

The Messenger

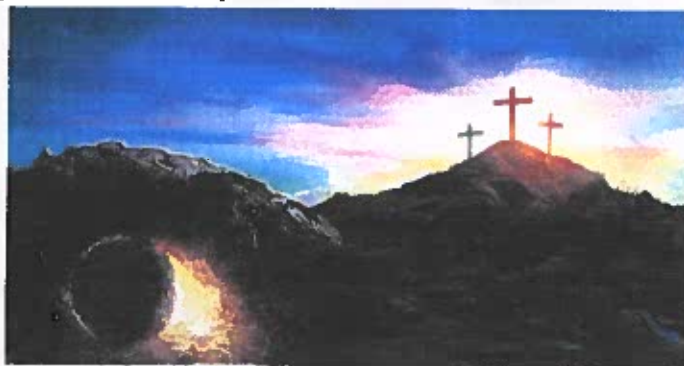
The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



What's so important about Jesus dying and rising from the dead?

"I don't want to die. I want to live."

A man I had known for about 25 minutes said these words to me as we were flying over the Caribbean Sea between Puerto Rico and Antigua. We were in the middle of a horrific lightning storm. Ten seconds before he said this, our airplane had lost all power and began to dip rather suddenly towards the deep blue expanse of water beneath us. Thankfully, the airplane regained power after only a few agonizing seconds, and we quickly climbed back to our cruising altitude.



"Death scares me," he went on, "because I know nothing about it. I only know how to live."

Choosing between something you know nothing about and something you know quite a bit about is a pretty easy decision. Most everyone feels more confident with what they are familiar with. That's why this gentleman was not the first person to express himself in this way. He most certainly will not be the last. Who can feel more confident about dying than living since we only know about life and not death?

Jesus had never died either. But as he hung on his cross, he knew it was coming. In fact, he had told his followers the day before that "it was for this reason (dying) that he came to this hour" (John 12:27).

Jesus chose death, and he did so with you in mind. Jesus chose death to prove to you that those who follow him have no reason to be afraid of death.

If the pilot of our airplane had guaranteed the passengers before that flight that we would land safely, that he had flown through worse storms and made it, that the backup generators on the plane would keep any power outage from harming us, we would have been much more confident despite the storm.

Jesus makes a much greater guarantee when he tells us we don't have to be afraid of death. And he proved it by living after he died. The dead body of Jesus was placed in a grave on Friday evening, but he rose from the dead three days later.

When you follow Jesus, death's scare is taken away. The living Jesus gives you the confidence that your grave will be empty, just like

his was. He tells all his disciples, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19).

Jesus' death and resurrection are important because it guarantees for his believers that they too will rise from the dead and live forever!

WORSHIP WITH US!

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 am

Sunday School and Bible Study between Services

Maundy Thursday
April 14
3:30 & 7:00 PM



Easter Dawn
April 17
6:00 AM

Good Friday
April 15
1:30 & 7:00 PM



Easter Day
April 17
8:00 & 10:30 AM
*Breakfast
between services*

WEEK

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church and School

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Lakeside's Fine Arts Fair Lent 5 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	4 11:30 am Kindergarten Field Trip to Sun Prairie Museum	5 4:00 pm 6th & 7th Grade Catechism 4:00 pm 8th Grade Catechism 6:30 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7:00 pm WELS Wind Ensemble Practice	6 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 3:30 pm Lent Worship 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lent Worship 8:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	7 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 2:00 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Sanctuary Reserved: Recordings	1 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 11:30 am K for a Day 4:30 pm Sanctuary reserved	2 Lakeside's Fine Arts Fair All day: Church reserved
10 Gr. K4 - 4 Sing Palm Sunday 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	11 6:30 pm Board of Ed Meeting	12 9:00 pm 6th & 7th Grade Catechism 4:00 pm 8th Grade Catechism 6:30 pm Stewardship Board 7:00 pm WELS Wind Ensemble Practice	13 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice	14 Gr. 5-8 Sing Maundy Thursday 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 3:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	15 No School Good Friday 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 4:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Worship	16
17 Easter Sunday 6:00 am Worship: Easter Dawn 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship: The Resurrection of Our Lord 7-10:00 am Easter breakfast 10:30 am Worship: The Resurrection of Our Lord	18 No School Easter Monday Tax Day	19 6:00 pm PATZ Meetings 7:00 pm WELS Wind Ensemble Practice	20 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 3:45 pm Confirmation Practice 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Council Meeting	21 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	22 Zion Arbor Day 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 6:30 pm Sanctuary Reserved (Private Baptisms)	23
24 K4 - 8 Sing Easter 2 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Confirmation Examination 10:30 am Worship, Communion Confirmation	25 9:00 am Sanctuary : Monthly Cleaning	26 7:00 am Faculty Meeting 7:00 pm WELS Wind Ensemble Practice	27 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	28 3-4 Field Trip LPS Children's Theatre 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	29 5-6 Field Trip to LLHS Midterm 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	30

8 Questions for Christian Bagocius

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

I grew up in the thumb area of Michigan. My mother was a bank teller and my father retired as a Chief of Police. I have a younger brother who has a family of his own with three children who have/are serving in the military. I met my wife, Ellisa, in Albany, Oregon at a trade show.

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

I have two daughters. My oldest, Raelyn, is 32 and a nurse and lives with her husband in Germany. My youngest, Sydney, is 31, single and works as a mechanical engineer near Los Angeles. Both daughters were confirmed in the Catholic church when they were younger.

3. *You spent time in the military. How did your time as a Marine shape you for the way you work and live today?*

My parents gave me a solid moral foundation and the Marine Corps built the structure which sits atop that foundation. Serving in the Marine Corps gave me many valuable tools to use in my home and work life. Working hard for an honest wage, the value of showing up early and leaving late, making sure those under your command are treated well and have the necessary resources to accomplish their task were among those tools. The Marine Corps also taught me that hard work is good and taking the time to worship with others is just as important. While serving overseas, I also grew to appreciate how beautiful this country is and how lucky we are to be Americans with God-given rights.

4. *Someone asks you what you do for a living. What do you tell them?*

I work for the world's largest rodent control product manufacturer. I sell products to farm store

chains that help save lives and property from the devastating effects of commensal rodents.

5. *You travel a lot for work. Any destination that you'd like to explore as a tourist?*

My grandfather on my father's side came to the United States when he was 3 years old from Lithuania. I'd like to travel around the Baltic Sea.

6. *How did you come to be a part of Zion? If you are inviting someone to come to church, what do you tell them?*

After leaving the Catholic Church, I spent some time reflecting on my spiritual life and waiting for Jesus to guide me back to church. One day my friend Jeff Krakow asked me if I wanted to go to church and the rest is history. If I invite someone to church, I would say that the Holy Spirit is always present in our lives and Jesus calls us to worship.

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

with those challenges?

Hardest challenges are dealing with coworkers and customers who are non-believers. I pray that God will forgive them.

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

I see a growing need for operating funds. Our dependence on foreign energy, food and agricultural inputs have exacerbated inflation rates. Unabated immigration is putting pressure on existing social, medical and financial resources. Politicians are giving billions of dollars, that we can't afford, to foreign countries. More people will need help in the coming months and I would hope that the generosity of our membership remains steadfast and, perhaps with a little ingenuity, grows to support the need. As time marches on, I hope that people recognize how necessary a relationship with Jesus really is.



Christian and Ellisa Bagocius

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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
Noah Litherland, Elders	608-354-5131
Nils Johansson, Outreach	608-239-5123
Aaron Larson, Property	608-220-6906
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
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

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

USHERS FOR MARCH

March 30th, April 3rd & April 6th

7:00pm - March 30th	10:30am - April 3rd
8:00am - April 3rd	7:00pm - April 6th

<u>Team E3</u>	<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

April 10th, April 14th (Maundy Thursday) & April 15th (Good Friday)

8:00am - April 10th	10:30am - April 10th
7:00pm - April 14th	7:00pm - April 15th

<u>Team E4</u>	<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)	

April 17th Easter Sunrise Service

6:00 am - Team E5
 Kim Schilling (C)
 Ronald Knudson
 John Zandler
 Scott Brenner
 Matt Vosberg

April 17th Easter Sunday & April 24th

8:00am - Team E6	10:30am - Team L2
John Brey (C)	Dale Schultz (C)
Jim Greiling	Daniel Schultz
Rick Gentz	Dylan Schultz
Hunter Sommer	Michael Hallberg
Jordan Crave	Nathan Hallberg
Christian Bagocius	Henry Tews

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.

APRIL WORSHIP WELCOMERS

April 3rd

8:00am	10:30am
Jeff & Melody Krakow	Aaron & Rachel Larson

April 10th

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

April 17th

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

April 24th

8:00am	10:30am
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 February

Date	Total
3/6	281
10/13	280
17/20	287
24/27	304

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by April 20th. Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Membership Changes

Transfer In:

Sheila Buss and children Autumn & Addison from Peace Lutheran, Sun Prairie, WI

Transfer Out:

None

Released:

None

Ministrations

Baptisms:

1. Riley Alan Summars
Born 2/3/2022; Baptized 2/13/2022
Parents: Tom & Alicia Summars

Deaths:

2. Shirley Lee - Born 10/3/1939; Died 2/3/2022
3. Joan Herzberg - Born 1/1/1934; Died 2/7/2022

Marriages:

None

Confirmations:

None

Affirmations of Faith:

None

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 7th at 2:00pm. All Zion ladies are welcome to join us in fellowship.



Athlyn Herzberg
Ray Owens

10th 88 years
25th 87 years

Easter Breakfast

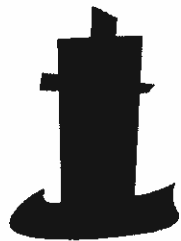
We are excited to have Easter breakfast back again this year. We will be serving a delicious pancake breakfast between services on Easter Sunday from 7:00-10:00am in the Zion gym. There are several signup sheets on the church entryway table for volunteers to help with setup and service as well as food or monetary donations. If you have any questions please contact Sue Yaroch at yarochteam@gmail.com or 920-210-2158.



Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 17
7 AM-10 AM
Zion's Gym

Bring your family
and friends for a
delicious breakfast
and fellowship.





LLHS FEDERATION CONNECTION

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

NO PAIN, NO GAIN

This is a mantra to many. In spite of the good intentions behind the words, medical and exercise experts agree that the advice is neither sound nor safe.

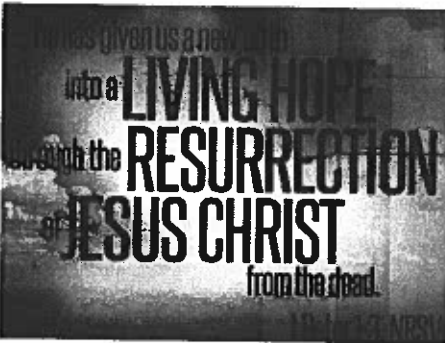
“No pain, no gain.” However, these same words are valid and true to every Christian.

Speaking to his disciples, Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve” (John 16:20). Jesus confirmed that his followers would experience real sorrow. His betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion would stun and grieve them.

But, he also promised that eternal joy would overcome their grief. “Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy” (John 16:22).

At Easter, what do these words mean to believers? Certainly Jesus’ explanation of the cost of discipleship is true. Before our joyful resurrection, we will experience the cross’s sadness and suffering. Yet, that same cross points us to real and lasting joy. Christ’s resurrection produces life-transforming joy. Peter calls it a “new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Our hope and joy center in the risen Christ. By his resurrection, that joy is ours. His resurrection declares victory over sin, death, and Satan—our joy stealers. Through Christ, we are assured that we and all believers will rise to live eternally and joyfully with him.



Even now, in the midst of earthly sorrow, Jesus offers true joy—not a vague, future promise but a living promise for today. Christ lives and comes to us through his Word. He urges us to pray to him about our struggles and temptations. In his own words, he assures us that his Father hears and answers our prayers. He said, “Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. (John 16:24).

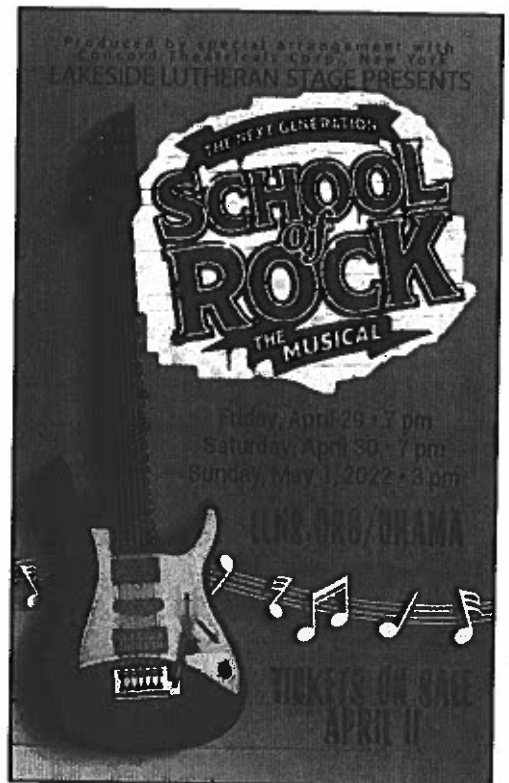
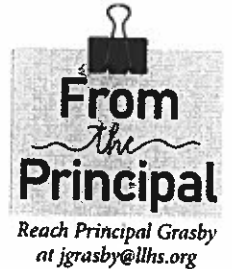
“No pain, no gain.” The *pain* that Christ endured on the cross becomes our *gain* by faith in him. His cross brings true Easter joy. Delight in this joy. Pray that it grows and is made complete in the lives of all believers in Jesus.

From all of us at Lakeside Lutheran,
God bless your joyful Easter celebration.

APRIL EVENTS

For all & up-to-the-minute see Calendar under Quicklinks at llhs.org

- April 2 LES Fine Arts Fest all day
- April 3 WFCFA State Forensics meet, Eau Claire
- April 3 A Cappella sings at Immanuel Farmington, 9a
Director Jim Buege's retirement recognized by his home congregation
- April 9 FAF Concerts, 1:30 & 4p
- April 9 LLHS Grand Event auction/social, 1–6p
- April 13 All invited to “Baked Potato Bar” Band/Choir dinner& Bake Sale, 5-6:30p
- April 13 Easter Concert, 7p
- April 15 Good Friday—no classes
- April 18 Easter Monday—no classes
- April 18 Board of Regents, 6:30p
- April 20 last application day for Wisconsin Choice, see llhs.org/choice
- April 27 LES Math Meet, 4p
- April 27 Spring Piano Recital, 6:30p
- April 28 Senior–Junior Ministry Trip/Freshmen–Sophomore Testing
- April 29 6th Grade “Play Day” for Spring Musical 9:30a
- April 29 Rho/Kentro Giving Society Reception — 5:30p | Senior Art Show
- April 30 School of Rock musical, 7p
- April 30 WSMA State Music Festival — UW–Whitewater
- April 30 School of Rock musical, 7p
- May 1 School of Rock musical, 3p
- May 1 Mandatory Summer Band meeting, 6p



LAKE SIDE GOOD NEWS *and* NOTES

- ✂ Call News: Stay tuned to llhs.org/apps/pages/callnews to keep track of all the ministry changes happening at your LLHS by next fall. Mrs. Hannah Uher [*Peace, Sun Prairie*] has accepted our call to serve as school counselor beginning next fall. Mrs. Cathy Meier [*St. Luke, Watertown*], our Family and Consumer Science teacher, has had her call made permanent. Mr. Dennis Leckwee accepted our call to teach Religion 9 next fall. Mr. Matt Foley, Pastor Jonathan Enter, and Miss Lauren Ewings have all returned the calls we issued in February.
- ✂ Warrior girls basketball finished the season at 16-10 after reaching the regional final game. In All-Conference team selections, junior Lily Schuetz [*St. Paul, Lake Mills*] was awarded 1st team honors. Sophomore Jenna Shadoski [*St. Matthew, Janesville*] 2nd team, and junior Marin Riesen [*St. Luke, Watertown*] earned honorable mention.
- ✂ With a final record of 17-8, all-conference selections for boys basketball included junior Levi Birkholz [*Trinity, Watertown*] to 1st team, who led the conference in scoring at 22.9 points per game average. Juniors Trey Lauber and Eihan Schuetz [both *St. Paul, Lake Mills*] received honorable mention.
- ✂ During National FFA Week Feb. 21-25 we celebrated with "Drive Your Tractor (skid loader, UTV, riding lawnmower...) to School Day, pedal tractor races, and a breakfast for the teachers, among other activities. Fun FFA facts: The Lakeside FFA was chartered in 2015 as the first parochial chapter in Wisconsin. FFA is not just about farming—of last year's 36 members, only 9 live on a farm.
- ✂ At our third quarter Pastors Day, we welcomed 30 pastors, vicars, and staff ministers from 27 congregations. That day, 402 of our 454 students (88.5%) met with their shepherds
- ✂ Student Council hosted another successful blood drive with Versiti. We had 120 donors respond to the call, with a goal of 80 pints.
- ✂ Twelve Class A solos and ensembles earned a starred-first rating at the Wisconsin State Music Association (WSMA) Solo-Ensemble District level event held Feb. 26 at Lake Mills High, including the 17-member Warrior Percussion Ensemble; the 14-member Swing

Choir; piano duets by juniors Jack DePrey [*Holy Cross, Madison*], and Isaac Winters [*St. Luke, Watertown*], and sophomores Maria Vik [*St. Paul, Fort Atkinson*], and Ambria McCrary, [*Peace, Sun Prairie*]; soloists senior Benjamin Kasper [*St. Peter, Helenville*] for all three of his percussion solos (tympani, marimba, drum set); Vik (piano, trombone); senior Jonathan Abel, [*St. Paul, Fort*] (tenor vocal); DePrey, (piano); and Winters (piano). These musicians will perform at the WSMA State Festival at UW-Whitewater on April 30, the first in-person state festival since 2019. Overall, Lakeside had 32 solo or ensemble entries, involving over 55 students.

✂ Our Warrior women on the co-op club bowling team earned D1 Top 5 qualifier status at the Bowling Centers Association of Wisconsin high school state championships in Menasha. Along with Watertown and Lomira HS girls, the team included junior Emma Horn and sophs Brooke Parkhurst [both *St. Luke, Watertown*] and Kya Winger [*St. John, Watertown*]. They were in the stepladder semi-final round, where they lost to the eventual state champion by only 18 pins. Dedicated dad coaches, Tom Horn and Rich Parkhurst, make the season happen.

✂ 57 K-8 girls from 17 public and private elementary & middle schools joined SWELL (Society of Women Engineers at Lakeside Lutheran) in a girls-only STEM Workshop, making a robot arm out of cardboard, seeing how many pennies an aluminum boat holds, making slime, and constructing a paper bridge across the longest span. Drew Willems, SWELL advisor shared why Warriors love this day. "It lets the girls of SWELL serve others," he said. "It also shows younger girls that science, technology, engineering, and math is fun—and that girls excel in it!"

✂ At our spring Grandparents Day, we welcomed 155 grandparents of sophs and seniors on campus for breakfast, classes with their grands, and worship with the entire school! See the gallery of smiles and hugs at llhs.smugmug.com/LLFamily/Grandparents-Day-Spring-2022

✂ Junior Christian Stuebs [*St. Paul, Lake Mills*] made a local news feature as the youngest member of the fire fighting team in Lake Mills.

✂ Our state-qualifier robotics team—builder Joey Dretske [*Eastside, Madison*], builder Ethan

Gulczynski [*St. Paul, Lake Mills*], programmer Isaac Winters, driver/builder Cooper Jensen [*Bethany, Fort*], and builder Daniel Ertman [*Bethany, Fort*—participated in the VEX championship in Appleton with Bubba the robot. Entering the single-elim round at the middle of the pack, they almost upset the #1 seed! We look forward to seeing what more experience can do for this young team next year.

✂ On March 6, 25 Teens for Christ welcomed 14 "New Friends" guests to an afternoon of fun, including Uno, "Headbands," Bingo, play dough, crafts, face painting, basketball, Tic-Tac-Toe, bags, bowling, Just Dance videos, and dodgeball. The group wrapped up the day with a devotion. New Friends said a bittersweet farewell to Ruth Hirschfeld [*St. Paul, Fort*], who is retiring after this school year. llhs.smugmug.com/Events/New-Friends-March-2022

✂ Our consistently-excellent mathletes once again took the Capitol Conference championship for both varsity and JV math teams.

✂ The Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin (GCAW) awarded the girls golf team an Honorable Mention in the 11th annual "Team Academic All-State" award. Members of the team include Ava Heckmann [*St. Andrew, Middleton*], Lauren Lostetter [*St. Paul, Lake Mills*], Kaylea Affeld [*St. Mark, Watertown*], Brooke Parkhurst, and Brianna Roman [*Hope Lake Country*].

✂ The A Cappella Choir headed out for their Spring Break Midwest Tour to Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky from March 12-18. They sang at four churches and visited the Creation Museum, Ark Encounter, Indy 500, and a Thoroughbred Horse Farm. This was the Last Hurrah tour for director Jim Buege who retires after this school year.

✂ Our first 2022 Operation Go team headed to Jarrel, Texas, over spring break. They worked with Holy Word, Austin, to reach out to this community.

✂ 15 Warrior instrumentalists participated in the West Regional WELS Band Fest at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, New Ulm, from March 18-20. See the recording of their Sunday concert at facebook.com/mvllhs/videos/3498987590328521



Support LLHS Christian education and you could win big yourself!

5 raffles are available for purchase in the LLHS office during school hours or at events prior to April 9.

- ▶ \$50: 2 round-trip Allegiant Air tickets (up to \$1,000)
- ▶ \$50: Cloute, Inc/TKS cleaning services (\$500)
- ▶ \$50: "Baehr Haus on the Fox River" \$800 package
- ▶ \$25: Chef's table for 6 at Mangiami in Fort (\$500)
- ▶ \$25: gorgeous 64x78 "Mountains" quilt (priceless)

See llhs.org/grandevent for more details

Zion Profit & Loss YTD Comparison

February 2022

Ordinary Income/Expense	Feb-22	Budget Monthly	Fiscal YTD Jul 21 - Feb 22	YTD Budget
Income				
Extended Care Reimbursement	\$ 804.15		\$ 4,351.57	
Extra Synod Missions Income	112.00		1,354.50	
Family Ministry	0.00		400.00	
General Fund Offerings	54,792.58		501,200.29	
Gifts to Payoff Bank Loan	60.00		3,444.00	
LHS Building Income	0.00		250.00	
Money borrowed from FMUB	8,000.00		45,000.00	
Other Donations	-5,349.00		4,207.50	
Other Receipts	25.00		2,360.81	
Sub Teacher Reimbursement	106.00		12.16	
Total Income	\$ 58,550.73		\$ 562,580.83	

Expense	1.00	0	3.00	0
ACH Fee	1.00		3.00	
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	\$ 30,500.50		\$ 257,028.17	\$ 263,091.90
Church Supplies	264.89		1,445.23	666.67
Convention/Cont' Education	0.00		560.00	166.67
Copier	0.00		1,338.95	2,200.00
Extended Care Expense	804.15	0.00	4,327.09	0.00
Family Ministry Board	0.00		812.67	2,100.00
Funds in Transit	0.00		-0.05	
Guest Pastor	0.00		1,057.00	500.00
Health Insurance	8,418.39		67,347.12	68,033.33
HRA Savings	0.00		12,000.00	16,000.00
Interest Expense	0.00		298.97	333.33
Janitors				

Ordinary Income/Expense

	Feb-22	Budget Monthly	Fiscal YTD Jul 21 - Feb 22	YTD Budget
Church Labor	770.00		5,374.00	5,200.00
School Labor	927.61		8,629.79	6,333.33
Total Janitors	1,697.61	0.00	14,003.79	11,533.33
LLHS Buiding Expense	0.00		150.00	
LLHS Expense	2,850.00		22,900.00	22,800.00
Maintenance				
Inspection Fees	0.00	0.00	1,332.04	1,666.67
Janitorial Supplies Church	74.78	74.78	775.35	1,333.33
Janitorial Supplies School	0.00	0.00	1,633.99	1,333.33
Pest Control	198.00	198.00	2,162.00	1,666.67
Property Improvements	0.00		2,587.58	6,666.67
Property Repair	-1,991.33		1,833.62	10,000.00
Trash Removal	0.00		2,018.86	1,533.33
Other	0.00	0.00	788.87	0.00
Total Maintenance	-1,718.55	272.78	13,132.31	24,200.00
Meditations	0.00		1,125.00	1,000.00
Mileage	0.00		619.54	4,666.67
Miscellaneous	10.00		220.00	
Organists	422.70		3,761.14	4,533.33
Outreach Board	0.00		480.05	4,333.33
Payroll Expenses	247.75		2,049.50	1,333.33
Pension Insurance	200.00		20,844.00	24,237.33
Postage and Delivery	306.56		1,207.60	800.00
Secretarial	2,155.23		17,945.78	20,505.33
Stewardship Board	238.59		2,571.59	2,333.33
Substitute Teaching	97.89		-57.64	0.00
Sunday School/VBS	19.99		151.92	0.00
Synod Mission Expense	5,812.00		46,904.50	45,600.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	718.44		2,554.14	2,333.33
Utilities				
Water & Light	4,155.93		31,651.22	27,746.67

Ordinary Income/Expense	Feb-22	Budget Monthly	Fiscal YTD Jul 21 - Feb 22	YTD Budget
	WE Energies	<u>3,772.45</u>		<u>10,224.51</u>
Total Utilities	7,928.38	0.00	41,875.73	37,613.33
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	0.00		75.00	11,066.67
Worship	631.00		18,508.07	9,133.33
Total Expense	<u>61,606.52</u>		<u>557,240.17</u>	<u>562,934.67</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-3,056.79</u>		<u>5,340.66</u>	

TOGETHER



March 15, 2022

Pray for Ukraine

The situation for our brothers and sisters in the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC) remains dire. We thank God that none of the pastors or members have lost their lives, but at least some members report that their homes have been destroyed. Some of the pastors and members have relocated to places that are relatively safe and removed from the heavy fighting, but others remain in areas where military activity is taking place every day. We continue to pray for their safety.

Last weekend, several ULC congregations—even some in areas controlled by foreign forces—were able to hold worship services either in person or virtually. God's Word continues to be proclaimed even in the middle of a terrible war.

Rev. V'yacheslav Horpynchuk, the bishop of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, has been in regular contact via Zoom with Rev. Roger Neumann, the WELS liaison to the ULC. I am also able to communicate with the bishop. Pastor Neumann has been providing daily updates on the situation as reported by Bishop Horpynchuk.

WELS members have already been very generous with gifts intended to support relief and humanitarian efforts both for members of the ULC and for the refugees and local citizens in need of help. We thank all those who have given gifts for Ukraine relief. Those gifts are being channeled through WELS World Missions, which remains in contact with the ULC and is still able to transfer funds. To date, \$125,000 has been sent by World Missions. You can give a gift by going to wels.net/give-ukraine.

Missionary Luke Wolfgramm and his wife, Jennifer, who were living in Novosibirsk, Russia, have safely exited the country. They are currently staying in Durres, Albania, where Luke is providing continuing education to leaders of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church of Albania, WELS' sister church. From there they maintain regular contact with the three national pastors in Russia, encourage the Russian Lutheran Church's leadership and 270 members, and continue online seminary training. The Wolfgramms will be returning to the United States this summer for regularly scheduled meetings and family time. Depending on how events unfold, they will most likely relocate to another location in Europe to partner with sister church bodies in their theological education and outreach efforts.

This entire tragic drama is another stark reminder of the wickedness and depravity that infects the human soul. And yet, even in these darkest of days, we remain confident that the Lord of lords is still ruling with his grace and power. We pray for an end to the war. We pray that God would preserve the lives of his believers

in Ukraine, as well as the lives of all the citizens of Ukraine. With confidence in his promises, we commend them all to his gracious care and protection.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder ●

New locations for cross-cultural outreach

One of the primary focuses of WELS Joint Missions is supporting people group ministries, where immigrants who have joined our fellowship in the United States and Canada are able to take the gospel back to friends and family in their country of origin. WELS currently supports 14 Hispanic ministries, 5 Hmong ministries, 4 African ministries, and single Korean, Chinese, Muslim, Vietnamese, and Hindu ministries throughout North America. Six additional mission churches are considered multicultural ministries, which means that more than two different cultures are being served. Many of these people group ministries have opened doors to new world mission work around the globe.

At a recent meeting, the Joint Mission Council approved financial support for two additional locations. Rev. Paul Prange, chairman of the Joint Mission Council, shares, "We are just grateful for the opportunities we have to support these fine people who are often working under difficult circumstances. Their optimism about the importance of the gospel is inspiring, and their willingness to work with us is humbling."

New Sudanese Mission— Phoenix, Ariz.

In 2020, Rev. Simon Duoth graduated from the Pastoral Studies Institute and was assigned to conduct Sudanese

outreach full time in the Pacific Northwest District. When unforeseen family circumstances forced the Duoth family to move to Phoenix, Ariz., conversations began between the Pacific Northwest and the Arizona-California district mission boards about the opportunity to plant a new Sudanese ministry in the area. Research shows that 4,000 Sudanese people live in the city. It was then discovered that a WELS church, Emmaus, was only four blocks away from a Sudanese cultural center. Emmaus' church leadership is willing and excited to offer its church as a worship center as Duoth begins outreach.

God is also continuing to provide for Sudanese outreach in the Pacific Northwest. A member and longtime evangelist in the current Sudanese congregation located at Divine Peace in Renton, Wash., is stepping up to serve as leader of the church. He will begin training in the Pastoral Studies Institute as he leads Sudanese ministry in the area.

Mission Enhancement— Las Vegas, Nev.

The Korean Fellowship Lutheran Church, served by Korean Pastor Rev. Taesang Kim, is self-supporting and shares a campus with Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nev. Recently, Rev. Youngha Kim and his wife, Margaret, retired to the Las Vegas area. Youngha Kim was trained at Bethany Lutheran

Seminary (Evangelical Lutheran Synod's seminary) and has previously served in Korean ministry in the U.S. and in South Korea. Funding will allow the Korean Fellowship Lutheran Church to call Youngha Kim to reconnect with the elderly and retirees after the pandemic, freeing up Taesang Kim's time to engage with Korean teenagers and young professionals.

Learn more about WELS Joint Missions at wels.net/jointmissions. 🌐

2022 WELS International Youth Rally registration underway

Registration has opened for the 2022 WELS International Youth Rally, June 28–July 1, University of Tennessee—Knoxville. Usually held every other year, this will be the first rally since 2018, as the 2020 event was canceled due to COVID-19.

The rally is open to all WELS teens heading into their freshman year of high school through seniors graduating this spring. Youth from around North America will gather for group worship, small workshops, and recreation and fellowship.

The first ever WELS youth rally was in 1974; in nearly 50 years there has never been a four-year gap between events. "This is the longest we've ever gone without a rally," says Rev. Donn Dobberstein, director of WELS Discipleship.

Dobberstein says this rally is going to be really important for two reasons. First, it's bringing together teens to help them realize the church of God is so much larger than individual WELS congregations—where the

average weekly worship attendance is at 70. Second, it's an opportunity for the youth leaders to connect and share ideas.

Jennifer Wockenfuss will be attending as a youth leader for a group of 17 teens from Messiah in Nampa, Idaho. She says, "We are in the heart of Mormon country so most of our kids are constantly surrounded by kids of other religions and have never been around many other kids that believe the same thing. I am excited for them to grow as a youth group and grow in their faith as they worship and fellowship with so many other Lutherans their age."

The theme for the 2022 rally is "Here and Now," inspired by Esther 4:14. Dobberstein says, "Esther probably isn't the first name you think of as a biblical hero; her story isn't as well known. But when you read it, it's powerful. It's a story of how God can choose someone out of obscurity and use them for his purpose. God doesn't have a use for our youth only in the future or down the road. Like a young Esther, you don't know what God's timing is for you, but he does have a plan for you. I believe God has a plan for you here and now."

Two keynotes will be presented to the attending teens based on the theme. Rev. Aaron Robinson, English professor and cultural diversity coordinator at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., will present "Why Not Us? Royal People," focusing on how Christians should be asking "Why not us?" instead of "Why us?". Rev. Jon Bare, professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., and director of the Pastoral Studies Institute, will present "Why Not Now? We Serve at a Momentous Time with

Momentous Purpose," which will examine how God places his people right where he needs them right when he needs them to serve.

Additional workshops address the challenges young Christians face in today's world, with topics such as "Superhero Training: Bystander Intervention Strategies," "Where's God When . . . Responding to Faith Challenges," and "Creating Mental Health Resilience: Strategies for Thriving in a Stressful World." Dobberstein says some of the workshops will be recorded so they can be used as resources for youth ministry in the future.

So far, in the first week of registration, hundreds of people have already registered for the rally. Rally organizers are anticipating about 2,000 attendees. Registration runs March 8–May 31. The cost is \$375 if groups register by April 30 and \$395 from May 1–31.

Learn more about the workshops, recreational excursions, and the rally—and register—at wels.net/youthrally.

Grants available to help more people hear the Word

WELS Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MDHH), part of the Commission on Special Ministries, is offering \$500 grants toward the installation of a hearing loop to WELS/Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregations that apply for it. MDHH is

also able to point congregations toward additional research, contacts, and other resources around hearing loops.

MDHH reports that hearing the spoken word in a church setting continues to be a struggle for people dealing with hearing loss. They may miss a phrase that would have been the exact thing their heart needed that day. Or they may choose to stop coming to church because they are frustrated or discouraged by the amount of effort required to catch the full message.

Modern technology has solutions to alleviate this problem. One of these is to install hearing loops in churches. A hearing loop works with people's hearing aids to provide a clearer sound directly into their ears. MDHH is encouraging congregations to consider a looping project by offering a grant to help fund it. If a congregation is planning or has already begun any kind of building or renovation project, this is an especially great time to consider installing a loop.

If your congregation is interested in installing a loop in your sanctuary, contact mdhh@wels.net for more information.

Learn more about the Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at wels.net/mdhh. ●



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