

# The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



I have the sense of being a bad person.  
**Can God help me understand what's wrong with me?**

No, I am not the parent on the nightly news—the mother arrested for badly mistreating her children. But sometimes I am irritated when my baby wakes me up four times in one night, when my toddler throws a tantrum in the grocery store, when my teen defiantly shatters the curfew.

No, I am not the high-profile executive under investigation for embezzling millions from his company's pension fund. But I am also not the philanthropist donating millions to a children's hospital. I am easily irritated by co-workers constantly begging me to buy candy bars to support their children's soccer team. I admit I envy the latest lottery winner from our state.

What is wrong with me? I scan the latest "self-help" books in the library and read "self-esteem" articles in my magazines, but I still do not feel like the "good" person I want to be.

Friend, is your conscience kicking you? We often try to silence that voice of "right" and "wrong" because it condemns us for not living up to God's expectations. We are supposed to be as good as God! But we are not good, not good enough for God.

The truth is that all people fail to live perfect lives.

Unfortunately, everyone else's failures will not excuse me for becoming angry, for being greedy, for failing to keep all of God's commands. Fortunately, God has loved all people so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from the punishment we deserve for all our failures.

How did Jesus save us? Throughout his life, Jesus perfectly obeyed every one of his Father's commands. Despite his absolutely innocent life, Jesus was put to death on a cross, where God punished his Son for our sins. Jesus suffered the death we deserved for our disobedience. Amazingly, God now considers us "perfect" because Jesus lived perfectly as our substitute.

Mercifully, because Jesus died as our substitute, God forgave us. In Jesus, God declares us "righteous."

The Bible tells us, "When our hearts condemn us"—if we sense that we are not as good as we should be—"God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." God knows

"Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." God knows he traded Jesus' goodness for our not being good enough. God knows he put Jesus to death to give us life—life that will last forever. Now, whenever our mistakes get us down, we can turn to God, who assures us that through Jesus, we are righteous. Forgiven. Perfect.

Wednesday Worship  
in Lent  
Begins Ash Wednesday  
February 22

3:30 and 6:30 PM

Supper between services



Worship with Us!

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

*Sunday School and Bible Study between services*

Wednesdays in Lent (Feb 22-Mar 29)

3:30 and 6:30 PM

*Supper served between services*

# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

## March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 8:00 AM Worship, Communion Online Worship Posted 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship: Communion	6 MAPS Testing 6:30 Board of Ed	7 MAPS Testing 1:30 K4-4th Grade Production 4-5:00 6-7, 8 Grade Catechism 6:30 K4-4th Grade Production 6:30 Elders 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	1 3:30 Lent Worship Grades 1-4 Sing 4:30-6:00 Supper 6:30 Lent Worship 7:30 Choir	2 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 2:00 Ladies Aid 6:00 Bell Choir	3 6:00 Bible Breakfast	4 10:30 - 4 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
12 Daylight Savings Begins 8:00 AM Worship Online Worship Posted 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	13 No School - Spring Break 9:30 Pastors Circuit Meeting 6:30 Stewardship Board	14 No School - Spring Break 4-5:00 6-7, 8 Grade Catechism 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	15 No School - Spring Break 3:30 Lent Worship 4:30-6:00 Supper 6:30 Lent Worship 7:30 Choir	16 No School - Spring Break 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Church council	17 No School - Spring Break St. Patrick's Day 6:00 Bible Breakfast	18
19 8:00 AM Worship Online Worship Posted 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	20	21 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 6:00 PATZ 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	22 LLHS Warrior for a Day 3:30 Lent Worship 4:30-6:00 Supper 6:30 Lent Worship 7:30 Choir	23 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 6:00 Bell Choir	24 6:00 Bible Breakfast	25 10-5 Fellowship Hall Reserved
26 8:00 AM Worship, Communion Online Worship Posted 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship: Communion	27 9-10:30 Sanctuary: Monthly Cleaning	28 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	29 3:30 Lent Worship 4:30-6:00 Supper 6:30 Lent Worship 7:30 Choir	30 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 6:00 Bell Choir	31 6:00 Bible Breakfast	

## Hildebrandts

**“We wanted to be sure of a strong foundation for them...”**

1. *Let's start with your family: Where did you grow up? How did you meet and marry?*

We both grew up and graduated from Beaver Dam. We met at a bar and grill while out with friends in our late 20's not knowing each other prior to that night. We fell in love and married a few years later in Door County WI. It makes me still smile knowing that God truly has a plan. All those years crossing the hallways and possibly passing each other not even knowing that he was the man of my dreams :)

2. *What do you want people to know about each of your kids?*

Nolen's a passionate young man and fun big brother. He enjoys traveling all over the place and meeting lots of new people. He always loves a good conversation about the world we live in and talking politics. Harvey's caring for others and an athletic little boy. He enjoys playing cards with dad and is competitive when it comes down to any game. He works hard taking care of his goats and is ready to get some new animals when we move back to Columbus. Edie's a shy girl until you get to know her. She's always cheerful and wants to play at the park any opportunity she has. She's so excited to start school and make some new friends. She's tumbling on Tuesdays and loves playing with her toys. Norma will be coming soon in May! The kids make our hearts warm and we enjoy the time we all have together as a family.

3. *What you do for a living?*

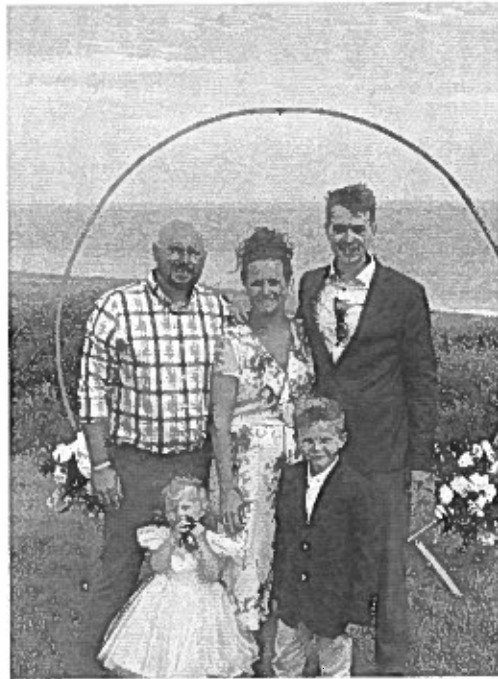
Jeremy's an electrician and Jennifer's in cabinetry sales

4. *When you have time off, what do you like to do/ where would you like to go?*

When we have time off, we stay busy! We don't take lots of time off but when we do we make the most of our time. Traveling and working on projects always keeps us busy. We love going to new places and setting goals for new adventures. Going for walks is something we enjoy doing when finished at work.

5. *Have you been Christian all your life or did you come to faith later than when you were kids? How have things changed for you in regard to your spiritual life over the years?*

Yes, we both grew up with a Christian faith. It grew stronger when we had children knowing we wanted to be sure of a strong foundation for them. We both want the best Christian faith for our family and the children. Making sure they understand to be grateful for the life we live and how we treat others is very important to us.



6. *If you are inviting someone to come to church, what do you tell them?*

We've told several friends the way we feel when we attend Zion church. It's always welcoming and inviting to all who join. It's so nice to see the smiles and familiar families every week. We really feel grateful to be part of Zion.

7. *What are the hardest personal challenges to your faith that you face today? What do you do to deal with those challenges?*

We don't feel many challenges with our faith. One challenge we face is making worship every week. Between practices Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday; tournaments for baseball and wrestling - no excuse but we don't make it every Sunday. Recognizing that and trying to get better is what we work towards. Another challenge is how society views Christian living today. It's extremely disappointing when you hear that God can't be mentioned in schools, public events or is frowned upon. It doesn't affect our faith but it's unfortunate. We want our children to know that the life we live here on earth is only once so you need to do your best every day and enjoy the moments that God has given us... and to be proud of that!

8. *What challenges do you see facing our church in the near future? What do you hope stays the same?*

Challenges that we both see facing our church in the future are the struggles with today's culture or direction of society. This is a tough one because several people have different views on several subjects tending to vocalize it all on social media to cause such division. We don't go on Facebook or social media but I hear about the arguments that happen. It should be very easy, just be nice to each other.

# Holy Week Worship



Palm Sunday	April 2	8:00 & 10:30 am
Holy Thursday	April 6	3:30 & 6:30 pm
Good Friday	April 7	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Easter Dawn	April 9	6:00 am
Easter Day	April 9	8:00 & 10:30 am

*Breakfast served between services*

Newsletter of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

## The Messenger

Return Service Required

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Columbus, WI 53925



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## 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 Outreach	608-354-5131
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](mailto:office@zioncrusaders.com)  
[www.zioncolumbus.org](http://www.zioncolumbus.org)

**Tim Schwartz, Pastor**  
(509) 480-2967  
[tschwartz24@gmail.com](mailto:tschwartz24@gmail.com)

**Ben Zuberbier, Pastor**  
(920) 517-7940  
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**Chad Grambsch, Principal**  
(414) 313-4308  
[cgrambsch@zioncrusaders.com](mailto:cgrambsch@zioncrusaders.com)

**Don Schultz, Lakeside Principal**  
(920) 648-2321

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

## USHERS FOR MARCH

### March 1st

6:30pm - Team L6  
 Paul Kehl (C)  
 Otto Mattke (A)  
 Dennis Winter  
 Carl Wolf  
 William Mattke  
 Nil Johansson  
 Shaun Opsahl

### March 5th, March 8th & March 12th

Team E2	Team L7
8:00am - March 5th	10:30am - March 5th
6:30pm - March 8th	10:30am - March 12th
Dale Schilling (C)	Matt Huber (C)
Dale Gajdosik	Carter Huber
Kenneth Schulz	Jeremy Maas
Matt Yaroch	Korben Maas
Nick Yaroch	Brady Grambsch
Nate Yaroch	Michael Vertz

### March 12th, March 15th & March 19th

Team E3	Team L1
8:00am - March 12th	6:30pm - March 15th
8:00am - March 19th	10:30am - March 19th
Randy Koehn (C)	Tom Schultz (C)
Dan Retzlaff	Aaron Larson
Noah Litherland	James Kopfer
Steven Hahn	Brandon Lee
William Penterman	Max Larson
Brian Baney	Andy Tratar

### March 22nd, March 26th & March 29th

Team E4	Team L1
6:30pm - March 22nd	10:30am - March 26th
8:00am - March 26th	6:30pm - March 29th
Mark Lindell (C)	Dale Schultz (C)
Remington Lindell	Daniel Schultz
Roger Weiland (C)	Dylan Schultz
Bryce Weiland	Michael Hallberg
Brett Weiland	Nathan Hallberg
Norman Weiland	Henry Tews
Eric Turnquist (C)	

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

### March 5th

8:00am	10:30am
Emily Henning & Nancy Huebner	John & Sarah Brey

### March 12th

8:00am	10:30am
Jim & Jenny Greiling	Nils & Lara Johansson

### March 19th

8:00am	10:30am
Dale & Joyce Gajdosik	Aaron & Rachel Larson

### March 26th

8:00am	10:30am
Delphine Schaefer	Laurie Kirchberg & Pat Premo

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 January

Date	Total
1	174
5/8	303
12/15	297
19/22	286
26/29	235

## Membership Changes

### Transfer In:

None

### Transfer Out:

None

### Released:

None

## Ministrations

### Baptisms:

None

### Deaths:

1. Darryl Berndt  
Born 9/3/1959; Died 1/16/2023
2. Shirley Johnson  
Born 3/15/1933; Died 1/23/2023

### Marriages:

None

### Confirmations:

None

### Affirmations of Faith:

None



Delores Hasenfuss	4th	92 years
Harriette Moll	5th	93 years
Genevieve Setz	14th	84 years
James Kluetzman	23rd	80 years

## Future Need

Thanks to our gracious Lord and to the many members who gave faithfully at the end of last year, we were able to **pay off our line of credit** to Farmers & Merchants Bank. Based on giving trends and expenses from last February and March, that balance should be able to **remain at zero until the end of this March**. But then, we bump up against some **expensive obligations**, namely insurance. Property insurance and health insurance are both due to the tune of **more than \$19,000** and that is at the same time as our month end payroll is due that usually varies **between \$19,000 and \$20,000**. In the past, we have always been **reactive**, borrowing the money to meet our obligations and then paying it off later with interest. **What if we are proactive and increased our contributions starting now so that the borrowing is not necessary?** If we all increased our giving by a relatively small percentage, we could offset this future shortfall. The key words are **"starting now"**! Your Stewardship Board

## It's That Time Again

The IRS has just announced that the gates are now open to e-file your 2022 Federal Tax Returns. So...? Well now is a good time to start thinking about your refund if you are getting one. One thing to consider is that this is income, the government just didn't allow you to receive it for a few months. As income, perhaps you may want to give a portion of it back to the Lord. In fact, what a painless way to tithe! Giving 10% of you refund is a wonderful way to thank God for the many blessing that he bestowed upon you last year.

Jesus said, *"Then give to Caesar [IRS] what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."* Luke 20.25b

Your Stewardship Board

## Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by March 24th.

Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or

[suehenning25@gmail.com](mailto:suehenning25@gmail.com) if you have any questions.





## Weekly Word Week of February 19, 2023

### **REGULAR 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 moving forward looks like this:

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!

### **A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

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. If you would like to help with this aspect of our ministry in either visiting people or recordkeeping, please contact Noah Litherland at [nlitherland@vitaplus.com](mailto:nlitherland@vitaplus.com) or 608-354-5131

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

Funeral service was held for Dean Anderson on February 13th. We rejoice in knowing that Dean is now in heaven because of the victory over death our Savior won for us. Please keep his loved ones in your prayers. Ask that God would grant them comfort and peace in Christ's cross and empty tomb.

### **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 **March 29th** at both 3:30 and 6:30 (please make note of the new time for the second service). 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!

### **LENTEN MEALS**

Join us each Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 for some food and fellowship with your Zion family. Each meal is hosted by a group from Zion. Our first meal is **February 22nd** and is hosted by the Zion parents' and teachers' group (PATZ). They will be serving a spaghetti dinner with sides, desserts, and drinks. The freewill offering will help them provide fabulous fellowship activities for little or no charge. A supper will be provided each week. Watch the Weekly Word for a meal update.

### **MEMORIALS**

We would like to thank everyone that gave memorials for Sharon Salzwedel and Shirley Johnson. We rejoice in your generosity from hearts touched by His resurrection promises.

### **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

### **NEW ZION STAFF MEMBER**

Zion is pleased that Erica Cox has joined the staff at Zion. Erica will be working in the office Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 until 10:00. Please say Hi and welcome Erica.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Income and Expense Statement**  
 GENERAL FUND 01, January 2023

02/16/2023 04:13 PM

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Percentage
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>CONTRIBUTION INCOME</b>				
UNRESTRICTED	\$59,300.22	\$459,179.57	\$0.00	0.00%
DONOR RESTRICTED	2,614.46	13,050.45	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Contribution Income	61,914.68	472,230.02	0.00	0.00%
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>				
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	406.62	61,116.54	0.00	0.00%
	0.00	4,034.28	0.00	0.00%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>62,321.30</b>	<b>537,380.84</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>FIXED EXPENSES</b>				
CALLED WORKER PAYROLL	\$29,558.09	\$208,507.87	\$216,625.50	96.25%
SUPPORT STAFF	4,112.53	25,840.70	29,172.50	88.58%
BENEFITS	11,797.22	102,388.35	128,560.25	79.64%
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	1,168.91	7,797.73	11,433.31	68.20%
BUILDING & GROUNDS	10,495.50	58,277.84	65,864.19	88.48%
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	57,132.25	402,812.49	451,655.75	89.19%
<b>DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES</b>				
OUTSIDE SUPPORT	8,974.00	60,818.00	60,105.50	101.19%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	412.99	2,698.44	2,333.38	115.65%
WORSHIP/MUSIC	263.39	3,887.11	7,729.26	50.29%
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	0.00	389.55	3,791.69	10.27%
ELDERS	0.00	0.00	58.31	0.00%
STEWARDSHIP	304.90	1,991.07	1,925.00	103.43%
FAMILY MINISTRY	724.49	1,609.89	1,866.76	86.24%
Subtotal Departments/committees	10,679.77	71,394.06	77,809.90	91.75%
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>				
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	150.00	660.00	875.00	75.43%
Subtotal Other Expenses	150.00	660.00	875.00	75.43%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>67,962.02</b>	<b>474,866.55</b>	<b>530,340.65</b>	<b>89.54%</b>
<b>TRANSFER ACCOUNTS</b>				
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	-\$15,021.78	-\$85,662.36	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>-15,021.78</b>	<b>-85,662.36</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$20,662.50</b>	<b>-\$23,148.07</b>	<b>-\$530,340.65</b>	<b>4.36%</b>

# Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

January 2023

Previous Month Assets	\$147,716.87
Total Transactions	\$933.33
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$148,650.20</b>

New Church/School Total	\$141,435.18
checking/savings	

Accounts	Undesignated		Monthly Statements		NEW Church/School
	Checking	Savings	NEW Church/School Fund Savings	NEW Church/School Checking	
Previous Balance	\$446.99	\$5,917.94	\$137,760.20	\$2,591.74	
Monthly Transactions*	(\$149.91)	\$0.00	\$1,083.24	\$0.00	
Current Balance	\$297.08	\$6,917.94	\$138,843.44	\$2,591.74	
	(\$150.00) Joan Marks 1/5		(\$5,425.00) AM Bank 1/3/23		
	\$0.09 Interest 1/05		\$1,228.08 Trans		
			\$1,602.46 Vanco 1/6/23		
			\$215.00 misc deposit 1/6/23		
			\$6,633.08 trans 1/13/23		
			\$222.00 contributions 1/15/23		
			(\$5,425.00) Am Bank 1/17/23		
			\$1,123.08 Trans 1/17/23		
			\$1,337.46 Vanco 1/20/23		
			\$768.08 Trans 1/24/23		
			\$699.00 Contributions 1/29/23		
			(\$5,425.00) Am Bank 1/31/23		
			\$2,740.00 Trans 1/31/23		
			\$790.00 Trans		
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	(\$149.91)	\$0.00	\$1,083.24	\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL TRANSACTIONS</b>	<b>\$933.33</b>				

Notes: \$20,000 in New Church/School Savings is designated for New School Building seed money.