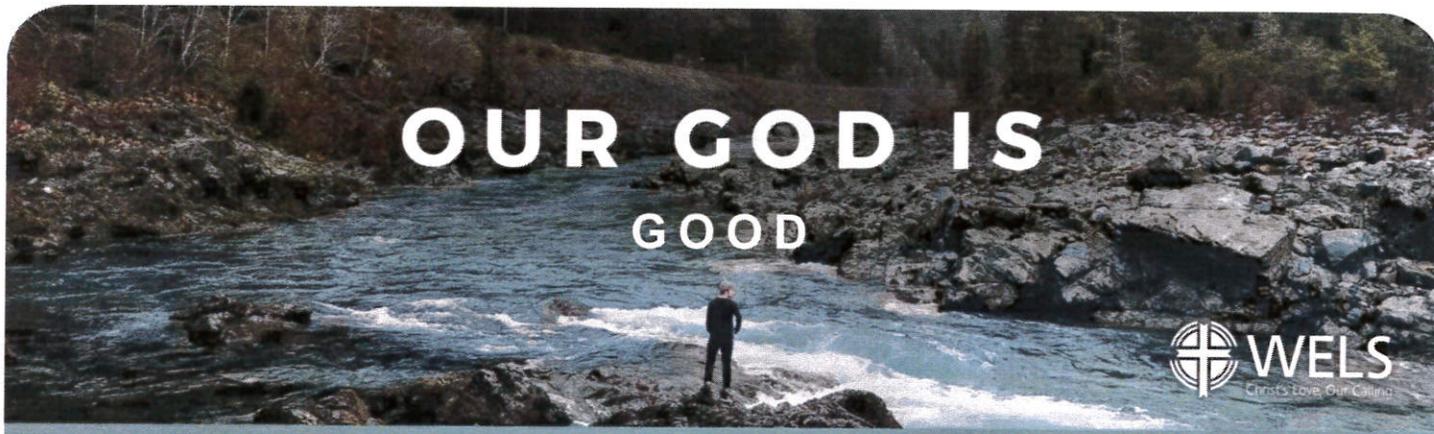
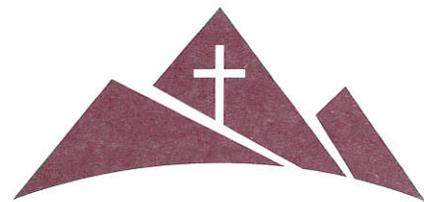


The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



May, 2021

Have you ever felt like the guy in the cartoon with a rain cloud over his head? Wherever he goes, the rain cloud follows, but he's the only one getting wet.

When your relationships are stressed, your 401(k) tanks or your job is on the line, it feels like that rain cloud is following wherever you go. You see your friends or neighbors and you wonder, "Why am I the only one getting wet?"

At times like that, it's easy to wonder if God is good. It may feel as if God is good to some people, but right now he's skipping you. Sometimes it seems as if God plays favorites.

We can learn about God when we look at the way this world works. Aside from cartoons, the rain never falls on just one person. If God really played favorites, only the people of his choosing would be blessed with sun, rain, and the bounty of the earth.

Look outside. It is spring! Good people and those not so good can enjoy the freshness.

God doesn't play favorites with sunshine and rain. That gives us insight into the way that he acts. The Bible says, "The Lord is good to all; he

has compassion on all he has made" (Psalm 145:9).

Just as God sends rain and sunshine on people who believe in him and on people who don't, he sent his Son, Jesus, for every man, woman, and child on this earth. It doesn't matter whether people believe in him or not, he still sent Jesus here to save them.

Look outside again. Whether you know it or not, spring has come. The sunshine and rain tell us that God is good. Whether you know it or not, God cares for you. Jesus' life and death tell us that God is good.

Come and hear about it. Through faith, you will learn that no matter what rainstorms come your way, the Son will still shine in your life.

WORSHIP TIMES

Everyone Welcome

Thursdays	6:30 pm
Sundays	8:00 and 10:30 am
Sunday Bible Study	9:15 am
Friday Bible Study	6:00 am

Zion Lutheran Church & School

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Divisional Track Meet at Luther Prep
2 Easter 5 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion	3	4 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7:45 pm Bible Information Class Online	5 Cinco de Mayo 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Catechism Grade 8 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice	6 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 2:00 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Worship	7 Cancelled-Zion 1-4 Track Meet 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	8
9 Mother's Day Easter 6 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	10 6:30 pm *Board of Ed 1:30 pm Meeting	11 Spring Concert 6:30 pm Spring Concert 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 6:30 pm Stewardship Board 7:45 pm Bible Information Class Online	12 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Catechism Grade 8 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice	13 Ascension 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:30 pm Worship, Ascension (with St. John's [uneau])	14 12:30 Early Release Cancelled Zion Special Visitor's Day BLAG Softball Tournament 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	15 Confere nce Track Meet at Lakeside
16 Easter 7 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship, Communion 10:30 am Junior Choir sings	17 Tax Day	18 6:00 pm PATZ Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7:45 pm Bible Information Class Online	19 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice Council Meeting	20 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:00 pm Examination for 2021 Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Worship: Confirmation	21 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	22
23 Pentecost 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship Hall Reserved	24 6:30 pm 8th Grade Banquet	25 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7:45 pm Bible Information Class Online	26 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice	27 Last Day of School 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:30 pm K4-8 Sings 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	28 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 8:00 am Faculty Inservice	29 10:00 am Fellowship Hall Reserved
30 Trinity 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship, Communion	31 Memorial Day 9:00 am Sanctuary : Monthly Cleaning					

Life Worth Living

By [Drew Dyrssen](#)

I'm going to ask you to do something—something that I do with every single client that walks through my door. Don't worry; it's pretty quick and easy. I want you to use the following link and complete a values card sort: <http://assets.cce.umn.edu/cardsort/values/>. If you don't want to do that, take a few minutes and write down your top five values. If you are able, completing the values card sort with the link I provided might help you to be more thorough.

It all comes down to values. They are the “compass” that we use to navigate life. Our values are a vital part of our existence, and yet there are so many different options to choose from to live a life worth living. In addition, unfortunately, sometimes we lose sight of those

values. Things come up in life. Crazy things happen to us, and we forget about what is the most important.

Research shows that people who live in alignment with their values report higher satisfaction in life.

So, I want to give you an acronym (F.E.A.R.) to help you reflect on your valued living. Let's take a moment together to refocus on what's actually important.

Fusion: I wrote another blog post about *cognitive defusion* that you can read at <https://christianfamilysolutions.org/2020/01/07/feeling-anxious/>. Fusion happens naturally. It's how we learn. It's how we can communicate with others. Like when you say, “I had some bagels for breakfast,” I know what that tastes like. Sometimes, those fusions start to turn on us and make life difficult. Fusions interfere with our

values because they cause us to behave in ways that we otherwise would not. For example, I could be struggling with this thought: “I'm not good enough.” Cognitive fusion could lead me to give up studying for my exam, not apply for that new job, or not take a chance to talk with the person I admire. Are there any thoughts that you are struggling to manage? Fusion with those thoughts could be interfering with your valued living.

Evaluations: This is all about moving toward non-judgment and acceptance. Let me be clear—acceptance doesn't mean we approve of something. It only means that we acknowledge it. When those crazy things happen in life, or we feel some strong emotions, we tend to evaluate them as either “good” or “bad.” Evaluations lead to struggle. When we choose to struggle with something, we miss out on fully experiencing things as they are. Are there things you are



evaluating as good or bad? Can you make space for those things and do your best not to judge them? Choosing to not evaluate things helps us live meaningful lives right NOW!

Avoidance: This is enemy number one! Avoidance shows up in our lives in multiple ways. Sometimes it's obvious; sometimes it's very subtle. Either way, we avoid something valued because of anxiety or some other force. Avoidance could also look like doing something half-heartedly because if we don't succeed, we can avoid the vulnerability of what it feels like to

fail. Is there anything you are avoiding right now?

Remoteness: Sometimes we straight up just forget about our values. This causes distance from those top values. For whatever reason, we have strayed from our identified values and have done things that are not aligned with them. This is why I asked you to write down your top five values. Put them somewhere you can see them frequently.

It all comes down to your values. Take some time to think about them. Reflect on them during times of hardship. Use them when you need to make a big decision. Most importantly, take action on them and use the F.E.A.R. acronym to help you identify potential barriers to following them!

DREW DYRSSEN, LPC, NCC,
BC-TMH, is a Licensed
Professional Counselor
with Christian Family
Solutions. If you or



someone you know is
interested in mental health professional services,
please visit their website:
<https://christianfamilysolutions.org/>

Contents

Contact Information & News.....	1
News & Notes.....	2 - 3
Financials/Budget.....	4 - 5
WELS Together Newsletters.....	6 - 9

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
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

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



May 2nd

8:00am - <u>Team E4</u>	10:30am - <u>Team L7</u>
Mark Lindell (C)	Matt Huber (C)
Remington Lindell	Carter Huber
Roger Weiland (C)	Jeremy Maas
Bryce Weiland	Peter Klokow
Brett Weiland	Jack Klokow
Norman Weiland	Brady Grambsch
Eric Turnquist (C)	Michael Vertz

May 9th, May 13th (Ascension) & May 16th

8:00am - May 9th	10:30am - May 9th
6:30pm - May 13th	10:30am - May 16th
<u>Team E5</u>	<u>Team L1</u>
Kim Schilling (C)	Tom Schultz (C)
Ronald Knudson	Aaron Larson
Andy Tratar	James Kopfer
John Zandler	Dayne Kopfer
Scott Brenner	Brandon Lee
Matt Vosberg	Brian Vierck

May 16th, May 23rd & May 27th (Graduation)

8:00am - May 16th	10:30am - May 23rd
8:00am - May 23rd	6:30pm - May 27th
<u>Team E6</u>	<u>Team L2</u>
Jim Greiling (C)	Dale Schultz (C)
Matt Greiling	Daniel Schultz
Rick Gentz	Dylan Schultz
Hunter Sommer	Michael Hallberg
John Brey	Nathan Hallberg
Bob Marousek	Henry Tews
Jordan Crave	

May 30th & June 6th

8:00am - <u>Team E7</u>	10:30am - <u>Team L3</u>
Mike Vick (C)	Jim Kluetzman (C)
Troy Kehoe	Gabe Uttech
Bruce Hatzinger	AJ Uttech
Ron Yerges	Michael Uttech
Jake Boness	Gary Schuhmacher
Brian Peck	Tony Owens

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.

Greeter Schedule



May 2nd

8:00am — E11	10:30am — L13
Delphine Schaefer	Aaron & Rachel Larson

May 9th

8:00am — E1	10:30am — L1
Jeff & Melody Krakow	Janell Allar & Kay Salzwedel

May 16th

8:00am — E2	10:30am — L2
Dave & Kathy Harle	Laurie Kirchberg & Pat Premo

May 23rd

8:00am — E4	10:30am — L3
Delmar & Carol Vick	Rick & Lisa Gentz

May 30th

8:00am — E5	10:30am — L5
Emily Henning & Nancy Huebner	Marcia Rewolinski & Arlene Sennhenn

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 March

Date	Total
3/7	372
10/14	336
17/21	377
24/28	482

Membership Changes

Transfer Out:

None

Transfer In:

None

Ministrations

Baptisms:

- Levi Alexander Vandenberg
Born 3/5/2021; Baptized 3/5/2021
Parents: Alex & Stephanie Vandenberg

Deaths:

- Marianne Cares - Born 6/19/1930; Died 3/2/2021.
- Gerald Galston - Born 10/3/1945; Died 3/10/2021.
- Rosalind Zeidler - Born 11/29/1930; Died 3/21/21,

Marriage:

None

Confirmation:

None



Lorraine Huebner	1st	92 years
Elaine Vangen	5th	95 years
Judy Vick	11th	80 years
Jane Evers	13th	80 years
Delores Karow	16th	90 years

Zion's Ladies Society

Our next meeting is May 6th at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are still taking nominations for president and vice-president with the election at our June meeting.



Remember our donation to our food pantry at each meeting.

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by May 21st.

Contact Sue Henning at

(608) 225-4853 or

suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Zion Online Silent Auction/Fill-A-Need

The silent auction proceeds will help fund the playground equipment to serve the growing number of children enrolled at Zion Lutheran School.

General Information - <http://www.zioncolumbus.org/silentauctiongeneral-information>

Silent Auction Baskets - <http://www.zioncolumbus.org/silentauctionbaskets>

Fill A Need Donations - <http://www.zioncolumbus.org/fillaneed>

Families comment on the pictures of the items with their bids.

See pages 10-11 for additional information relating to the Spring Concert, Silent Auction and Fill-A-Need event.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss
 March 2021

	Mar 21	Jul '20 - Mar 21
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Extended Care Reimbursement	452.61	1,497.97
Extra Synod Missions Income	1,080.00	3,821.00
General Fund Offerings	78,915.52	522,353.66
LLHS Building Income	0.00	25.00
Other Donations	81.00	-4,329.45
Other Receipts	386.00	1,204.30
WLIM Income	0.00	1,000.00
Total Income	80,915.13	525,572.48
Gross Profit	80,915.13	525,572.48
Expense		
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	28,287.69	254,753.55
Church Supplies	656.53	1,968.38
Convention/Cont' Education	5,140.73	5,140.73
Copier	774.24	1,781.26
Extended Care Expense	829.65	1,761.94
Family Ministry Board	94.68	164.16
Guest Pastor	0.00	573.00
Health Insurance	4,844.39	63,704.51
HRA Savings	3,000.00	22,500.00
Janitors	1,454.06	10,621.20
LLHS Building Expense	0.00	25.00
LLHS Expense	2,850.00	25,050.00
Maintenance		
Inspection fees	120.00	1,125.04
Janitorial Supplies, Church	71.18	936.08
Janitorial Supplies, School	238.00	1,623.26
Pest Control	198.00	1,882.00
Property Improvements	5,557.50	6,018.85
Property Repair	3,420.57	16,683.04
Trash Removal	0.00	1,928.52
Maintenance - Other	0.00	3,385.89
Total Maintenance	9,605.25	33,582.68
Meditations	0.00	1,112.00
Mileage	500.00	4,196.24
Miscellaneous	59.94	135.35
Organists	621.64	4,570.03
Outreach Board	-350.00	4,498.03
Payroll Expenses	278.00	3,010.25
Pension Insurance	9,822.00	21,044.00
Postage and Delivery	389.93	1,169.48
Secretaries	2,240.18	18,425.40
Stewardship Board	266.30	2,934.48
Substitute Teaching	97.89	29.12
Sunday School/VBS	201.95	702.35
Synod Mission Expense	6,780.00	53,921.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	269.95	2,561.58
Utilities		
Water and Light	3,506.48	31,132.08
We Energies	2,340.00	9,336.17
Utilities - Other	0.00	-10,150.00
Total Utilities	5,846.48	30,318.25
WLCFS Expense	0.00	1,075.00
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	3,613.00	3,613.00
Worship	42.99	4,189.41
Total Expense	88,217.47	579,131.38
Net Ordinary Income	-7,302.34	-53,558.90
Net Income	-7,302.34	-53,558.90

Report for the Month of:

March 2021

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Previous Month Assets	\$91,298.48
Total Transactions	\$17,104.39
Total Current Assets	\$108,402.87

\$100,059.77	New Church/School Total
	<i>checking/savings</i>

Accounts	Undesignated Checking		Undesignated Savings		New Church/School Fund Savings		New Church/School Checking	
	Balance	Change	Balance	Change	Balance	Change	Balance	Change
Previous Balance	\$195.88		\$6,839.56		\$73,440.46		\$10,822.58	
Monthly Transactions*	\$450.00		\$857.66		\$9,641.95		\$6,154.78	
Current Balance	\$645.88		\$7,697.22		\$83,082.41		\$16,977.36	
Transactions								
	(\$150.00)	Jean Marks	\$210.00	deposit 3/12	\$592.00	Deposit 3/01	\$875.00	Transfer from Gen 3/03
	\$600.00	Transfer 3/22	(\$600.00)	Transfer 3/22	\$200.00	Deposit 3/02	\$1,950.00	Transfer from Gen 3/10
			\$1,245.00	deposit 3/26	\$235.00	Deposit 3/02	\$610.00	Transfer from Gen 3/17
			\$2.66	Interest 3/31	(\$5,425.00)	Mortgage 3/02	\$1,269.78	Transfer from Gen 3/31
					\$225.00	Deposit 3/03	\$1,450.00	Transfer from Gen 3/31
					\$325.00	Deposit 3/04		
					\$649.00	Deposit 3/05		
					\$70.00	Deposit 3/08		
					\$110.00	Deposit 3/09		
					\$75.00	Deposit 3/10		
					\$45.00	Deposit 3/12		
					\$65.00	Deposit 3/12		
					\$365.00	Deposit 3/15		
					\$335.00	Deposit 3/16		
					(\$5,425.00)	Mortgage 3/16		
					\$75.00	Deposit 3/17		
					\$30.00	Deposit 3/18		
					\$574.00	Deposit 3/19		
					\$530.00	Deposit 3/22		
					\$100.00	Deposit 3/23		
					\$110.00	Deposit 3/23		
					\$75.00	Deposit 3/24		
					\$250.00	Deposit 3/25		
					\$20,030.00	Deposit 3/26		
					\$40.00	Deposit 3/26		
					\$174.00	Deposit 3/29		
					\$190.00	Deposit 3/30		
					(\$5,425.00)	Mortgage 3/31		
					\$413.00	Deposit 3/31		
					\$34.95	Interest 3/31		
					\$9,641.95	Interest 3/31		
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	\$450.00		\$857.66		\$9,641.95		\$6,154.78	
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$17,104.39							

Notes:

Interest Received

ONLINE SILENT AUCTION ON ZION FACEBOOK EVENT

Families comment on the items with their bids

Payment Options - Cash, Check, Online

- Friday, May 7th at 12:00 PM - Online Bids Open
- Tuesday, May 11th at 7:30 PM - Final Bids
- Tuesday, May 11th after 8:00 PM - Winners will be contacted
- Wednesday, May 12th from 8 AM - 5 PM - Please make your payments and pick-up your items at the school office.
- If you need special arrangements, please contact Becky Maas beckymaas@ymail.com or 608-228-7755

IN PERSON SILENT AUCTION & SPRING CONCERT FEATURING THE BAND & CHOIR

Tuesday, May 11th

- 12:30 PM 3:00 PM - In Person Silent Auction Opens
- 1:30 PM - Spring Concert Begins
- 5:30 PM - In Person Silent Auction Reopens
- 6:30 PM - Spring Concert Begins
- 7:30 PM - In Person and Online Zion Facebook Event Final Bids
- 8:00 PM - In Person & Online Winners Announced
You do not need to be present to win

Wednesday, May 12 from 8 AM - 5 PM Please make your payments and pick-up your items at the school office. *Payment Options - Cash, Check, Online*

- If you need special arrangements, please contact Becky Maas beckymaas@ymail.com or 608-228-7755

FILL-A-NEED

In addition to the in-person and online Silent Auction even on May 11, 2021, we are looking for sponsors for the items below. Donate any amount. We want to provide a space that anyone can make an impact on this need for our school. One family could donate the full amount or several families can donate towards an item.

Payment Options - Cash, Check, Online

Please drop off the cash and check at the school office before Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Anonymous donations are accepted. Please contact Becky Maas at 60-228-7755 with any questions.

ADJUSTABLE IN-GROUND BASKETBALL HOOP

Quantity Needed: 1
Price: \$2,000
Donated: \$726

PLAYGROUND BORDER

Quantity Needed: 60
Price: \$34 each
Total Cost: \$2,040
Donated: \$0

SPALDING NBA INDOOR-OUTDOOR BASKETBALLS

Quantity Needed: 6
Price: \$32 each
Total Cost: \$192
Donated: \$32

OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALLS

Quantity Needed: 4
Price: \$38 each
Total Cost: \$152
Donated: \$152

OUTDOOR JUMP ROPES

Quantity Needed: 12
Price: \$20 for 2
Total Cost: \$120
Donated: \$120

GOLF HITTING MATS

Quantity Needed: 10
Price: \$45 each
Total Cost: \$450
Donated: \$45

OUTDOOR VOLLEYBALLS

Quantity Needed: 4
Price: \$38 each
Total Cost: \$152
Donated: \$152

DISC GOLF BASKET TARGETS

Quantity Needed: 5
Price: \$100 each
Total Cost: \$500
Donated: \$100

DISC GOLF SETS

Quantity Needed: 6
Price: \$40 per set
Total Cost: \$240
Donated: \$0

Zion Free Cycle

May 29-30, 2021

Now that the weather is warmer and you feel more like spring cleaning, load up those unwanted items or what's left from your rummage sale and donate them to the PATZ Free Cycle event. You can donate clothes, housewares, glassware, rugs, purses, linens, small appliances, kitchen items, outdoor/sports items, tools, toys/games, puzzles. Larger items, such as dressers, TV's, beds, table & chairs, etc. you can describe on a postcard or snap a picture, and we will post this at the event.

You can start bringing your donated items to the Zion School gym after school is dismissed on Thursday, May 27, 2021. Look for the labeled large boxes along the wall for you to sort your items in. Labels will read: Children's clothes, Adult clothes, Baby items, Toys, Kitchen items, etc.

We need several volunteers to help this two-day event be successful. We will need set-up (Friday), staff (Saturday and Sunday), and clean up (Sunday). Working the Free Cycle may help you meet other Zion members, show loving kindness to community people and tell them what Zion has to offer, i.e. our grade school and Sunday school, Bible studies and even invite them to worship. This is a greatly-appreciated program that Zion offers.

We will again be collecting non-perishable food items to help the Zion Relief Committee and the Columbus Food Pantry. No expired items please.

Our left over items have in the past gone to Columbus School district who sent a storage unit to help orphans and special needs children. Books went to little libraries in three different towns. The men's clothes went to help an organization that helps veterans to turn their lives around. We will need cars to help haul the extra stuff away or trucks for big items.

There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteering at church and school. It is a blessing to help so many.

Contact Tina Lainberger at Tinster57@gmail.com or 920-318-1052 if you have questions.

TOGETHER



April 6, 2021

2021 synod convention preparations

The 66th biennial synod convention will be held at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis., July 26-28. The theme of the convention is “Here We Stand,” echoing Martin Luther’s bold stand on the Word of God at the Diet of Worms in 1521.

The location of the convention was changed from Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Mich., to Luther Prep because of the uncertainties of gathering restrictions in Michigan.

Another change that was made due to those same uncertainties was to hold a “mini-convention.” Instead of the usual 400 delegates, only about 75 delegates will attend the convention in person. Those delegates will include floor committee chairmen and secretaries, along with two lay delegates from each floor committee. (Floor committees are each assigned an area of the synod’s work to discuss and to bring reports and resolutions to the convention for consideration.) The remaining delegates will participate electronically in elections and floor committee work in advance of the convention. The convention will also be livestreamed to enable all virtual delegates to observe.

Important items of business to be considered by the convention will be the approval of the Ministry Financial Plan (budget) for the next two years; the proposal to change the current pension plan for WELS workers to a defined contribution plan (similar to a 401(k) plan); and the elections for various synodical positions, including the First Vice President and synod secretary. The convention will also consider a number of “memorials,” which are requests for the synod to take specific actions.

The convention website, which will house all convention information and documents, including election information and memorials, is now live at wels.net/2021synodconvention.

All delegates have received, or will soon be receiving, convention information and registration instructions via U.S. mail.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

60 years of blessings and progress

The WELS Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) is marking 60 years of service to people in Malawi and Zambia. The first clinic began operating in Zambia in 1961; in 1970, CAMM started a clinic in Malawi as well. By meeting the physical needs of the people they serve, the door opens to share the good news of Jesus.

Over the past 60 years, God has given CAMM the opportunity to provide people with physical care in the name of Jesus approximately three million times. The CAMM clinics in Malawi and Zambia serve all the medical needs short of hospitalization for close to 50,000 people, including:

- Routine child health and nutrition services
- Delivery of babies in Zambia (mandated by the government)
- Pre- and post-delivery care
- Comprehensive HIV/AIDS health services
- Outpatient medical services
- Chronic disease monitoring
- Making sure villages have safe water supplies and adequate sanitation
- Teaching on topics such as general health and how to plant and care for nutrition gardens
- Integrating COVID-19 management strategies to both provide care for and minimize possible infection transmission

Shelly Sievert, chair of the CAMM stateside committee, says, "As we approach our 60th anniversary

in Zambia, we reflect on God's continued grace to our clinic and our staff, which includes ten nationals in Zambia. Our Zambia clinic has been operating with little oversight from the stateside committee for close to 15 years and thrives!"

Now, the Malawi clinic will also shift to operate with a fully national staff. "Although 2020 was a tough year for the world, it gave us time and the opportunity to look at our clinic procedures in Malawi, which have been operational for over 50 years. We currently employ 11 nationals, 1 of whom is a registered nurse," says Sievert. "After 50 years, our CAMM stateside committee, with guidance from the Administration Committee for Africa, and with prayerful consideration, has decided that the time is right. God has provided us the right staff, the right expatriates to train the staff, and the right support to do this."

Sievert says, "We thank God for the opportunity he allows every day for our clinics to operate, for the staff to care for the patients, for the chances our staff is given to share their faith, and for his continued generosity."

To learn more about the work of CAMM and find out how you can help, visit wels.net/camm. 

New virtual academy offers opportunities

The Association of Lutheran High Schools Online (ALHS Online) has a new name and an expanded mission.

For the past ten years, ALHS Online has been offering high-quality online courses to supplement the class offerings of WELS high schools and

elementary schools. Beginning this next school year (2021–22), it now also will offer a fully online curriculum—starting with ninth grade and adding a grade level every year—that can lead to a high school diploma.

To highlight this expansion, the school has been renamed Amazing Grace Virtual Academy. “We have been truly blessed over the last ten years and have really seen God’s amazing grace in all that he has done to allow us to expand and be of service to WELS schools,” says Dr. James Grunwald, superintendent of the academy.

Grunwald says that over the last few years the organization has been receiving more inquiries about expanding its offerings from WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod families who don’t have the opportunity to send their children to one of WELS’ 26 Lutheran high schools. Several grants and gifts plus recent accreditation as an online learning service provider by the Middle States Association helped push this decision forward.

Amazing Grace Virtual Academy will continue to provide courses for part-time students as well. During the 2020–21 school year, about 320 students took courses each semester. It also offers a four-year high school religion curriculum and foreign language and mathematics courses for seventh and eighth graders.

Learn more at amazinggraceva.org. 

Taste of Missions—an online Missions experience

Join the WELS Missions office for Taste of Missions, an online

missions experience, from July 11–17, 2021. Get to know our synod’s home and world missionaries and get a closer look at their mission work through short video updates, activities and recipes for the entire family, daily devotions, and multiple live events where WELS members can come together online and interact with missionaries. Tune in LIVE at the following times throughout the event:

- **Sunday, July 11, 1 p.m. CT:** Welcome and introduction from Home Missions administrator, Rev. Keith Free, and World Missions administrator, Rev. Larry Schlomer
- **Tuesday, July 13, 7 p.m. CT:** World Missions Q&A panel
- **Thursday, July 15, 7 p.m. CT:** Home Missions Q&A panel
- **Saturday, July 17, 6 p.m. CT:** Closing worship service where, God willing, new missionaries will be commissioned

All WELS grade school teachers are invited to participate in the new Taste of Missions School Challenge before the school year ends. Each class can be entered to win a Taste of Missions party—complete with lunch from an ethnic restaurant in their area, t-shirts, and a Zoom call or in-person visit with a missionary of their choosing (and more!)—by completing provided activities found at tasteofmissions.com/schools by Friday, April 23.

Learn more and register for this free event at tasteofmissions.com. Each day’s recommended videos and live events will be promoted on the event website, in e-mails to registered attendees, and on the WELS Missions Facebook page. This annual online event will be paired with an in-person celebration at Wisconsin Lutheran

Seminary in Mequon, Wis., in future years to provide all WELS members an opportunity to connect with brothers and sisters in Christ from around the globe and be a part of the important gospel outreach occurring through our synod. Register today! 

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

TOGETHER



April 20, 2021

Conference of Presidents meets

The Conference of Presidents (COP) met for its spring meeting April 7-9. It was the first face-to-face meeting of the COP since last September.

The COP spent a good deal of time discussing the 136 pastoral vacancies and approximately 140 teacher/staff minister vacancies. The number of vacancies has grown since last year at this time. For the benefit of both congregations and workers, the COP limits the number of calls a called worker can receive in one year and also requires a time period between calls. With so many congregations requesting call lists, and with the limited number of workers eligible to receive a call, the district presidents have faced growing challenges in providing call lists to congregations. Much of the COP discussion regarding this issue centered around steps that can be taken to alleviate this problem and the importance of continued recruitment and training of called workers.

The COP discussed the Equality Act, a bill before Congress that could potentially place serious restrictions on our ability to preach and teach the Word of God faithfully. A letter was e-mailed to all called workers and to lay members on the synod's e-mail list alerting them to this potential threat and encouraging WELS members to exercise their rights as Christian citizens to contact their representatives. The COP will be monitoring this law and responding to government action when necessary.

With the assignment of graduates at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary approaching, the COP began discussing plans and procedures for assignment meetings. Assignments of teachers and staff ministers will be announced at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., on May 15; assignment of pastors and vicars will take place the following week at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis.

The COP continues to work on a restatement of the synod's doctrinal statement on the biblical roles of man and woman. A draft of this statement was distributed in 2020 and has undergone continuing work to bring it into a final form. There is no timetable for the completion of this work, since the COP desires to "do it right" rather than "do it quickly."

The COP plans to develop a pastoral brief addressing Christian freedom and pastoral practices.

The COP extended divine calls to the following: Rev. John Hering was called to serve as a congregational counselor as part of the effort of the Commission on Congregational Counseling to help congregations evaluate and improve their ministries; Rev. Robert Krueger and Rev. Jonathan Kehren were called to serve as Ministry of Christian Giving counselors.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

Seven home missions to receive funding

At its meeting last week, the Board for Home Missions approved funding for seven locations, including funding for four new home mission starts and three existing mission congregations.

New home mission plants include:

- **Waco, Texas:** The Heart of Texas mission core group has been meeting regularly since March 2020. They are active in the community and participate in family-friendly activities around town while representing their new church plant. This mission is being supported by Trinity in nearby Temple, Texas.
 - **Durham, N.C.:** Gethsemane, the WELS congregation in Raleigh, N.C., is launching a second site in nearby Durham. The three universities in Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill are creating jobs and drawing a diverse group of young professionals and families to the area. The gospel is especially needed in this area, as studies show that 75 percent of people in the area do not know their Savior.
 - **Parrish, Fla.:** Risen Savior in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., a previous home mission church that recently became self-supporting, as well as Ascension, Sarasota, Fla., are starting and supporting this new mission plant. Parrish is located in a growing area; 20,000 to 30,000 homes are expected to be built there in the next 10 years. This new mission will be reaching out with the
- gospel to a community that is 85 percent unchurched.
- **Dickinson, N.D.:** A committed core group has been meeting regularly for livestreamed worship and monthly gatherings since 2012, served by pastors from WELS churches in Mandan and Bismarck, N.D. Those two congregations, as well as Salem, Circle, Mont., will be supporting this new mission start named Amazing Grace. Dickinson, the hub of the area, has seen recent economic growth alongside the oil industry, which is drawing new young families to the community.
- Home Missions is also providing financial support to three existing ministries:
- **Willoughby, Ohio:** King of Kings in the suburbs of Cleveland is one of only two WELS churches in northeast Ohio, where 2.8 million people reside. It will be calling a new pastor to reach out to young professionals and families who have moved from downtown Cleveland to the suburbs.
 - **Hutto, Texas:** Located north of Austin, Christ the Rock has been an unsubsidized mission since 2016. It recently started worshiping in a new facility and is aggressively serving its community. Financial support will assist with ministry expenses.
 - **Summerlin, Nev.:** Summerlin Lutheran Church owns a large facility in a growing master-planned community on the west side of Las Vegas. Three years of Home Missions financial support will allow the congregation to call a pastor and partner in outreach

with nearby home mission congregation Shepherd of the Hills, whose pastor has been serving as Summerlin's vacancy pastor.

"What a blessing district mission boards and mission counselors are. Their service allows Home Missions to plant missions so missionaries can proclaim the gospel," says Rev. Keith Free, administrator of the Board for Home Missions. "As these new missions are planted, we pray more souls will hear how Jesus Christ is their Savior from sin, their Lord in life, and has secured their future home in heaven."

Home Missions also approved unsubsidized mission status for Redeemer, Fallbrook, Calif., and St. John's Hillside, Milwaukee, Wis. Home Missions provides assistance to unsubsidized mission congregations through its district missions boards, mission counselors, synodical support staff, and special project funds, but does not provide direct financial support.

Learn more about Home Missions at wels.net/missions. 

MLC breaks ground for new athletic facility

Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., broke ground on a new athletic facility, the Betty Kohn Fieldhouse, in April.

MLC administration, coaches, and students participated in the event, one which Rev. Richard Gurgel, MLC president, calls a milestone. "For many months God was moving the hearts of our brothers and sisters around the synod—with their gifts and their prayers and their encouragement to others—to build

a foundation, a financial one and a spiritual one, for this day," he says.

Hundreds of gifts, including one transformational donation, allowed construction to begin.

The 36,000-square-foot indoor turf facility, which features large practice areas, baseball/softball batting cages, golf simulators, and locker rooms, will support a year-round physical education curriculum, enable spring sports to practice regularly, allow for additional intramural offerings, and create community connections. Plans are for students to be able to use the new athletic center by the beginning of 2022.

Jordyn Heckendorf, a first-year physical education major at MLC, took part in the groundbreaking event. "The new Betty Kohn Fieldhouse is a dream come true!" she says. "As an athlete and child of God, I am always looking for ways to let my light shine through the skills God has blessed me with, and this fieldhouse gives me the opportunity to do just that. To all the people who generously donated to make this possible, I want you to know that we will not take this for granted."

The building is part of the facility improvement pillar of the "Equipping Christian Witnesses" campaign, which has the goal to help train a corps of Christian witnesses to meet WELS ministry needs in the future. Learn more about the campaign at mlc-wels.edu/mlc-campaign.

WELS members can continue to support, encourage, and thank MLC graduates—from this year and from the past—by participating in MLC Day on May 5. Send messages, photos, and videos to congratulate

2021 graduating class members and thank MLC graduates from the past 25 years for their kingdom work. WELS members also can offer prayers and monetary support for MLC's ministry. All gifts go toward the Congregational Partner Grant Matching Fund, which directly matches gifts up to \$1,000 from churches for their students. Learn more at mlcday.com. 

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