,889 |
| INCOME/ LOSS | -8,906 | 2,483 | -11,389 |
| FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL | | | |
| INCOME | | | |
| FOJ Income | 46,453 | 127,425 | -80,972 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| FOJ Staff Support | 46,170 | 110,449 | -64,279 |
| FOJ Operations Expenses | 8,000 | 16,935 | -8,935 |
| INCOME/ LOSS | -7,717 | 41 | -7,758 |
| SOLID GROUND | | | |
| Solid Ground Income | 121,656 | 116,819 | 4,837 |
| Solid Ground Expenses | 118,046 | 113,884 | 4,162 |
| INCOME/ LOSS | 3,610 | 2,935 | 675 |

MAY 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 8:00 Worship 9:30 MS SS 10:30 Worship 11:15 HS Bible Study | 3 Pastor T Devotional 6:30 Personnel | 4 10:00 P. Brelje Study 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Pastor T Zoom 6:30 FOJ Min Zoom | 5 Cinco de Mayo | 6 2:30 Aaron Devotion | 7 Pastor T Devotional | 8 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 Mother's Day 8:00 Worship 9:30 MS SS 10:30 Worship 11:15 HS Bible Study | 10 Pastor T Devotional 6:30 Endowment | 11 10:00 P. Brelje Study 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Fam Min Zoom 6:30 Pastor T Zoom 6:30 Sml Grp Zoom | 12 | 13 Noon Finance 2:30 Aaron Devotion | 14 Pastor T Devotional | 15 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 8:00 Worship 9:30 MS SS 10:30 Worship 11:15 HS Bible Study | 17 Pastor T Devotional 6:30 BOD | 18 10:00 P. Brelje Study 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Pastor T Zoom | 19 | 20 2:30 Aaron Devotion | 21 Pastor T Devotional | 22 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 8:00 Worship 9:30 MS SS 10:30 Worship Annual Meeting | 24 Pastor T Devotional | 25 10:00 P. Brelje Study 1:00 Aaron Devotion 6:30 Pastor T Zoom | 26 | 27 2:30 Aaron Devotion | 28 Pastor T Devotional | 29 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Worship | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 8:00 Worship 10:00 <u>Worship</u> (Note time change) | 31 Memorial Day Pastor T Devotional OFFICE CLOSED | <div><div>April 2021</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div><div>June 2021</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> | | | | 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 | | 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 | | | |  |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Financial Report for March 31, 2021

ZION: March Giving is under budget by \$8,166. Expenses are under budget by \$2,070. March ended with a Net Gain of \$223. YTD Net Income Gain is \$28,093, over budget by \$24,667. YTD Contributions are under budget by \$53,851.

FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL: Income is under budget by \$10,680. Expenses are under budget by \$12,828. March Net Gain is \$373. YTD Net Income Gain is \$2,940, under budget by \$5,022.

Solid Grounds: Income is under budget by \$1,199. Expenses were over budget by \$3,203. March Net Loss is \$1,956. YTD Net Income Loss is \$1,150, under budget by \$5,604.

| | Current Month | | | Year-To-Date | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|------------|--------------|---------|------------|
| ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH | Budget | Actual | Over/Under | Budget | Actual | Over/Under |
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| Zion Giving & Misc. | 64,625 | 56,459 | -8,166 | 594,250 | 540,399 | -53,851 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | |
| Zion Staff Support | 28,072 | 26,596 | -1,476 | 288,020 | 284,628 | -3,392 |
| Office Operations | 1,435 | 1,652 | 217 | 14,750 | 12,846 | -1,904 |
| Church Property | 6,373 | 10,124 | 3,751 | 76,670 | 66,595 | -10,075 |
| Education Ministry | 1,385 | 1,028 | -357 | 10,830 | 5,281 | -5,549 |
| Evangelism/Missions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 550 | 100 | -450 |
| Worship Ministry | 400 | 101 | -299 | 5,275 | 4,014 | -1,261 |
| Other Ministries | 175 | 312 | 137 | 2,600 | 1,398 | -1,202 |
| Music Ministry | 3,525 | 1,500 | -2,025 | 25,925 | 16,055 | -9,870 |
| Finance Ministry | 10,341 | 6,391 | -3,950 | 103,404 | 63,768 | -39,636 |
| Zion Haus Ministry | 400 | 2,588 | 2,188 | 4,000 | 4,417 | 417 |
| Missions - General | 6,200 | 5,944 | -256 | 58,800 | 53,204 | -5,596 |
| Total Expenses | 58,308 | 56,236 | 2,070 | 590,824 | 512,306 | -78,518 |
| INCOME LESS EXPENSES | 6,319 | 223 | 6,096 | 3,426 | 28,093 | 24,667 |
| FRIENDS OF JESUS PRESCHOOL | | | | | | |
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| FOJ Income | 11,293 | 613 | -10,680 | 110,811 | 8,238 | -102,573 |
| FOJ Staff Support | 12,088 | 0 | -12,088 | 87,919 | 3,737 | -84,182 |
| FOJ Operations Expenses | 980 | 240 | -740 | 14,930 | 1,561 | -13,369 |
| INCOME LESS EXPENSES | -1,775 | 373 | 2,148 | 7,962 | 2,940 | -5,022 |
| SOLID GROUND | | | | | | |
| Solid Ground Income | 12,350 | 11,151 | -1,199 | 100,218 | 94,666 | -5,552 |
| Solid Ground Expenses | 9,904 | 13,107 | -3,203 | 95,764 | 95,816 | -52 |
| INCOME LESS EXPENSES | 2,446 | -1,956 | -4,402 | 4,454 | -1,150 | -5,604 |
| BALANCE SHEET | 6/1/2020 | 3/31/2021 | YTD Change | | | |
| ASSETS | | | | | | |
| Cash | 78,336 | 75,496 | -2,840 | | | |
| Investments | 137,222 | 188,096 | 50,876 | | | |
| Other Assets | 10,944 | 5,981 | -4,963 | | | |
| TOTAL | 226,502 | 269,575 | 43,073 | | | |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | | |
| Payroll | 5,829 | 7,738 | 1,909 | | | |
| Dedicated Funds | 87,136 | 97,268 | 10,132 | | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | 133,537 | 164,569 | 31,032 | | | |
| TOTAL | 226,502 | 269,575 | 43,073 | | | |
| MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE | \$745,887 | | | | | |
| Dedicated Accounts with Balances over \$3,000 | | | | | | |
| Youth Ministry | \$9,962 | FOJ Estate Gift | \$3,592 | | | |
| New Staff | \$50,000 | FOJ Fundraising | \$11,518 | | | |
| Ins. Claim Water Damage | \$5,190 | Benevolence/Wise | \$4,476 | | | |

Monthly Publication of

Zion Lutheran Church

May

2122 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 479
KALAMAZOO, MI

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 23rd following the 10:30 worship service

Details inside on Page 4