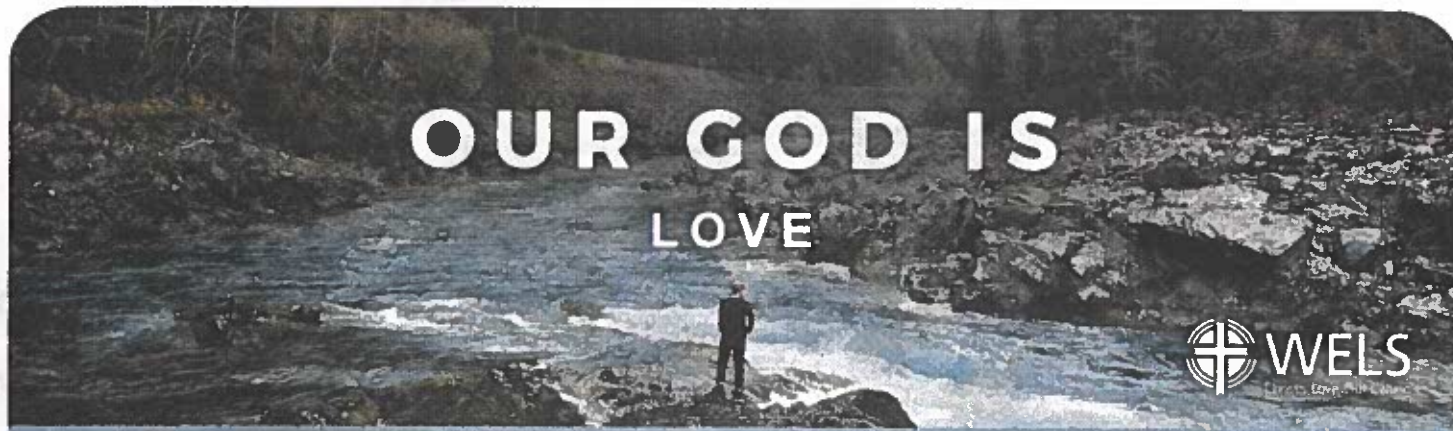


The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



"How much do you love me?" Brenda asked her two-year-old son. Jonah held out his hands about a foot apart and said, "I love you this much." Paul turned to Jonah's twin sister and asked her, "Hannah, how much do you love me?" Hannah extended her hands as far apart as they would go. "I love you this much," she said.

Four-year-old Kevin was watching closely. When Brenda and Paul asked him how much he loved them, they expected him to copy the actions of his younger brother and sister. Instead, he spread his arms out in front of him as wide as possible and then curled them down and behind his back until they met. Kevin said, "This is how much I love you, all the way around."

Brenda and Paul looked at each other in amazement. Kevin understood that the greatest love is all-encompassing!

If your sweetheart asks you how much you love her on Valentine's Day, you probably should not just stretch out your arms. You probably shouldn't even curl them behind your back, unless you have a gift hidden there!

Yet, it is in the outstretched arms of Jesus that we know the love God has for us—all of us.



Perhaps you have seen pictures of Jesus with his arms spread wide on the cross. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

Valentine's Day is a good day to express your love for the special people in your life. It is also a good time as Christians to remember that "We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them" (1 John 4:16). Join us at church to celebrate more of God's love.

WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAY 8:00 and 10:30 AM

THURSDAY 6:30 PM

Social distancing, mask requirements in place.

ONLINE SERVICE uploaded every Sunday by 8:00
at www.zioncolumbus.org

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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

Alex Vandenberg, Principal

(507) 353-0719

avandenberg@zioncrusaders.com

Jim Grasby, Lakeside Principal

(920) 648-2321



Council Names and Numbers

Dan Retzlaff, Chairman	920-319-0018
Don Lamb, Vice-Chairman	920-382-4338
Nick Uebelacker, Secretary	608-225-8861
Will Penterman, Treasurer	920-750-8763
Andrew Tratar, Education	920-296-1485
Bruce Zander, Elders	920-438-4014
Nils Johansson, Outreach	608-239-5123
Jim Greiling, Property	920-948-1746
Otto Mattke, Stewardship	608-516-5279
Craig Lathrop, Family Ministry	608-770-2498

Thanks
be to God
for his
incredible
gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

Greeter Schedule



February 7th

8:00am — E5

Emily Henning &
Nancy Huebner

10:30am — L11

John & Sarah Brey

February 14th

8:00am — E6

Jim & Jenny Greiling

10:30am — L12

Nils & Lara Johansson

February 21st

8:00am — E7

Dale & Joyce Gadjosik

10:30am — L13

Aaron & Rachel Larson

February 28th

8:00am — E8

Wilma Lenz &
Joan Herzberg

10:30am — L1

Janell Allar &
Kay Salzwedel

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.



February 7th

8:00am - Team E2

Dale Schilling (C)

Dale Gajdosik

Randy Vick

Kenneth Schulz

Matt Yaroch

Nick Yaroch

Nate Yaroch

10:30am - Team L6

Otto Mattke (C)

Paul Kehl (A)

Dennis Winter

Carl Wolf

William Mattke

Nils Johansson

Shaun Opsahl

February 14th, February 17th, February 28th

8:00am - February 14th

7:00pm - February 17th

Team E3

Randy Koehn (C)

Dan Retzlaff

Noah Litherland

Jim Stadler

Josiah Schwartz

Will Penterman

10:30am - February 14th

10:30am - February 21st

Team L7

Matt Huber (C)

Carter Huber

Jeremy Maas

Peter Klokow

Jack Klokow

Brady Grambsch

Michael Vertz

February 21st, February 24th, February 28th

8:00am - February 21st

8:00am - February 28th

Team E4

Mark Lindell (C)

Remington Lindell

Roger Weiland (C)

Bryce Weiland

Brett Weiland

Norman Weiland

Eric Turnquist (C)

7:00pm - February 24th

10:30am - February 28th

Team L1

Tom Schultz (C)

Aaron Larson

James Kopfer

Dayne Kopfer

Brandon Lee

Brian Vierck

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 (608) 296-4333.



**Church Attendance
December 2020**

Date	Total
2/6	228
9/13	265
16/20	247
24/25/27	608
31	46

Membership Changes

Transfer Out: None
Transfer In: None
Profession of Faith: Becky King
Confirmation: Christina Nickol 12/24/2020

Ministrations

Death:
 10. Darlene Parpart
 Born 6/24/1940; Died 12/11/2020.



John Potenberg 3rd 80 years
 Delmar Vick 28th 82 years

Zion's Ladies Society

Our next Ladies Society meeting will be Thursday, February 4th at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please wear a mask for health reasons.



If anyone in our congregation knows of someone that could be on our shut-in list, please contact any Ladies Society member or call Judy Vick at 623-3864.

After a discussion of upcoming events, we will have a chance to socialize.

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by February 16th.

Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.





LLHS FEDERATION CONNECTION

920-648-2321 • info@llhs.org • 231 Woodland Beach Rd. Lake Mills, WI 53551

The dedication of Valentine

The story of Valentine is not widely known among Lutherans.

Valentine was a priest in 3rd century Rome. He lived at a time of Christian persecution. Emperor Claudius mandated worship only of the gods of the Council of 12. This made worship of the Triune God illegal. It was even criminal to associate with Christians. Yet, Valentine's dedication to Christ did not waiver. Eventually, he was arrested and imprisoned for performing the marriage ceremonies of Christian couples.

While imprisoned, Valentine taught the blind daughter of one of his guards. In particular, he taught her about God. From his cell, he wrote her letters—perhaps the earliest form of Valentine's cards. Eventually, the Holy Spirit led this girl to faith in Jesus.

On the night before his execution, Valentine wrote one last note to his young student. He urged her to remain faithful to God. He signed it, "From your Valentine." His death sentence was carried out the following day, February 14, circa 270 AD. Legend says that the girl planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree symbolizes love and friendship.



On February 14, messages of affection, love, and devotion flood the world. It is ironic that Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday—two days that appear to be opposites—are often close to one another on the calendar. The former reminds us

of a human's dedication to the Christian faith. The latter marks the road on which our Savior began his journey to the cross.

However, it would not be wholly incorrect to see the origin of Valentine's Day in Christ's love. During Lent, we hear an unparalleled love story transcending human love. It is the account of Christ's great love for us. It is a love that led him to suffer and die for our sins. Through faith in him alone, we have the assurance of forgiveness and eternal life in heaven.

Our Savior says, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:12-13).

Thank God for the greatest love of all—Christ's love—that led the one and only Son of God to live and die for sinners.

*Jim Grasby is principal of Lakeside Lutheran High.
Reach him at 920.648.2321 or jgrasby@llhs.org*



EXCITING NEWS! It's paid!

Because of the generosity of many for many years, the LLHS building mortgage has been satisfied. What this means for the future is no less thrilling: it's time to focus on opportunities we had put aside until we retired this loan. A recent staff survey that asked for areas to improve, renew or develop resulted in more than 80 ideas, both modest and large-scale projects. It's time to plan!



Best of all? Our new "Building Improvement Fund" plans to use debt-free spending to accomplish the projects chosen for development.

...every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights (James 1:17)

In memoriam: Pastor/Principal Lloyd Huebner

1925-2020

Married for almost 70 years, Lloyd and Inez Huebner passed into glory within 24 hours of each other in early December 2020. Pastor Huebner served as our first principal and teacher at LLHS from 1958-1967. He oversaw the transition from Jefferson County Lutheran High School in Fort Atkinson to our current Lake Mills site that began in 1961, and read the dedicatory rite before more than 4,000 supporters who had gathered on campus at the dedication service in November 1963.

A celebration of life service is being planned for June 2021.



While we share in the sorrow of lost companionship, we rejoice with the Huebner family, confident in Lloyd's own words about the treasure of fellowship in faith: "Lakeside is dear to all of us because the Holy Spirit has given us memories which are woven together by the golden thread of our faith in Jesus, pointing us to our eternal home in heaven." (from his article in the 2008 Lakeside 50th anniversary booklet)

LAKESIDE "TOP TEN" *of* 2020

While we look forward to the blessings a new year brings, there's value—and fun!—in reviewing the past year. The LLHS good news team took its annual look at the 56 news stories and 734 other Facebook posts shared in calendar year 2020 and narrowed them to 10 newsbits that garnered the most attention or celebrated God's blessing on our school, students, and LLHS community. Read the full article at

llhswarriorstories.wordpress.com



10 February speaks to forensic dominance: read about Lakeside's tenth straight conference championship

9 July graduation is a beautiful new close: another first: outdoor graduation service on the football field.

8 February doesn't VEX these seniors: our 3-year old robotics program sends a team to state competition

7 February rolls in another new club: the new co-op bowling team strikes competition

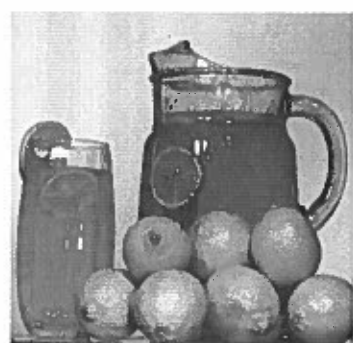
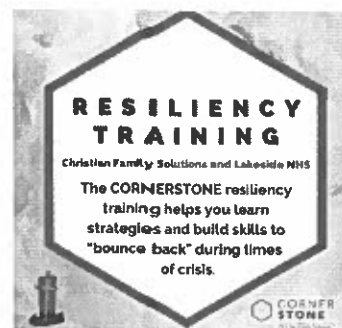
6 March lights up a brighter future: swapping LED lights for fluorescents brings 5-digit savings

5 September-November (& July) gets us back to play: all our fall sports team had seasons to celebrate

4 June & July march to the beat of a different drum: band members went on the road in a new way this summer

3: August brings two new STEM Academy courses: Our STEM Engineering track is complete with the addition of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Essentials. Other courses in the PLTW™ track are Intro to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering.

2: December begins another LL first in the nation: We are the first high school in the nation to offer resiliency training through a curriculum titled "Cornerstone: A Faith-fueled Resilience Program," a program developed by Christian Family Solutions.



1: March-December turn lemons into lemonade: Both faculty and students used the spring shutdown to show their adaptability and growth mindsets in the brave new world of virtual schooling. More than 20 teachers report they utilized at least two—and some up to nine—online tools they had not used prior to the shift to online, ranging from the very common Zoom online meeting, Google Classroom assignment management, and Screencastify video recording technologies, to more interactive apps such as Flipgrid, EdPuzzle, Kahoot and 20 other teacher-reported tools.

Student commitment to their education was borne out in the 4th quarter honor roll that did not show a decline from previous quarters. Students also learned Zoom and other tools, but perhaps even more critical were the development of patience and positive attitudes, exemplified by initiatives such as student-led "Lift teams" that lifted the spirits of teachers and the community through encouraging and service-minded activities, such as when students showed their appreciation for teachers by making at home visits and leaving some cookies—and love. (Teachers reciprocated with pictorial passage collages, reminding Warriors that they were still in teachers' hearts and prayers.)

While the consensus is that returning to in-person instruction has been good for both students and teachers, the "forced" shift in spring has had residual benefits when it comes to support services for absent students during the fall semester of the 2020-21 school year, and an overall preparedness for future "pivots." Some other notable stories from the year that are connected to pandemic cancellations include:

- Some teachers put their creativity on display during online time with students. Read examples online!
- With FFA assistance, Admissions Director Steve Lauber interacted with the second graders missing their annual campus visit when he sent a video, seed packets and instructions to their elementary classroom teachers for virtual botany class.
- With his videographer's hat on, Mr. Hackbarth created the Lakeside edition of "Some Good News" where we could see familiar faces, take a stroll down memory lane, and see how our Warrior witnesses were lights in their community.
- The 9th annual Grand Event fundraiser was required to move to an 100% online event late in the game and the Warrior family showed their generous support by raising over \$80,000 even when they could not gather for fellowship and feasting.
- We held a virtual Academic Awards event to celebrate another year of academic effort and student leadership.
- In May, soph Will Popp spearheaded a Warrior tribute project, creating a personalized "class of 2020" sign for each of our 92 seniors.
- Because Teens for Christ can't host New Friends in person, Teens remembered those friends by creating and dropping off Blessings Bags. Each bag included crafts and treats, handwritten notes, and pictures from past New Friends afternoons.
- No grandparents to campus, so we held a Grand Connection Day mail station. Thanks to over 200 sets of grandparents, 199 students received cards, photos, and gifts. On Veterans Day, we displayed submitted photos of vets and lined sidewalks with more than 100 flags.



LLHS: 20-648-2321 • office@llhs.org • 231 Woodland Beach Rd. • Lake Mills, Wis. 53551



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Statement
December 2020**

	Dec 2020	<i>Estimated Monthly Budget</i>	Fiscal Year to Date Jul 20 - Dec 20	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Church Picnic Income	-		-	
Extra Synod Missions Income	600.00		2,248.00	
General Fund Offerings	68,850.22		344,301.86	
LLHS Building Income	-		25.00	
Other Donations	(1,277.50)		(4,798.45)	
Other Receipts	253.00		334.75	
WLCFS Income	-		-	
WLIM Income	-		-	
Total Income	68,425.72		342,111.16	
Expense				
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	26,252.46	28,152.17	170,738.99	337,826.00
Church Supplies	1.85	454.17	963.93	5,450.00
Convention/Cont' Education	-	83.33	-	1,000.00
Copier	577.49	275.00	1,007.02	3,300.00
Elders Board	-	20.83	-	250.00
Family Ministry Board	(159.76)	350.00	(7.18)	4,200.00
Guest Pastor	-	125.00	573.00	1,500.00
Health Insurance	8,418.39	8,504.17	42,023.34	102,050.00
HRA Savings	4,000.00	1,500.00	12,500.00	18,000.00
Interest Expense	-	166.67	-	2,000.00
Custodial	1,567.74	1,950.00	6,665.26	23,400.00
LLHS Building Expense	-	-	25.00	-
LLHS Expense	2,750.00	2,750.00	16,500.00	33,000.00
Maintenance	1,886.30	4,150.00	13,972.85	49,800.00
Meditations	-	125.00	737.00	1,500.00
Mileage	500.00	500.00	2,696.24	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	-	12.50	75.41	150.00
Organists	777.23	566.67	3,078.03	6,800.00
Outreach Board	(589.96)	666.67	5,292.00	8,000.00
Payroll Expenses	318.90	308.33	1,930.25	3,700.00
Pension Insurance	400.00	3,556.67	1,400.00	42,680.00
Postage and Delivery	208.14	150.00	445.04	1,800.00
Secretarial	2,064.50	2,144.17	12,442.40	25,730.00
Stewardship Board	251.72	291.67	2,130.28	3,500.00
Substitute Teaching	(18.02)	-	59.75	-
Sunday School/VBS	-	250.00	298.45	3,000.00
Synod Mission Expense	6,100.00	5,500.00	35,248.00	66,000.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	306.44	291.67	1,755.73	3,500.00
Utilities	4,834.41	1,827.08	14,746.44	21,925.00
WLCFS Expense	-	-	825.00	-
WLIM Expense	-	-	-	-
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	-	1,250.00	-	15,000.00
Worship	2,430.44	545.83	3,627.75	6,550.00
Total Expense	62,898.27	66,467.58	351,749.98	797,611.00

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

December 2020

Previous Month Assets	\$59,943.68
Total Transactions	\$12,637.43
Total Current Assets	\$72,581.11

New Church/School Total	\$68,090.70
checking/savings	

Accounts	Undesignated Checking	Explanation	Monthly Statements		NEW Church/School Checking	Explanation
			Undesignated Savings	NEW Church/School Fund Savings		
Previous Balance	\$145.83		\$4,492.36	\$52,636.97	\$2,668.52	
Monthly Transactions*	\$350.02		(\$497.80)	\$12,785.21	\$0.00	
Current Balance	\$495.85		\$3,994.56	\$65,422.18	\$2,668.52	

Transactions	(\$150.00)	loan Marks	(\$500.00)	12-1 deposit	\$418.00	
	\$500.00	12-8 deposit	\$2.20	12-2 deposit	\$200.00	
	\$0.02	Interest		12-3 deposit	\$150.00	
				12-4 deposit	\$1,642.50	
				12-7 deposit	\$140.00	
				12-8 deposit	\$80.00	
				12-8 Mortgage Payment	(\$5,425.00)	
				12-9 deposit	\$75.00	
				12-10 deposit	\$4,952.78	
				12-11 deposit	\$2,241.00	
				12-14 deposit	\$125.00	
				12-15 deposit	\$410.00	
				12-16 deposit	\$300.00	
				12-17 deposit	\$1,610.00	
				12-18 deposit	\$70.00	
				12-21 deposit	\$375.00	
				12-22 deposit	\$80.00	
				12-22 Mortgage payment	(\$5,425.00)	
				12-23 deposit	\$75.00	
				12-24 deposit	\$34.00	
				12-28 deposit	\$3,029.00	
				12-29 deposit	\$130.00	
				12-30 deposit	\$6,635.28	
				12-31 deposit	\$838.00	
				12-31 interest	\$24.65	
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	\$350.02		(\$497.80)		\$12,785.21	\$0.00
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$12,637.43					

Notes:

Interest Received	\$26.87
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TOGETHER




January 19, 2021

Encouraging financial results from 2020

We have great news to celebrate. Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) submitted by congregations to the synod in December totaled \$3.45 million, which was an increase from the previous December of 1.5%, or \$50,328. For the entire year of 2020, CMO totaled \$21.7 million, an increase of 2.3% (\$498,000) from the prior year and \$633,000 higher than the 2% increase that was projected. The 2021 CMO totals were the highest in history, eclipsing the previous high in 2008.

This blessing is especially amazing because it took place in a year when congregational worship was severely disrupted and the economy significantly impacted by COVID-19. Our thanks to God for his gracious providence and to the faithful way, motivated by the gospel, in which congregations and their members did not let a crisis get in the way of their support for the mission and ministry of our synod.

The synod's financial situation is in very good shape, thanks to the generous gifts of God's people and to the reduction in expenditures that resulted from less travel and fewer meetings. We pray that we will see similar blessings in the new year. And we continue to sing with the psalmist, "Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness" (Psalm 115:1).

The CMO 2021 subscription reporting process is well underway. The deadline for submitting CMO 2021 commitments is Fri., Feb. 5, at noon (Central). Thank you, in advance, for encouraging your congregations to record their commitments (along with 2020 statistics) by that date! 

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

Mission congregations offer aid during the pandemic

NELS Christian Aid and Relief and WELS Home Missions have teamed up to offer more than \$160,000 in pandemic relief matching grants to 24 mission congregations that are offering aid to those in their communities who are struggling. Grants were allocated in January.

“Our mission is to relieve suffering, to reach out to those who have been hit hard by something and help them through it, while we reflect the love of Jesus and gain opportunities to share the good news of Jesus as their Savior,” says Rev. Daniel Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. “It’s easy to look at the pandemic as a problem—and it is—but it’s also a tremendous opportunity to do exactly what our mission is set to do.”

These home missions were creative with their ideas, offering plans to provide food and supplies to families in need and counseling and support groups for those struggling with their mental health. Many are partnering with other community organizations, working closely with local homeless shelters and schools in their area.

Hope in the Heights, Houston, Texas, a home mission that started in 2019, is supporting its local Chamber of Commerce’s Adopt-a-Teacher program, which provides teachers with needed supplies,

personal gifts, support, and prayers during these trying times. “With all the stress that teachers have been under, we thought it would be a nice thing to help them out,” says Mr. Mark Hartman, a lay member at Hope. The congregation decided to support teachers from two of the schools in the congregation’s target area.


Besides helping the teachers, Hope asked each teacher to nominate two families who are struggling because of the pandemic so that Hope could provide groceries to those families.

Hope was so excited about the program that it decided to get started even before the grant money came through. “I just bought groceries for our 18th family since we started [last November],” says Hartman. “We’re glad this grant program came up—not only for the resources—but just to spur us on to come up with an idea to help our community.”

He continues, “When a program like this comes along, it gives you the opportunity to say, ‘I don’t have to worry about my budget, I can just go and bless these people in my community.’ ”

And people are appreciative of that help. One local elementary teacher e-mailed, saying, “I have had the pleasure of hearing the cheerful stories from my students that you purchased groceries for. I wish you could see the look on their faces! I wanted to thank you for

your generosity and kindness. This is definitely what this world needs more of." Another said, "I am truly humbled and blessed that a church and its congregation wanted to help teachers—and especially me."

Learn more about Christian Aid and Relief at wels.net/relief. Learn more about Home Missions at wels.net/missions. 

God's blessings on display

//Your gifts, God's blessings: An annual report to our members" is now available online. The report includes photos of Christian brothers and sisters around the world, stories of faith, and updates on WELS' ministry.

"Despite the challenges, disruptions, and distractions of the past year, God enabled our congregations to preach the saving gospel and find creative ways to worship," notes WELS President Mark Schroeder.

Learn more about

- Jordan Massiah, a student studying in the pastor track at Martin Luther College, who preached a sermon for chapel that was streamed online and shared via social media during spring 2020;
- Sure Foundation, Brandon, S.D., a home mission congregation that partnered with an area gym to include Bible-based vid-


eos as part of the gym's 21-Day Transformation program;

- Haris, a student in WELS' Pastoral Studies Institute, who reached out to the Muslims in his community with face masks and groceries to show them the love of Christ; and
- *The Christian Service Members' Handbook*, developed to help those in the military stay strong in their faith in places where a pastor or fellow believer might not be available.

These stories and more are presented in the 2021 edition of "Your gifts, God's blessings." As Rev. Kurt Lueneburg, director of WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, says, it "provides a meaningful review of the many ways that the Lord Jesus uses the offerings, prayers, and volunteer service of WELS members to share his good news with precious souls in North America and around the world. Such a review is beneficial in light of the significant Congregation Mission Offerings (\$21.7 million) and special gifts that WELS received in 2020."

Print versions of the report have been sent to every WELS congregation and individual donor. Additional print versions are available from Northwestern Publishing House for free. Visit nph.net or call 800-662-6022.

To view the report online, visit wels.net/annualreport. There you can also download a PowerPoint presentation of the report with notes that allow anyone to share

the highlights of our synod's work. Alternatively, churches can invite a WELS Christian giving counselor to give the presentation. Contact WELS Ministry of Christian Giving at 800-827-5482 for more information. 

Building a congregation's outreach culture

The Commission on Evangelism has developed a new program called Everyone Outreach to help focus congregations and their members on Jesus' command to make disciples.

"If you look at WELS churches that are growing, the main ingredient is that they have an outreach culture," says Rev. Eric Roecker, director of WELS Evangelism. "The idea of this program is to create that culture so that every member and every ministry are focused on reaching the lost. Then it becomes clear that outreach is not an afterthought or something the evangelism committee does. It is who we are and what we do."

This personal witnessing mindset is important in post-Christian America. "People who aren't interested in Christianity in any way aren't going to be reached by corporate outreach for the most part," says Roecker. "It's going to take each of us showing love to our unchurched friends and neighbors and then looking for opportunities to lead them to

the gospel."

Roecker is quick to point out that Everyone Outreach is not going to train people how to do outreach. Instead it is designed to help a congregation discover its thought habits and develop new thinking and behaviors that build a culture of outreach.

The program begins with a two-day workshop at the congregation, where facilitators will use group exercises and reflection, grounded in God's Word, to explore and adjust the congregation's culture.

But it isn't just a one-and-done experience for the congregation. Attendees will leave with an outreach partner and their own personal commitment statements for accountability and encouragement. The program also will provide ongoing support through e-mails, text messages, meeting starters, and sermon thoughts, which will reinforce the changes that were discussed in the workshop.

The commission has worked closely with Mr. Kurt Nitz, a lay member at Christ Our Savior, Rockford, Mich., and an expert on culture transformations, to put together the program. This spring, 40 pastors will be trained to facilitate the workshops, with the plan to start offering workshops to congregations this fall.

Learn more about Everyone Outreach at everyoneoutreach.com.



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit wels.net/together.

Zion Lutheran Church and School

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Day of Black History Month BB Away Randolph Christian (A-boy's only)	2 Zion Spelling Bee	3 Faculty Bible Study Pastoral Staff Meeting Pastor-Principal Meeting Catechism Class Grades 6-7, 8 Bell Choir Practice	4 BB Away St. Paul's, Ixonia Ladies Aid Worship with communion	5 BB Away St. Paul's, Ixonia Bible Breakfast 6:00 am	6 Pardeeville B-boys BB Tournament	
7 Epiphany 5 Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 8 & 10:30 Grades 7&8 Recording 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion	8 9:30 am Pastors Circuit Meeting *Board of Ed Meeting	9 7:00 pm Stewardship Board	10 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Catechism Class Grades 6-7, 8 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Council Meeting	11 6:30 pm Worship	12 Midterm Bible Breakfast 6:00 am	13 Juneau B-girls BB Tournament
14 Valentine's Day Transfiguration 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	15 Presidents' Day (regional holiday)	16 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 6-7, 8 6:00 pm PATZ Meeting	17 Ash Wednesday 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 3:30 pm Lent Worship 3:30 & 7 Grades 1-4 Recording 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lent Worship	18 No School: Teacher's Conference 6:30 pm Worship	19 No School: Teacher's Conference 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	20
21 Lent 1 Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	22 BB Home vs Eastside (A-teams only)	23 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 6-7, 8	24 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 3:30 pm Lent Worship 3:30 & 7 Grades 5&6 Recording 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lent Worship	25 6:30 pm Worship with communion	26 Zion Parent's Day Ixonia Classic A-team BB Tournament 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	27 Ixonia Classic A-team BB Tournament
28 Ixonia Classic A-team BB Tournament Lent 2 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship, Communion						

When Will I Stop Being Afraid?

By [Ed Frey](#)

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love," (1 John 4:18).

Creature Features was a TV show that aired late Saturday afternoons on WGN in Chicago. They showed classic horror movies like *The Werewolf*, *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *The Attack of the 50-foot Woman*, *The War of the Worlds*, *Godzilla*, *King Kong*—all those awful black-and-white films from the 1930s to the 1960s.

As a kid, it was fun to watch. You could be a scared for about an hour or so, and then you could return to your normal, un-scary life. The monster was killed; the aliens were defeated. Being scared is sort of fun when the danger isn't real, or the threat is not imminent.

It is not fun to be afraid in the "real" sense, though. Fear is an emotion that is so well known. It is produced by a sense of danger, real or perceived. It is a powerful emotion that can damage both the physical body and the state of the mind. Fear can block thought processes and make us do things that seem illogical. John Madden, of CBS Sports and Madden Football fame, used to crisscross the country in his customized bus, "The Madden Cruiser" because he is afraid of flying.

Fear is one of our first and strongest emotions. It is the first emotion Adam and Eve presented after the fall into sin. Adam admitted to God: "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid" (Genesis 3:10). Fear causes us to run from the problem rather than seek the solution.

There are a lot of people who are afraid these days. Panic, anxiety, worry, and concern all describe our world's emotional state.

So, when will this all end? When will we stop being afraid? Those are good questions. St. John gives us some answers in chapter four of his first epistle: *But perfect love drives out fear*. When love pushes out fear; that's when it ends.

Perfect love pushed back fear. It didn't remove the consequences of sin, but it provided him a way to press on and overcome. God's love is perfect love because it is complete love. It is love that finds fulfillment in promises made and kept.

Perfect love in Christ pushes back against fearful despair or defiance. The Lord is not saying, "Get with it! Start proving you love me, and I'll love you back!" He is simply calling us to use what we have been given. The Holy Spirit who transformed us by the perfect love of Christ has left a rich deposit of his love in our own hearts, and the more we give it away, the more we receive anew from the Spirit of God. We don't save ourselves, conform our hearts, transform our hostile minds, climb up to God's level or earn his love. God acts first. He first pushed back fear by demonstrating his perfect love in the redemptive work of his Son, Jesus Christ. The perfect love of Jesus is deliberate and intentional in its desire to sacrifice. Self-sacrifice. That is the nature of Christ. That is the essence of his love which is why it casts out fear.

Fear leads to self-preservation. Fear is always based on the unknown. The unknown factors these days are many: Will I have enough money? Will I have enough toilet paper? Will there be an economy left by the summer? Will my child graduate? Will I lose my job? In order to combat fear, it makes sense that we self-preserve. We stockpile. We push and shove. We shake our fists. We road rage. We wag our tongues and spew foul language. We lash out before someone lashes at us. We complain about the decisions our leaders make. We gripe about the lines at the store or gas pump. We label people as kooks or crooks.

That's fear. Survival of the fittest! That's not love, though. Jesus' love finds its fulfillment – its perfection and completion—in self-sacrifice. The perfect love of Christ finds its fulfillment in the hope to benefit to someone else. We find peace in Christ who meets us in our fears with his love and gives us a real reason for courage and hope. "Fear not; for I have overcome the world!" he promises (John 16:33). And so, we rise up to meet fear with courage, anger with kindness, and anxiety with calm. That means we respect our government, demonstrate Christian love to our fellow citizens, practice good health, and strive to take advantage of new opportunities for worship and study. Coronavirus is not the only thing that is contagious. Fear is contagious—but so is love.

Our Savior promises to meet us in our fears with his love. Christ is meeting us where we are during this time of crisis. Is the Lord using this situation to teach, correct, discipline, encourage, and equip us? Indeed, as he always does. But he is not punishing us! And the result? His love pushes back the fear. And we get to do that by the power of the Holy Spirit.



So, push back the fear. Let's think before we speak. Let's respond rather than react. Let's discern before we judge. Offer a helping hand of mercy instead of the accusatory index finger of blame. Ask someone: "How are you doing?" instead of shouting: "Just what do you think you are doing?" The Lord is providing us with incredible opportunities to let our light shine in ways that will serve our communities in Christian love.

How can the love of Christ push back the contagion of fear in your community? Maybe you know of at-risk residents on your block—the elderly, those with compromised immune systems, or other health risks. You could offer to make their grocery store runs for them.

Maybe there is a healthcare worker or first responder in your neighborhood. You could just check in on them to see how they are holding up. Push back the fear with the perfect love of Christ that is in you.

Maybe you pick up your dinner from the mom-and-pop restaurant that is struggling to stay afloat.

Is there a single person you know who is homebound, perhaps a widow or widower? Maybe you could go through your church directory and set aside a few minutes to talk to someone on the phone. Push back the fear with the love of Christ that is in you! We sacrifice a bit of ourselves and not just stockpile to preserve ourselves. Push back the fear with the perfect love of Christ in you.

If Americans are caught in a web of needs and fears, let's push back with the perfect love of Christ. The Lord is still in control. His Word is still effective. His love is perfect and all-sufficient. Bask in the promises by staying in the Word. Unleash the power of the Holy Spirit by putting your faith into action. Let's be the ones who step up in love and are ready to explain why we need not fear. We have perfect love. We have the Holy Spirit. That means you've got it in you. Let's push back the fear!