

# The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



Ever Wonder?  
Answers to  
Important Questions.



## What Is Eternal Life?

It is that time again when we encounter the change from the old year to the new. For some, the ushering in of a new year is a ritual of staying up until midnight to make a bunch of noise or perhaps sing an old song.

Yet, one way or another, the beginning of a new year is a time of reflection and planning. We take stock of what happened in the last year. We think of our pains, regrets, joys, surprises, births, and deaths. We also look to the future and ponder what we want to do differently in days to come.

In all of our planning, though, there is this unalterable fact that life here will end. Our time is finite. It has a limit. In fact, everything about this world has a limit.

The Bible tells us of one thing, however, that has no end. Referring to those who follow him, Jesus said, "I give them eternal life" (John 10:28). In view of our knowledge and experience of limited life in this world, we wonder what eternal life is.

Jesus explains, "***I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life***" (John 5:24). Life is being connected to God and his blessings. The opposite is death, which is

separation from God and his goodness. All people are born separated from God because, by nature, they are sinners. As a result, they are headed toward an eternal separation from God to be condemned in a very real place called hell.

But God did something very great. He sent the world a Savior who is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God. In an unmatched act of love, Jesus placed himself under our condemnation for sin. He willingly suffered the death sentence that all of us deserve.

Through Jesus, God has forgiven the world's sin, which separated people from him, and he gives the gift of eternal life. All who listen to the Savior and

believe in God who sent him have eternal life. By faith in the true God of salvation, they have crossed over from death to life. They do not face the fear of separation from God, but they rejoice in a close and blessed relationship with him now and forever.



What a great way to start a new year! We have the confidence that no matter what has happened in days gone by, and whatever the future holds, our life with God is secured forever by faith in Jesus.

## WORSHIP WITH US!

*Everyone Welcome*

Thursdays	6:30 pm
Sundays	8:00 and 10:30 am
Sunday School and Bible Study between Services	

# Zion Ev. Lutheran Church and School

January 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>2 Christmas 2</b> 8:00 am: Online Worship Posted 8:00 am: Worship, Communion 10:30 am: Worship, Communion</p>	<p>3 7:00 pm Christmas Tree Lake Down</p>	4	<p>5 7:00 am: Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am: Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm: Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm: 6th &amp; 7th Grade Catechism 6:30 pm: Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>6 <b>Epiphany</b> 7:45 am: Sanctuary, Weekly Cleaning 6:30 pm: Worship</p>	<p>7 End of 2nd Quarter BB Away St. John's, Pardeeville 6:00 am: Bible Breakfast</p>	<p>8 Falcon Girls A-team BB Jefferson BB Tourrn, Jefferson 6:00 pm Gym Reserved</p>
<p><b>9 Falcon Girls A-team BB Tourrn, Jefferson</b> <b>The Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:00 am: Online Worship Posted 8:00 am: Worship 9:15 am: Bible Study 9:15 am: Sunday School 10:30 am: Worship</p>	<p>10 MAPS Testing Pastors' Conference 6:30 pm Board of Eld Meeting</p>	<p>11 MAPS Testing Stewardship 6:30 pm Board</p>	<p>12 MAPS Testing 7:00 am: Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am: Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm: Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm: 6th &amp; 7th Grade Catechism 6:30 pm: Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13 MAPS Testing 7:45 am: Sanctuary, Weekly Cleaning 6:30 pm Worship, Communion</p>	<p>14 BB Home St. Paul's, Fort Atkinson 6:00 am: Bible Breakfast</p>	<p>15 Boy's B-team BB Tournament, St. John's, Pardeeville</p>
<p><b>16 Epiphany 2</b> 8:00 am: Online Worship Posted 8:00 am: Worship, Communion 9:15 am: Bible Study 9:15 am: Sunday School 10:30 am: Worship, Communion 11:30 am Annual Meeting/Call Meeting 4:30 pm: Zion Skating Event</p>	<p>17 No School <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b></p>	<p>18 PATZ Meeting 6:00 pm</p>	<p>19 Faculty Bible Study 7:00 am: Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm: Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm: 6th &amp; 7th Grade Catechism 6:30 pm: Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm: Council Meeting 7:30 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 7:45 am: Sanctuary, Weekly Cleaning 6:00 pm Volunteer Chaptrone Meeting 6:30 pm: Worship</p>	<p>21 BB Home St. John's, Watertown 6:00 am: Bible Breakfast</p>	<p>22</p>
<p><b>23 Epiphany 3</b> 8:00 am: Online Worship Posted 8:00 am: Worship 9:15 am: Bible Study 9:15 am: Sunday School 10:30 am: Worship</p>	<p>24 9:00 am: Sanctuary Monthly Cleaning</p>	<p>25 WELS Wind Ensemble Practice 7:00 pm</p>	<p>26 Faculty Bible Study 7:00 am: Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm: Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm: 6th &amp; 7th Grade Catechism 6:30 pm: Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p>27 3-4 Field Trip FAA 7:45 am: Sanctuary, Weekly Cleaning 6:00 pm Volunteer/Chaptrone Meeting 6:30 pm: Worship, Comm.</p>	<p>28 BB Away St. John's, Juneau 6:00 am: Bible Breakfast</p>	<p>29 Boy's B-team BB Tournament, St. John's, Juneau</p>
<p><b>30 Zion Grade School Band Epiphany 4</b> 8:00 am: Online Worship Posted 8:00 &amp; 10:30 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am: Bible Study 9:15 am: Sunday School</p>	<p>31 BB Home Randolph Christian (A-girls A-boys only) Spirit Week</p>					





## How to **really listen** to your children

Parenting is tough. And no matter how many books you read, or parenting workshops you attend, you're going to make mistakes. We are imperfect parents in an imperfect world. That said, we often overcompensate in our parenting. We try to give our kids every material provision we imagine they need. We attend every sporting event, recital, and school program. We send them to the best schools, provide them with every opportunity we didn't have as children, and then wonder WHY they are so unhappy. Or anxious. Or lonely. As parents, we end up confused, frustrated, and even angry that our children are struggling when we feel as though we have done everything possible to meet their every need!

What we fail to realize is that more than any material possession or opportunity, children need to feel listened to. REALLY listened to—the kind of listening that provides a safe, nonjudgmental environment for our children to open their hearts and experience true empathy and compassion. This kind of listening requires a time-out from our hectic, over-scheduled lives and a complete immersion in what our children are trying to tell us. It takes preparation and practice.

When you plan a vacation, you research where you are going, set a budget, map your activities, plan meals, and pack according to weather conditions. Think of the days and even weeks of planning that go into a week-long vacation. Listening is something that we do every day, and is a critical element of our parent-child relationships, yet we are so often underprepared for this important relationship-building activity.

In order to listen more effectively to our children, we need to better prepare ourselves by remembering these key components:

1. Clear away distractions. It's hard to understand how our children really feel or what they are trying to tell us if we are responding to e-mails or scanning Facebook or searching for the best deal on Amazon while they are talking with us. Turn off your devices and put them

away. Text messages and e-mails will always be there, but your child's willingness to talk to you will not.

2. Be aware of nonverbal cues. Are you looking at your child, face-to-face? Does your body appear relaxed, open, and ready to listen, or are you standing at the stove with your arms crossed, hoping that it won't take too long so dinner doesn't burn? Are you in close proximity to each other and in a space conducive to conversation (not in the crowded hallway outside of the school gym)?

3. Be aware of your current mood, and be honest. If you're tired, tell your child that. If you had a rough day, let them know that you don't mean to sound snappy, but you're upset about something else. You can model how to safely express feelings. If you're having one of those days, remind yourself that in this moment, there's nothing you can do to change what happened earlier, but you can control your ability to be "present" here and now for your child.

4. Listen with the intent to LEARN. Let go of your needs to self-disclose, lecture, or overreact. Listen to what your child is telling you. Ask open-ended questions: "Do you know why he treated you that way?" Paraphrase to make sure you understand: "It sounds like you were angry about that..." Ask questions to clarify: "So I'm a little confused. Do you not want to go to prom anymore?" Using these types of questions can help you listen with the intent to understand what your child is really trying to tell you.

If we want to know what is really going on in our children's lives, we can learn more from a 10-minute, device-free, face-to-face conversation, where we are actively asking questions with the intent to understand, than we can from following them on Instagram or snooping through their text messages. Psalm 127:3 reminds us that *Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him*. Prepare yourself as a Christian parent to make time to really listen to your children so you can honor them and their lives as the true gifts and blessings that they are.

By [Laura Reinke](#), MS, MFT

If you need tools to communicate better with your children, our professional counselors can help with practical strategies. Call [800.438.1772](tel:8004381772) or with one of our counselors from *Christian Family Solutions*.



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## Council Names and Numbers

Dan Retzlaff, Chairman	920-319-0018
Matt Weidner, Vice-Chairman	920-319-6017
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

### 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  
[pastorbenzuberbier@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbenzuberbier@gmail.com)

**Alex Vandenberg, Principal**  
(507) 353-0719  
[avandenberg@zioncrusaders.com](mailto:avandenberg@zioncrusaders.com)

**Jim Grasby, Lakeside Principal**  
(920) 648-2321

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



**January 2nd**

8:00am - <u>Team E2</u>	10:30am - <u>Team L6</u>
Dale Schilling (C)	Paul Kehl (C)
Dale Gajdosik	Otto Mattke (A)
Kenneth Schulz	Dennis Winter
Matt Yaroch	Carl Wolf
Nick Yaroch	William Mattke
Nate Yaroch	Nils Johansson
	Shaun Opsahl

**January 9th & January 16th**

8:00am - <u>Team E3</u>	10:30am - <u>Team L7</u>
Randy Koehn (C)	Matt Huber (C)
Dan Retzlaff	Carter Huber
Noah Litherland	Jeremy Maas
Steven Hahn	Peter Klokow
William Penterman	Jack Klokow
Brian Baney	Brady Grambsch
	Michael Vertz

**January 23rd & January 30th**

8:00am - <u>Team E4</u>	10:30am - <u>Team L1</u>
Mark Lindell (C)	Tom Schultz (C)
Remington Lindell	Aaron Larson
Roger Weiland (C)	James Kopfer
Bryce Weiland	Brandon Lee
Brett Weiland	Brian Vierck
Norman Weiland	Andy Tratar
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.

**Greeter Schedule**



**January 2nd**

8:00am — E4	10:30am — L6
Delmar & Carol Vick	Otto & Sheree Mattke

**January 9th**

8:00am — E5	10:30am — L7
Emily Henning & Nancy Huebner	Bev Herold & Nicole Henning

**January 16th**

8:00am — E6	10:30am — L8
Jim & Jenny Greiling	John & Sarah Brey

**January 23rd**

8:00am — E7	10:30am — L9
Dale & Joyce Gajdosik	Nils & Lara Johansson

**January 30th**

8:00am — E8	10:30am — L10
Wilma Lenz & Joan Herzberg	Aaron & Rachel Larson

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  
November**

Date	Total
4/7	348
11/14	354
18/21	204
24/28	339

## Membership Changes

### Transfer In:

Jacob & Megan Soldner

### Transfer Out:

Kay Salzwedel to St. John's Lutheran, Jefferson, WI  
Melissa & Alicia Childs to Light of Life Lutheran,  
Covington, WA  
Dayne Kopfer to Trinity Lutheran, Belle Plaine, MN

### Released:

Richard Rewolinski  
Chad & Beth Linde and Family

## Ministrations

### Baptisms:

22. Kano John Soldner  
Baptized 11/14/2021
23. Everly Marie Roundy  
Baptized 11/28/2021

### Deaths:

13. Richard Powers - Born 11/13/1942; Died  
11/25/2021

### Marriages:

3. Brian Sennhenn & Lyndsy Buckingham  
Married 11/6/2021

### Confirmations:

None

### Affirmations of Faith:

None

### Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger  
articles by January 19th.

Contact Sue Henning at

(608) 225-4853 or [suehenning25@gmail.com](mailto:suehenning25@gmail.com) if you have  
any questions.



Joan Herzberg	1st	88 years
Emily Henning	2nd	83 years
Sharon Homman	7th	81 years
Ruth Lienke	11th	94 years



# LLHS FEDERATION CONNECTION

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

## MYSTERY NO MORE

On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Thus the people were divided because of Jesus (John 7:40-43).

Advent and Christmas have passed. Despite the clear message about Jesus from the Scripture readings in these seasons, who he is and his role in humankind's salvation is a mystery to some.

Such may well ask themselves, "Who is Jesus?"

There are the *misguided* who view Jesus as "the Prophet." To them, he is a wonderful teacher pointing others to happiness and a better earthly life. They see him as one who makes this world better by making them better people. While they feel his words are important for life, what he says applies only now - not for eternity.

Secondly, there are the *doubters*. They acknowledge Scripture's fulfilled signs of Jesus as well as his authority and power. But, they find fault in him for not being the God they want. The picture of him as the suffering servant humbly born to commoners puts them off. After all, he should "come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem."

## SALVATION

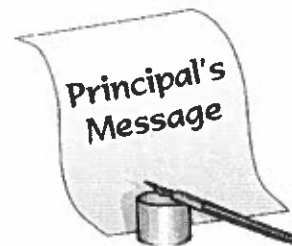
is found in no one else.

Finally, there are the *discerning* who see and believe that "[Jesus] is the Messiah." They trust him as the promised deliverer. He is the *Mashiach* (the anointed one). They know and believe in him as their salvation. To them, he is Emmanuel, Christ, the Lord, the Word, and the Son of God. Every time they hear his Word, they grow more confident in faith that he is their Savior.

John closes, "Thus the people were divided because of Jesus." This is still true today. Although many embrace Jesus as their Savior, others reject him and seek happiness elsewhere because he does not fit their agenda.

Who is Jesus? By faith, we call him the Messiah. He is God's Son sent to destroy sin, death, and Satan. He fulfills every prophesy and assures us that "salvation is found in no one else" (Acts 4:12).

Who is Jesus? By God's grace, we know and believe that "he is the Messiah."



You can reach Principal Grasby at jgrasby@llhs.org

## JANUARY EVENTS

See full and up-to-the-minute schedule under Quicklinks at llhs.org

Home basketball or wrestling on 9 Tues, Thurs or Fri. Jan. 4-28

Thurs. Jan. 6.....Classes resume/Second semester begins

Sat. Jan. 15 ..... Jazz Fest Concert at WLC | 7 PM

Sun. Jan. 16..... A Cap @ St. Matthew, Oconomowoc | 8/10:30 AM

"New Friends" event at LL | 1-3 PM

Mon. Jan. 17 ..... Board of Regents | 6:30 PM

Wed. Jan. 19.....7th Grade "Warrior for a Day" | No classes

Sat. Jan. 22 ..... Giving Society Kentro Gala | 5 PM

Sun. Jan. 23 ..... A Cappella @ St. Paul, Fort | 8/10:30 AM

Sun. Jan. 30 ..... A Cappella @ St. Paul, Ixonia | 8/10 AM

Mon. Jan. 31 ..... Enrollment deadline for lowest fee

Sun. Feb. 6..... Giving Society Chili Luncheon | 12-1:30 PM

Pops Concert/LES Visual Arts | 2 PM (MPO Mtg after concert)

### CONTACT INFO

920-648-2321 • office@llhs.org

231 Woodland Beach Rd. • Lake Mills, Wis. 53551



Looking up  
GRAND EVENT XI

Save the Date!

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

Buy Tickets/Sponsorships!  
Donate to auction!  
llhs.org/grandevent

Polin 334

LAKESIDE LOOP

LAKESIDE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

News and interest stories about people and events both inside and outside but connected to LLHS. Find @llhstechclub on YouTube & subscribe!

# LAKE SIDE GOOD NEWS *and* NOTES

We're thrilled to announce that Mr. Steven Springhorn has accepted the call to be choral director and instructor with us next fall! (Mr. Buege is retiring.) We keep the Nebraska Ex. Lutheran High School Federation in prayer as they begin the search for their next choral director.

- ✦ This year's annual FFA Fruit (& much more) Sale, generous produce-lovers bought over \$15,000 of fruit, veggies, nuts, cheese and meat from our FFA students, who use the funds raised for leadership workshops and other chapter activities.
- ✦ In November, we welcomed 4th graders from 13 Federation schools to campus. Under the direction of Admissions Director Mr. Steve Lauber, they spent a class period with Mr. Todd Hackbarth (both St. Paul, Lake Mills), who helped them create videos about their schools. We called them "Federation Fly-bys" and you can watch them in several weeks of the Lakeside Loop ([youtube.com/user/llhs\\_techclub](https://www.youtube.com/user/llhs_techclub)). Then they headed to the weight room where they lifted "weights" and learned about muscles with Mr. Nate Sievert (St. John, Watertown) and Mrs. Jenny Krauklis (St. Paul, Lake Mills). See photos of the activities at [llhs.smugmug.com](https://www.llhs.smugmug.com)
- ✦ On Friday, Dec. 3, Warrior students and staff wore baseball or other jerseys as part of Jerseys for Jackson, a national show of support for the family of a young boy (and baseball fan) who died from injuries sustained in the Waukesha parade tragedy.
- ✦ Sixteen National Honor Society (NHS) teens helped at a Red Cross blood drive at Lake Mills City Hall in tribute to junior Jonah Heyerholm's (Holy Cross, Madison) recovery journey. A Red Cross rep shared the good news. "What a stellar group of kids you had representing your school! We set a lofty goal of 92 pints and collected 89 pints— incredible! That is enough blood to help up to 267 people! Donors loved the treats, so a big thank you to the families who donated those as well. Thank you for offering your support and your students for the day—we are so grateful!"
- ✦ We welcome a new Scrip Coordinator this month! Melissa Cooley is a LL mom who comes with several years of experience navigating the ins and outs of Scripware at Zion, Columbus. Get info on saving money for LL tuition at [llhs.org/scrip](https://llhs.org/scrip)
- ✦ Two student teachers mentored under social studies department faculty this semester. Rachel Ihlenfeldt (Greenleaf, Wis., FVL) worked with Matt Doering and Elizabeth Schoeneck (Jackson, Wis., KML) with Andy Asmus (both St. Paul, Lake Mills). Read their background and future plans at [llhs-warriorstories.wordpress.com](https://llhs-warriorstories.wordpress.com)
- ✦ Mr. Doering's senior American Government classes practice citizenship skills through



simulations each semester; with a Senate debate and presidential election under their belts, the latest is a mock criminal trial, when students learn about the judicial system as prosecution and defense lawyers, defendants, witnesses and jurists. Most seniors appreciate this hand-on approach to learning that's set up as a courtroom in the library. Mr. Doering acts as judge.

- ✦ God continues to bless the Warrior Math team with outstanding success. We recently participated in the highly competitive Madison Memorial Math Meet. JV team #1 took 2nd place. Individually, freshman Will Hemling (St. Stephen, Beaver Dam) took 6th place, and soph Grant Schneider (St. Paul, Lake Mills) took 4th. Varsity team #1 took first place. Individually, senior Douglas Weittenhiller III (Peace, Sun Prairie) and junior Isaac Winters (St. Luke, Watertown) tied for 6th place.
- ✦ Our annual Christmas Concert was held Dec. 19 and featured 3 choirs, Percussion Ensemble, the Warrior Band and several piano soloists under the theme "Glory to the Newborn King." See photos at [llhs.smugmug.com](https://www.llhs.smugmug.com)

During December, we held a Season of Giving, providing opportunities for our Warriors to show their faith and shine for Jesus.



- ✦ NHS teens hosted a school-wide non-perishables collection in partnership with the annual Lake Mills Fire Department Annual Food Drive. Competing groups filled and re-filled barrels by the office. Still collecting at press time, the last weigh-in showed well over 1,000 pounds brought in by students and staff by mid-December.
- ✦ Teens for Christ organized a drive collecting school supply items as well as cold weather wear and Christmas candy for students at St. Philip in Milwaukee. At press time, there were 7 big boxes of school supplies, 3 boxes of hats, scarves and mittens, and two super-big bags of candy!
- ✦ Teens for Christ also provided individually-wrapped \$1 baked goods for their annual before-school Bake Sale that this year brought in over \$1,100 that will go to CLR and New Beginnings Home for Mothers in Milwaukee.



We invited you to "take a seat" to help us reach the debt-free goal of auditorium seating coming to the west gym in summer 2022, and oh my, did you respond! We are humbled and excited for such an outpouring of support for our #takeourseat challenge. You gave more than \$54,000!

We are so grateful for our Lakeside family.

**Looking forward to seeing the 'old gym' makeover!**

- CR

**Many thanks to Lakeside and Christian education.**

- LW

**We appreciate you Lakeside community.**

- RB

**So many memories on that stage and in that gym!**

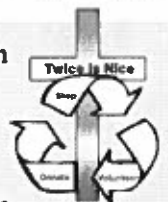
- KL

Quotes often accompanied online donations

Giving Tuesday 2021

## Resale store amazes again

- ▶ Over \$200K in sales in 50 open days in October & November 2021 (318 shopping hours)
- ▶ That's \$628.93 every single hour of every day the store was open for business for those two months
- ▶ Total 2021 contributions to LLHS will be over \$500,000 (100% volunteer efforts)
- ▶ Over \$6.25 mil gifted to LLHS since '93. Twice is Nice: Open Mon-Sat 10-4 pm (donations accepted 10-3:30) 907 W. Racine St. Jefferson, Wis. 53549





# Zion Profit & Loss YTD Comparison

November 2021

Ordinary Income/Expense	Nov-21	Budget Monthly	Fiscal YTD Jul 21 - Sep 21	YTD Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Extended Care Reimbursement	\$ 343.26		\$ 2,187.82	
Extra Synod Missions Income	504.00		1,242.50	
General Fund Offerings	81,270.95		315,430.92	
Gifts to Payoff Bank Loan	350.00		1,254.00	
LLHS Building Income	100.00		200.00	
Money borrowed from FMUB	-28,000.00		20,000.00	
Other Donations	950.00		1,499.00	
Other Receipts	968.40		1,529.81	
Sub Teacher Reimbursement	-146.84		-146.84	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 56,339.77</b>		<b>\$ 343,197.21</b>	
<b>Expense</b>				
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	\$ 32,383.88	\$ 32,886.49	\$ 161,472.57	\$ 164,432.44
Church Supplies	314.14	83.33	704.79	416.67
Convention/Cont' Education	0.00	20.83	560.00	104.17
Copier	849.96	275.00	1,338.95	1,375.00
Extended Care Expense	620.06	0.00	2,464.62	0.00
Family Ministry Board	218.23	262.50	207.23	1,312.50
Funds in Transit	905.00		0.00	
Guest Pastor	0.00	62.50	631.00	312.50
Health Insurance	8,418.39	8,504.17	42,091.95	42,520.83
HRA Savings	2,000.00	2,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Interest Expense	0.00	41.67	298.97	208.33
Janitors				
Church Labor	615.50	650.00	2,871.50	3,250.00
School Labor	913.22	791.67	5,898.06	3,958.33

Total Janitors	1,528.72	1,441.67	8,769.56	7,208.33
LLHS Expense	0.00	2,850.00	11,500.00	14,250.00
Maintenance				
Inspection Fees	360.00	208.33	862.00	1,041.67
Janitorial Supplies Church	35.59	166.67	476.23	833.33
Janitorial Supplies School	265.78	166.67	1,172.37	833.33
Pest Control	198.00	208.33	1,568.00	1,041.67
Property Improvements	0.00	833.33	2,195.58	4,166.67
Property Repair	472.50	1,250.00	3,824.95	6,250.00
Trash Removal	0.00	191.67	700.54	958.33
Other	200.00	0.00	788.87	0.00
Total Maintenance	1,531.87	3,025.00	11,588.54	15,125.00
Meditations	0.00	125.00	750.00	625.00
Mileage	0.00	583.33	286.00	2,916.67
Organists	418.06	566.67	2,353.23	2,833.33
Outreach Board	259.53	541.67	480.05	2,708.33
Payroll Expenses	254.25	166.67	1,251.75	833.33
Pension Insurance	200.00	3,029.67	10,622.00	15,148.33
Postage and Delivery	369.50	100.00	698.16	500.00
Secretarial	2,147.47	2,563.17	11,225.09	12,815.83
Stewardship Board	265.41	291.67	1,768.52	1,458.33
Substitute Teaching	-114.11		-118.16	
Sunday School/VBS	0.00		131.93	
Synod Mission Expense	0.00	5,700.00	23,488.50	28,500.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	379.95	291.67	1,499.75	1,458.33
Utilities				
Water & Light	3,377.20	3,468.33	20,085.83	17,341.67
WE Energies	547.19	1,233.33	2,175.95	6,166.67
Total Utilities	3,924.39	4,701.67	22,261.78	23,508.33
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	0.00	1,383.33	75.00	6,916.67
Worship	1,401.50	1,141.67	14,993.28	5,708.33

<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>58,276.20</b>	<b>70,366.83</b>	<b>343,395.06</b>	<b>351,834.17</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-1,936.43</b>		<b>-197.85</b>	



**TOGETHER**



December 7, 2021


## **Bible study on the divine call available**

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**P**eople have always had questions about the divine call and the process we use to call people into the public ministry. With the high number of vacancies and with many congregations affected by the shortage, it's not surprising that there have been more questions than normal about exactly what the divine call is and how the doctrine of the call is applied among us.

For that reason, the 2021 synod convention passed a resolution encouraging the Conference of Presidents to develop resources and perhaps a series of instructive articles in *Forward in Christ* that will provide our people with a better understanding of the divine call and how it works.

The COP is now making available a Bible study that deals with the public ministry, the call, and our WELS call process. That Bible study, which includes a PowerPoint presentation and a leader's guide, is now available for download online at [welscongregationalservices.net](http://welscongregationalservices.net). While designed for a Bible class setting, it will also be available to anyone for personal self-study.

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

## **New synod in Latin America forms**

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**I**n October, representatives from WELS and WELS' sister churches throughout Latin America met in Medellín, Colombia, to form a new synod: *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional*. Founding members come from churches in Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Venezuela.

"For years, our sister churches in Latin America have just been small, individual groups fighting against the wind," says Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of WELS World Missions. "For them to be able to have this much broader ministry that's clearly being blessed by the Lord, there's an excitement there."

As part of a synod, these churches will be able to do mission work together, train pastors together, and support each other with prayers and fellowship.

Synod membership is expected to swell in the future as new groups gathered during the *Academia Cristo* training efforts complete a two-year confessional process called *Ruta Cristo* (Christ path). "One of the needs that *Ruta Cristo* has given us is where will new congregations that come from *Academia Cristo* go?" says Rev. Henry Herrera, a pastor in Colombia and president of *Iglesia*



*Cristo WELS Internacional*. "This is why we can tell them now that the answer is *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional*."

Currently 12 groups are on that two-year path, with dozens more possible in the upcoming year. Leaders who complete the highest level of *Academia Cristo* classes also will be considered candidates for a new seminary program led by *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional* and supported by WELS missionaries.

"For years we were adding people to our churches [in Latin America] by the tens. To now have people joining our fellowship through the work of so many people by the hundreds—if not soon, the thousands—is just amazing," says Schlomer. "The real blessing is that the Lord is leading more people to learn about grace and what Jesus has done."

Learn more about *Academia Cristo* at [wels.net/latinamerica](https://wels.net/latinamerica). 



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit [wels.net/together](https://wels.net/together).

**TOGETHER**



December 21, 2021

## **A special Christmas message**

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**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind” (Luke 2:14 Evangelical Heritage Version).**

**W**hat greater reason to give God glory than to hear the message of the angels that first Christmas night: Because of this child born in Bethlehem, God was bringing his peace and good will to all people on earth. This was not just any kind of peace. It was the peace between man and God that was possible only because of the Savior who would bring sinful man and a holy God back together again. This was not just any good will that had come. It was the good and gracious expression of love from a God who would not let his people die in their sins.

In a world in which peace is hard to find and in a world in which the love of many has grown icy cold, God once again fills our ears and hearts with the message of the only kind of peace and love that really matters—the peace and love that reaches down to us and, through Jesus, brings us joy that extends to all eternity.

May these days of celebration focus on that gift of God's love—his own Son—and fill you and your families with the peace that he brings.

Serving in Christ,  
President Mark Schroeder 

## **WELS Christian Aid and Relief responds to South Central tornadoes**


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**O**n Dec. 10, tornadoes caused devastation across the South Central part of the United States. Rev. Daniel Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, reports: “At this time, we are unaware of any of our WELS congregations or members who have been directly impacted by this storm. Praise God for watching over his people!”

Because no WELS congregations are near the affected areas, WELS Christian Aid and Relief is currently not planning to mobilize volunteers for onsite disaster relief work. “Because we don’t have the deep resources or infrastructure of FEMA or the Red Cross, it’s very difficult to go into areas where we don’t have a congregation nearby to use as our ‘home base’ for volunteers,” says Sims. “However, we will continue to look for opportunities to go to the area and help those in need.”

To support those affected by the tornadoes, WELS Christian Aid and Relief has sent a gift of \$10,000 to Direct Relief, which has people on-site and active in providing disaster relief in the form of medical aid.

Sims is thankful for the response from WELS members wanting to help: "We are grateful for your support and your messages of care and concern. Your love for those who are hurting is obvious. May the Lord continue to bless our efforts to 'do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10)."

To help those affected by the tornadoes, you can make a financial gift through WELS Christian Aid and Relief's disaster fund at [wels.net/CARGift](https://wels.net/CARGift) (designate the gift to "disaster relief"). Stay updated on relief efforts at [wels.net/relief](https://wels.net/relief). 

## Introducing the new hymnal

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About 45 percent of WELS congregations have ordered *Christian Worship: Hymnal* and accompanying resources since its release in September. Most materials are now available and are being shipped to congregations and individuals who have preordered or are currently ordering. *Christian Worship: Service Builder*, a digital tool to help congregations with planning worship and generating service folders, is projected to be released the week after Christmas.

Resources are available to help people become familiar with some of the key new hymnal features and to help pastors guide congregations through their first use of *Christian Worship* materials. Resources include:

- Introduction scripts and a dedication rite.
- Video presentations that highlight hymns, psalms, and liturgies included in the new hymnal.
- Concert videos.

Some congregations are planning to purchase the new hymnal and resources in 2022, including St. John, Burlington, Wis. But even though St.

John hasn't yet bought the hymnal for its sanctuary, it already has started to introduce its members to it.

In November St. John hosted a hymnal introduction seminar where more than 100 people gathered to hear presentations as well as sing selections from the new hymnal and psalter. Both books were available for attendees to examine and use—and even buy. "This hymnal is something that will touch the lives and worship of all the members of the church," says Rev. Kirk Lahmann, St. John's pastor. "Because of this seminar, people were able to walk away saying, 'I really understand why this is important,' and that generates excitement."

Now the church is working to raise money to buy hymnals for all the pews and enough psalters for the choir to use.

Once the hymnals are in the pews, the introduction process will continue. For worship services, Lahmann plans to distribute a simple outline to congregants and then have members use the hymnal to follow along rather than a service folder. "We need to learn how to navigate the book," says Lahmann. "If we want this to be a book

that is used in worship and the home, then let's learn how to use it."

Rev. Bryan Gerlach, director of the Commission on Worship, comments: "We recognize that congregations can be at very different stages of evaluating and obtaining new hymnal resources. Some preordered before the books were even in print for review. Some, like Burlington, waited longer. Others might not explore options yet for months. That's okay. Whenever a congregation is ready, the online resources will help them explore the great benefits of the new hymnal suite of resources."

Learn more about *Christian Worship: Hymnal* as well as access hymnal introduction resources at [christianworship.com](http://christianworship.com). Northwestern Publishing House also has published shipping updates.

## **Deadlines for year-end gifts**

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Please note the following deadlines if you'd like your gift to be made in 2021 for tax purposes:

- A gift by check is considered completed when the check is postmarked (USPS) by Dec. 31.
- An online credit card gift must be successfully charged to your account by midnight on Dec. 31. This generally happens immediately when the gift is made.
- An online electronic funds transfer (EFT) gift must be processed by WELS in 2021. The deadline for these gifts is 4:30 p.m. (Central) on Wed., Dec. 29.

- A gift of stock or mutual funds must be received by Dec. 31. The date of transfer is the date of the gift. Note this may take a few days, so the earlier the better. Please inform WELS of what you are donating by contacting WELS Foundation at [welsfoundation@wels.net](mailto:welsfoundation@wels.net) or 414-256-3213. 🌐

## **Special note for qualified charitable distributions from an IRA**

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For a qualified charitable distribution, the funds must come out of your IRA generally by Dec. 31. (If a donor writes a check to WELS from an IRA account, WELS must be able to cash the check by Wed., Dec. 29.) We encourage you to consult your financial and tax professionals before requesting a qualified charitable distribution. 🌐



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit [wels.net/together](http://wels.net/together).

## WELS Christian Aid And Relief Responds To South Central Tornadoes

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*To hear more about the work of Christian Aid and Relief and to see how you can get involved, join us on January 16 for worship and a presentation by Pastor Dan Sims, former pastor at Zion and Director of WELS Christian Aid and relief.*

Newsletter of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

# The Messenger

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