

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



Can God Help Me in My Loneliness?

"Hi-ho Silver, away!"

Those are feel-good words. The bad guys are in jail. The good guys win. The sun sets. Everyone's happy. Well, almost everyone. At the end of the day, the hero is still the LONE Ranger.



Ever felt like the LONE Ranger? You saved the office from certain peril. You arrived with your son's glove just moments before he took the field. You made everyone happy. You should feel like a hero but so often when the sun sets, the feelings of loneliness rise. Like the Lone Ranger, at times our days end only with the companionship of a faithful, four-legged friend. Can God help me find real companionship?

Imagine how Adam must have felt when he was the only human on the planet. Talk about lonely! But God saw Adam's deep need for companionship. Then by the power of God's creative hand, Eve walked into his life. She was perfect for him.

If only God had a silver bullet like that for us!

Without sin, our loneliness would vanish as quickly as Adam's companionship appeared! But sin is real. We see it in everyone else. We see it in ourselves. And when we see sin, loneliness sets in.

Listen to these words from a man who was no stranger to loneliness. While unfairly sitting in prison, the apostle Paul said: "I press on to take hold of that for

which Christ Jesus took hold of me" (Philippians 3:12).

More than a friend who tells you to "get out there" and find someone, these words tell you that Jesus got down here and found you. He took hold of you so you could "press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called you heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

The silver bullet of companionship is seeing yourself as a companion of Christ. His love forgives your sin and creates a relationship with you unlike any other. Through faith in Jesus, you are never alone.

Have you been hiding your feelings of loneliness behind the mask of heroism? It's time to take off the mask. Look at Jesus. See who you really are—a forgiven, grand-prize recipient of eternal life in heaven. Then, come and see us. Let's take off our masks together and learn more about Jesus, our true hero, who alone saves us.

Worship with Us!

Thursday: 6:30PM, Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Bible Study between services

Wednesdays in Lent (Feb22-April 1)

3:30 and 6:30 PM

Supper served between services

Wednesday Worship
in Lent

Begins Ash Wednesday
February 22

3:30 and 6:30 PM

Supper between services

HIS
FINAL
STEPS

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Spirit Week First day of Black History Month 4:00 6-7 Catechism 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	2 Spirit Week 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 2:00 Ladies Aid 6:30 Worship-C	3 Spirit Week 6:00 Bible Breakfast BB Home: St. John, Juneau	4 B-girls BB Tourn at St. John, Juneau
5 8:00 AM Worship, Communion Online Worship Posted 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship: Communion	6 6:30 Board of Ed	7 5:00 Bible Information Class 6:00 K4-K5 Information 6:30 Elders 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	8 3-8 Field Trip to MSO BLAC A-team BB Tourn 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	9 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 6:30 Worship	10 6:00 Bible Breakfast BLAC A-team BB Tourn Midterm	11 BLAC A-team BB Tourn Midterm
12 8:00 AM Worship, Grades 5-8 sing Online Worship Posted 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship, Grades 5-8 sing	13 9:30 Pastors Circuit Meeting (Beaver Dam) 1:30 Spelling Bee 6:30 Fellowship 6:30 Stewardship Board	14 5:00 Bible Information Class 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	15 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Council Meeting 7:00 Choir	16 No School-District Teachers Conference 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 6:30 Worship	17 No School-District Teachers Conference LLHS A-team BB Tourn 6:00 Bible Breakfast	18 Men of His Word Conference LLHS A-team BB Tourn 10:00 Fell. Hall reserved
19 8:00 AM Worship Online Worship Posted 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship: Grades K4 & K5 sing LLHS A-team BB Tourn	20 Presidents' Day LLHS Kinderfest	21 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 5:00 Bible Information Class 6:00 PATZ 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	22 3:30 Ash Wednesday: Communion, Junior Choir & Hand Chimes 4:30 Supper 6:30 Ash Wednesday: Communion 7:30 Choir	23 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 6:00 Bell Choir	24 6:00 Bible Breakfast	25
26 8:00 AM Worship, Communion Online Worship Posted 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship: Communion 1:00 Re-Gift BINGO	27 9-10:30 Sanctuary: Monthly Cleaning 3:30 Faculty Meeting	28 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 5:00 Bible Information Class 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble				

John Kleist

"I Have Always Believed in God"

1. *Let's start with the basics – Where were you born and where did you grow up? What have you done for work throughout your life?*

I was born in Milwaukee, WI, and was raised in what is now the city of Glendale, WI. For the first five years of my life the property was a working sheep farm, then the surrounding acreage was sold off to become a large neighborhood of homes. I married in my early 20's & began work as a Machinist for a family business in Saukville, WI, which has been my lifelong job through different companies since.

2. *What would you like people to know about your kids and family?*

I have two children. My daughter is 36, and currently living in Tennessee, my son is 32 and currently living with me, while he completes an apprenticeship in industrial electronics.

3. *You are into ballroom dancing. How did that start and what do you like about it?*

My seven years of ballroom dance began with a woman I met long ago, as something we might enjoy doing together. She was a quick learner and a good dance partner, but not very compatible off the dance floor. We went our separate ways late in 2019, when I began learning the very different & beautiful Argentine Tango, which I practice today.

4. *Talk about your faith – your Roman Catholic background and what led you to Zion.*

I have always believed in GOD. My mother was Catholic and so I was raised to be Catholic,

along with my younger sister and brother. I became disenchanted by the recent direction of that religion, and it's old, more hard-line beliefs coming from many new priests. In the early spring of 2022, I decided to find a more loving & positive view of worship within the Christian community, and I feel I have found this, here at Zion Lutheran Church.

5. *What's the most significant challenge to your faith that you face today?*

It continues to be a challenge, going through life, alone. I lost my beautiful wife to a disease back in 2006 and, have struggled with who I am ever since. GOD has blessed me with so much, I have no want or need of anything...

except my wife, to share it with. She was a good, Catholic woman, her name was Gayle.

6. *Have you habits that you've developed to keep your faith strong?*

I find that attending church, as well as participating in the church, brings a deeper belief in the faith for me. Otherwise, I simply try every day to be thoughtful of all others around me.

7. *What do you see as the strength of Zion? It's challenges? Your hopes for our future?*

Zion has a wonderful mix of people, and of all ages. I think the buildings and grounds are modern & attractive, which may help grow the congregation. But funding to maintain all of this needs to be encouraged too. I hope to join in soon with my repair and upgrade skills, to be a part of Zion's growth.



Contents

Contact Information & News	1
News & Notes.....	2 - 4
Financials/Budget	5 - 6



Council Names and Numbers

Jeff Krakow, Chairman	920-210-2388
Roger Weiland, Vice-Chairman	920-285-7360
Nick Uebelacker, Secretary	608-225-8861
Will Penterman, Treasurer	920-750-8763
Andrew Tratar, Education	920-296-1485
Noah Litherland, Elders	608-354-5131
Andy Neuman, Outreach	262-627-0794
Aaron Larson, Property	608-220-6906
Otto Mattke, Stewardship	608-516-5279
Mike Hallberg, Family Ministry	608-225-4351

Our Mission

The mission of Zion
Evangelical Lutheran Church
and School is to preach and
teach God's saving Word in
all its truth and purity.

Get in Touch

Church/School Office
(920) 623-5180
office@zioncrusaders.com
www.zioncolumbus.org

Tim Schwartz, Pastor
(509) 480-2967
tschwartz24@gmail.com

Ben Zuberbier, Pastor
(920) 517-7940
pastorbenzuberbier@gmail.com

Chad Grambsch, Principal
(414) 313-4308
cgrambsch@zioncrusaders.com

Don Schultz, Lakeside Principal
(920) 648-2321

Thanks
be to God
for his
indescribable
gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15

USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

January 29th & February 5th

8:00am - Team E6	10:30am - Team L4
John Brey (C)	Kurt Zander (C)
Jim Greiling	Jim Yohn
Rick Gentz	Wyatt Browskowski
Hunter Sommer	John Loeffler
Jordan Crave	Madden Henning
Christian Bagocius	Tim Petrie

February 12 & February 19th

8:00am - Team E7	10:30am - Team L5
Mike Vick (C)	Phil Manteufel (C)
Troy Kehoe (A)	Peter Lewke
Bruce Hatzinger	Cam Weiland
Isaac Peck	Dan Weiland
Bryan Peck	Josiah Schwartz
Jake Boness	Micah Schwartz

February 22nd, February 26th & March 1st

Team E1	Team L6
6:30pm February 22nd	10:30am February 26th
8:00am February 26th	6:30pm March 1st
Jeff Henning (C)	Paul Kehl (C)
Leo Fischer	Otto Mattke (A)
Matt Weidner	Dennis Winter
Gabe Weidner	Carl Wolf
Rodney Hacht	William Mattke
Mark Tiedt	Nils
	Johansson
	Shaun Opsahl

If you have any questions about the usher schedule, would like to be added as an usher or won't be able to serve any longer as an usher, please call Randy Koehn at (920) 296-4333.

WORSHIP WELCOMERS

February 5th

8:00am	10:30am
Delphine Schaefer	Rick & Lisa Gentz

February 12th

8:00am	10:30am
Jeff & Melody Krakow	Marcia Rewolinski & Arlene Sennhenn

February 19th

8:00am	10:30am
Kathy Harle & Joan Sennhenn	Otto & Sheree Mattke

February 26th

8:00am	10:30am
Delmar & Carol Vick	Bev Herold & Nicole Henning

If you are interested in being added as a greeter or need to be removed from the schedule, please contact Melody Krakow at (920) 210-6323.



Church Attendance December

Date	Total
4	257
7/12	360
14/18	521
24/25	650
31	77

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by February 17th.

Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or

suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Membership Changes

Transfer In:

None

Transfer Out:

None

Released:

None

Ministrations

Baptisms:

None

Deaths:

14. LaVerne Schulz
Born 6/20/1946; Died 12/3/2022
15. Derrick Larson
Born 4/2/67; Died 12/7/2022

Marriages:

None

Confirmations:

None

Affirmations of Faith:

None



John Potenberg	3rd	82	years
Sharon Mielke	13th	81	years
Delmar Vick	28th	84	years

RE-GIFT BINGO

Join your Zion friends and family on Sunday, February 26 from 1-3 in the fellowship hall for a fun afternoon of BINGO. Do you have any Christmas gifts you need to re-gift? Donate your unopened, unwanted gifts as BINGO prizes. Zion's fellowship committee has purchased some fabulous prizes as well. Feel free to bring a snack to pass. We are also looking for a few volunteers to be BINGO callers. Contact Rachel Grambsch if you have any questions or would like to be a caller. 414-489-0235

LENT: JESUS' FINAL STEPS

Lent, the season before Easter where we focus on the spiritual battle that Jesus fought as our suffering Savior and the spiritual battles we fight as his followers, begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. We will have worship opportunities every Wednesday through April 5 at both 3:30 and 6:30 (please make note of the new time for the second service). With a meal served from 4:30-6:00 each week. Watch the Weekly Word for information, service opportunities, and the meal plan. The theme for this year is "Jesus' Final Steps." Pastors from Zion and from Portage, Fall River and Pardeeville will be leading us in worship this year. Please plan on joining us!

A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Historically, the reputation of the elders of any given church has been that of "the people who visit the delinquents" or "the guys who deliver offering envelopes and ask for money." Not so with our congregation! "The Goal of Zion's Board of Elders is to encourage its members to be nurtured in the Christian faith through worship and activity in congregation life."

To that end, our elders, volunteer visitors and pastors will be reaching out to ALL the members of our church over the next few months in the hope of visiting with you in person to encourage you in your faith, pray with you or for you, and discuss our ministry at Zion. We will not be asking for money or shaming anyone about church attendance records. Our hope is simply that we get to know each other better and have a stronger congregation by "Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3, EHV) When one of our visitors reaches out to you, please consider sitting down with them for a visit.

BUILDING FUND GIVING

This fall we will be conducting a capital campaign for our Building Fund. This will be an endeavor like we did four years ago. Last December our current one-year extension expired. We are requesting that members continue to contribute to the fund this year until the Fall campaign kicks in. One thing to consider... last year's giving to the Building Fund was down significantly. If it is within your ability and the Lord moves you to do so, please consider upping your giving. We are falling behind on our goals. With the Lord's help and to his glory, we can play a little catch-up before the end of summer. Your Stewardship Board



Weekly Word Week of January 22, 2023

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES: 9:15 AM

Coffee, treats and time together in God's Word.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY FROM JANUARY 15th THRU MARCH. 12th: THE BIBLE

What is the Bible? Why was it written? When was it written? How was it passed down to us? How are we to take its words? These are all questions worth asking, even if we've known the Bible our entire lives, or, it's fairly new to us. In our Sunday morning Bible study series from mid-January thru mid-March, we will discuss the answers to these questions. Please consider joining us for the conversation. The class schedule looks like this:

What the Bible Is (Jan. 15th)

2. The Bible Is God's Inerrant Word (Jan. 22nd)

3. The Bible Is Authoritative, Clear, Sufficient, and Powerful (Feb. 5th)

4. Errors about the Bible (Feb. 12th)

5. Why God Gave Us the Bible (Feb. 19th)

6. When the Books of the Bible Were Written (Feb. 26th)

7. How the Bible Came Down to Us Pt. 1 (Mar. 5th)

8. How the Bible Came Down to Us Pt. 2 (Mar. 12th)

If you have any questions about this Bible study, please speak with one of our pastors. We hope to see you there!

CHRISTIAN ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

Pastor Jon Kehren, our district Christian Giving Counselor, will present a Christian Estate Planning Seminar on Sunday, **January 29** from 9:15 am to 10:15 am. Come and learn about the blessings of wise estate planning that gives a witness to your Christian faith, preserves wealth for your heirs, minimizes taxes, and maximizes gifts for ministry. At the seminar, you will have an opportunity sign up for a free and confidential meeting with him to help you get started on an estate plan or review an existing plan.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Everyone is invited to our annual congregational meeting today following the second service. We will be voting for new council members, approving some budget items and hearing updates from the various areas of our ministry here at Zion.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2022 Zion Annual Reports will be available at the Annual Congregation meeting and on the back counter in the entryway of church.

2022 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2022 member contribution statements will be available in the church entryway starting today through January 29th.

K4/KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT

Zion is hosting a K4 and Kindergarten Information Night on Tuesday, **February. 7th** at 6:00 pm. This is for any family with children turning 4 or 5 by **September 1, 2023**.

Principal Chad Grambsch will present on different aspects of Zion Lutheran School. Niki Schwartz and Rachel Grambsch will speak about Zion's K4 and Kindergarten programs. Parents will learn about Zion School, learn about their child's classroom, and students will get to do activities in their future classroom. Free childcare will be provided for future students and their siblings during these parent meetings. Feel free to invite friends or pass on this information to others. If you cannot make this time, and/or would like to schedule a meeting, please contact the school office: office@zioncrusaders.com.

2023 MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE

The 14TH ANNUAL Men of His Word Conference (Theme: MAN UP: in a man down world) will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, **February 18, 2023**. These conferences have been very beneficial to men from all walks of life in our congregation. If you are interested in carpooling to this event please call text or email Matt Vosberg at 920-210-3817 or mattyv_80@hotmail.com.

Go to www.menofhisword.org to register and get details about schedule, breakout sessions, keynote speaker, cost, etc. Please join us for a day of worship, praise and fellowship in God's Word!

2023 WELS COULEE WOMEN'S RETREAT

Save the date! **April 22, 2023**

Luther High School—Onalaska, WI

This retreat provides an opportunity for WELS/ELS women and their friends to gather together, encourage each other with God's Word, and go forth to share God's Word with others. Registration forms and itinerary will be available soon at www.facebook.com/WCWRetreat.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Income and Expense Statement
 GENERAL FUND 01, December 2022

01/19/2023 10:52 AM

Page: 1

	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Percentage
INCOME				
CONTRIBUTION INCOME				
UNRESTRICTED	\$83,457.30	\$399,879.35	\$0.00	0.00%
DONOR RESTRICTED	8,835.99	14,470.27	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Contribution Income	92,293.29	414,349.62	0.00	0.00%
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	6,717.71	60,709.92	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL INCOME	99,011.00	475,059.54	0.00	0.00%
EXPENSES				
FIXED EXPENSES				
CALLED WORKER PAYROLL	\$29,903.69	\$177,346.10	\$185,679.00	95.51%
SUPPORT STAFF	4,105.46	21,629.06	25,005.00	86.50%
BENEFITS	22,141.63	92,210.89	110,194.50	83.68%
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	839.35	6,528.82	9,799.98	66.62%
BUILDING & GROUNDS	7,141.83	47,782.34	56,455.02	84.64%
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	64,131.96	345,497.21	387,133.50	89.24%
DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES				
OUTSIDE SUPPORT	8,674.00	51,944.00	51,519.00	100.82%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	488.12	2,285.45	2,000.04	114.27%
WORSHIP/MUSIC	2,203.84	3,623.72	6,625.08	54.70%
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	0.00	389.55	3,250.02	11.99%
ELDERS	0.00	0.00	49.98	0.00%
STEWARDSHIP	286.53	1,686.17	1,650.00	102.19%
FAMILY MINISTRY	0.00	885.40	1,600.08	55.33%
Subtotal Departments/committees	11,652.49	60,814.29	66,694.20	91.18%
OTHER EXPENSES				
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	0.00	510.00	750.00	68.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	75,784.45	406,821.50	454,577.70	89.49%
TRANSFER ACCOUNTS				
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	-\$3,902.24	-\$70,640.58	\$0.00	0.00%
TOTAL TRANSFERS	-3,902.24	-70,640.58	0.00	0.00%
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$19,324.31	-\$2,402.54	-\$454,577.70	0.53%

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

December 2022

Previous Month Assets	\$150,582.04	
Total Transactions	-\$2,865.17	
Total Current Assets	\$147,716.87	
		\$140,351.94
		<i>checking/savings</i>

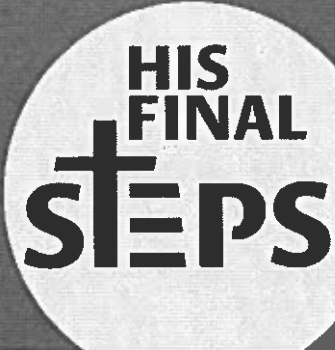

***** Monthly Statements *****

Accounts	Undesignated Checking	Undesignated Savings	NEW Church/School Fund Savings	NEW Church/School Checking	Explanation
Previous Balance	\$576.87	\$6,907.48	\$59,667.08	\$83,430.61	
Monthly Transactions*	(\$129.88)	\$10.46	\$78,093.12	(\$80,838.87)	
Current Balance	\$446.99	\$6,917.94	\$137,760.20	\$2,591.74	
	Transactions				
	(\$150.00) Joan Marks	\$10.46 12/30 interest	\$3,108.08 12/6 trans	\$0.08 Missed on 9/13	
	\$20.00 12/20 refund		(\$5,425.00) 12/6 Am Bank	-\$2606.45 12/1 check #2294	
	\$0.12 12/30 interest		\$2,000.00 12/9 Deposit	(\$1,365.00) 12/5 check #2295	
			\$1,656.46 12/10 Varco	-\$4867.50 12/5 check #2296	
			\$80.00 12/16 Deposit	(\$72,000.00) 12/30 Trans to savings	
			\$1,157.00 12/20 Varco		
			\$1,266.08 12/20 Trans		
			\$1,693.08 12/20 Trans		
			(\$5,425.00) 12/20 Am Bank		
			\$2,970.00 12/21 Deposit		
			\$943.08 12/27 Trans		
			\$1,979.46 12/30 Varco		
			\$72,000.00 12/30 Trans from checking		
			\$89.88 12/30 interest		
	Monthly Transactions TOTAL	(\$129.88)	\$10.46	\$78,093.12	(\$80,838.87)
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	(\$2,865.17)				
			Notes: \$20,000 in New Church/School Savings is designated for New School Building seed money.		

Wednesday Worship
in Lent
Begins Ash Wednesday
February 22

3:30 and 6:30 PM

Supper between services

All the details in
the Weekly Word.

K4/Kindergarten
Information Night

Tuesday, February 7 at 6pm

**100
MISSIONS
IN 10 YEARS**

WELS HOME MISSIONS 2023-2033

A WELS Home Missions initiative to plant
100 new home mission churches and enhance
75 existing ministries from 2023-2033.

wels.net/100in10



The Bible

Sunday Bible Study

Jan. 15 – Mar. 12



Newsletter of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

The Messenger

Return Service Required

822 Western Avenue
Columbus, WI 53925

ZION
LUTHERAN



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 50
Columbus, WI