

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



from all these trials of life... and more: "Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:4,5).

Hallelujah!

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible. This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Psalm 118:1**

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Psalm 118 is an "Hallelujah" psalm, meaning "Praise the LORD!" Long ago, God's people sang the words of this psalm toward the end of their Passover meal. It was a special occasion, a time for God's people to remember how he had rescued their nation from slavery in Egypt; it was a picture of God's rescue of all people from their slavery to sin. The Passover meal reminded each generation how much God truly loved them.

Would disaster continue to interrupt their lives? Would prosperity be withheld? Would earthly death continue to pick away at their loved ones? Yes, yes, and yes. Yet the people sang out praise and thanks to their merciful God for deliverance

It is the custom in North America to gather this time of year to celebrate *Thanksgiving*. Whether you are with family, friends, or celebrating alone, take the time to give thanks to our Savior-God for his mercy and deliverance from death through Jesus. Jesus shows us that God is good. Even when times are tough, Jesus proves that his love for us endures forever.

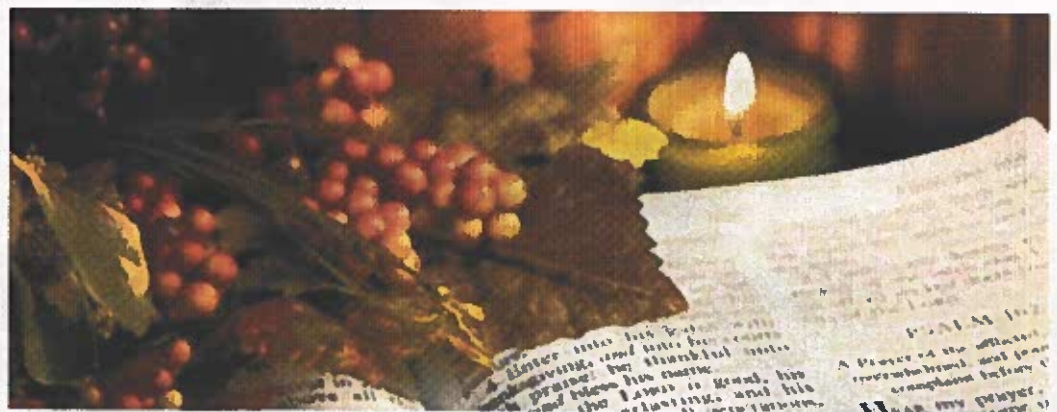
WORSHIP WITH US

THURSDAY Evenings at 6:30

SUNDAY Mornings at 8:00 and 10:30

Social distancing, mask requirements in place for on-campus worship.

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



Thanksgiving Eve Worship | November 25
7:00 pm

Zion Lutheran Church and School

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Time ends Reformation 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion	2	3 Election Day (General Elections)	4 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 6-7, 8 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice	5 2:00 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Worship	6 No School: Parent-Teacher Conferences Bible Breakfast 6:00 am	7 Institutional Ministries Meeting 9:00 am
8 Last Judgment 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	9 3:30 pm *Board of Ed Meeting	10 7:00 pm Stewardship Board	11 Veterans Day 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 6-7, 8 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Council Meeting	12 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	13 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	14
15 Saints Triumphant 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship, Communion	16	17 6:00 pm PATZ Meeting	18 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 6-7, 8 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice	19 6:30 pm Worship	20 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	21
22 Christ the King 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	23	24	25 Early Release 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm (No Catechism) 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Worship, communion	26 No School: Thanksgiving break Thanksgiving Day	27 No School: Thanksgiving break	28
29 Advent 1 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship, Communion	30					

7 Questions for the Retzlaffs Dan and Becky, Faith and Grace

1. Basics – Where did you grow up? How did you meet and marry? *Dan grew up in Lomira; his dad was pastor at St. John's. I [Becky] grew up in Fond du Lac. We both attended Winnebago Lutheran Academy. Looking back, we attended many of the same events throughout grade school and had classes together all four years of high school, but our first conversation and date was in December of our senior year. By graduation, we were planning to get married as soon as possible.*

2. How did you wind up in Columbus and at Zion? *Dan was working in Lomira, and I was a student at UW-Madison, so we decided to split the commute and chose Columbus. We looked at Zion, knew it had a grade school that we hoped to need someday for our future children, and called it "home." We still remember some of our first welcoming conversations...with Pastor Wilke, Arlene Sennhenn, Kurt & Lucy Zander. And Mrs. Ibsch would see us separately and then try to set us up!*

3. How did your girls develop such a love for horses? *When Faith was little, she went through a few phases of being extremely interested in learning about a specific thing. First it was geography, then American Indians. After about a year of fascination with all things Native American, at about age 5, she said one day, "You know how horses have to do with Indians? I'm gonna like horses now." Grace, age 2 at the time, followed right along. That phase is still going strong for both girls. Most of their time is spent working with horses, learning about horses, or scheming ways to get one (or ten) of their own.*

4. How has your family life changed during the COVID months? *We definitely spend more time together, which has been great. Both Dan and I work from home much more, and the girls are*

around more too since social events are limited. We decided to get a dog, which I never thought we'd have time for. We welcomed Lani, a rescue of unknown age and breed, home in early spring.

We appreciate things we took for granted in the past – worshipping with other believers in person, seeing extended family, and opportunities to travel.



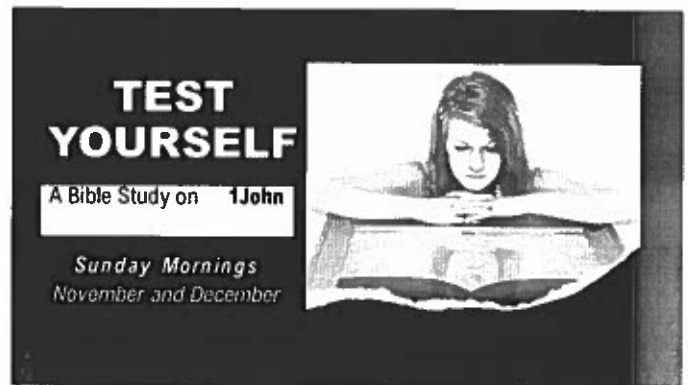
5. Once COVID clears the way for us to travel more, where do you want to go next? *Greece, Ireland, and Kauai are at the top of my list. Dan is thinking Germany, New Zealand, and Kauai. Also, I want to get to every National Park with Dan, and we have MANY more to go!*

6. How do your jobs give you a chance to put your faith into action? *Dan works in IT for the Department of Public Instruction and says, "I truly appreciate the Christian education I received at St. John's and WLA. The opportunity to work for DPI and effect change in the public school system of Wisconsin after working many years in the private sector appealed to me in that I'd be helping students and school districts statewide instead of just working to make more money for someone at the top. I felt it was a way to give back, out of thanks for my education experience growing up. Also, my team of 35 is a diverse group from four continents, six countries, and several different religions. It can be difficult to*

witness Christ crucified while working in a government position, but I try to make sure my team knows I am there to listen to them, about non-work things too, and sometimes that has led to conversations that allow me to share Jesus with them."

I am the financial manager for Lakeside Lutheran High School. As a ministry, we juggle an attempt to make Christian education affordable while partnering with congregations that struggle to keep their bills paid. We juggle retaining sufficient reserve funds to sustain our long-term needs while spending enough to update or create programs that drive stellar education forward. I look at it much like the synod. Lakeside is the ministry of each of the congregations in our federation – our partnership allows us to benefit a wide range of souls that each congregation working alone couldn't reach. In the end, we're working to glorify Jesus, knowing that all we do and all we have is only by His grace and mercy...even if my day is spent up to my elbows in spreadsheets...they are faith-filled spreadsheets!

7 .How has Zion changed in your time here? How do you hope it will change in the coming years? It seems like we're a little less fearful of change than we used to be. Maybe it's Covid, or the change in called workers we've seen in recent years, but it seems like we're more open to going with the flow. We know that God is with us and blesses us even when things aren't the way we're used to. I hope we continue to reach out and look for ways to share the gospel outside of our own campus, and that the school enrollment will increase as our city grows and comes to know what we have to offer – peace, hope, and life through Jesus.



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Council Names and Numbers

Dan Retzlaff, Chairman	920-319-0018
Don Lamb, Vice-Chairman	920-382-4338
Nick Uebelacker, Secretary	608-225-8861
Brady Weiland, Treasurer	920-285-7362
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

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

Greeter Schedule



November 1st

8:00am — E9
Merle Nehmer

10:30am — L5
Marcia Rewolinski &
Arlene Sennhenn

November 8th

8:00am — E11
Delphine Schaefer

10:30am — L7
Wayne & Darlene Powers

November 15th

8:00am — E1
Jeff & Melody Krakow

10:30am — L8
Otto & Sheree Mattke

November 22nd

8:00am — E2
Dave & Kathy Harle

10:30am — L9
Bev Herold &
Nicole Henning

November 29th

8:00am — E4
Delmar & Carol Vick

10:30am — L11
John & Sarah Brey

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.



November 1st

8:00am - Team E1
Jeff Henning (C)
Daryl Berndt (A)
Leo Fischer
Matt Weidner
Rodney Hacht
Mark Tiedt

10:30am - Team L4
Bruce Zander (C)
Kurt Zander (A)
Kane Brovskowski
Wyatt Brovskowski
Jack Schultz
Jesse Schultz

November 8th & November 15th

8:00am - Team E2
Dale Schilling (C)
Dale Gajdosik
Randy Vick
Kenneth Schulz
Matt Yaroch
Nick Yaroch
Nate Yaroch

10:30am - Team L5
Phil Manteufel (C)
Peter Lewke
Dave Harle
Paul Musser
Brian Baney
Eric Musser

November 22nd & November 29th

8:00am - Team E3
Randy Koehn (C)
Dan Retzlaff
Noah Litherland
Jim Stadler
Josiah Schwartz
William Penterman

10:30am - Team L6
Otto Mattke (C)
Paul Kehl (A)
Dennis Winter
Carl Wolf
William Mattke
Nils Johansson
Shaun Opsahl

November 25th - Thanksgiving Eve

7:00pm - Team L7
Matt Huber (C)
Carter Huber
Jeremy Maas
Peter Klokow
Jack Klokow
Brady Grambsch
Michael Vertz

If you have any questions about the usher schedule, would like to be added as an usher or won't be able to serve any longer as an usher, please call Randy Koehn at (608) 296-4333.



Church Attendance
September 2020

Date	Total
3/6	194
10/13	221
17/20	178
24/27	224



Rosalind Zeidler 9th 89 years

Zion's Ladies Society

Thursday, November 5th
 at 2:00pm in the
 Fellowship Hall is Zion's
 Ladies Aid's next
 meeting.



We need to discuss ways to carry out our regular projects that we usually do at this time of the year. Everyone's ideas will be appreciated.

Please remember to bring some produce for Zion's Relief Committee for others that may need a little help.

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by November 20th.

Contact Sue Henning at
 (608) 225-4853 or

suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Forthright Lutheran Funeral Practices

Perhaps no family event is more difficult to prepare for than the funeral of a close relative. There we will say our final goodbyes to the body of the deceased. There we are repeatedly reminded of the loss we feel—we no longer have this person as an earthly companion on the road through life to heaven. There we are brought face to face with our own mortality.

It may come as a surprise to some people that pastors often find Christian funerals one of the more rewarding experiences of their ministry. The funeral more clearly confesses the faith of a Christian church than almost any other service. The service deals with the very core issues of the Christian faith itself: the promise of eternal life and Christ's resurrection upon which it rests.

Most of us will be involved in planning a Christian funeral at some point in our lives. What follows is a list of some principles to keep in mind when that day finally comes.

1. The Purpose of a Christian Funeral is to Share the Comfort of the Gospel.

There is no command in Scripture to bury the dead, though it does give us a number of examples. Nor does the Bible ever describe religious services in connection with a burial. The Church has become involved because it gives us an opportunity to comfort the family and friends of the deceased with the truths of the Gospel ("Therefore, encourage each other with these words" 1 Thessalonians 4:18). It also gives us the chance to share the way of salvation with unbelieving friends and family who may be in attendance. In either case, the message is the same: "We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him" (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

It is worth noting that a Christian funeral does not offer the bereaved vague or hazy musings about the fate of the person who has died. It states unequivocally that through faith in the forgiveness of sins which Jesus purchased at the cross, and in this way alone, God's children receive eternal life and heaven. Where this cannot be stated there can be no Christian funeral. While we preach this message for the comfort of those who survive, it always has reference to the salvation of the person we have gathered to bury. *A Christian funeral is a public statement that we believe the soul of the person who has died is now in heaven.*

2. Christian Churches Bury Those Who Belong to Them.

It seems natural that the pastor and congregation supplying the spiritual needs of a person before death are in the best position to provide funeral services. *In general Christian congregations provide funeral services for those who shared the faith of that congregation and made this known by their membership.*

In general the deceased's pastor at the time of death will officiate. Involving clergy of other denominations in the same funeral service would send a confusing message about the differences of belief that do exist.

Sometimes people who have been preparing for membership in our church, or who have just come to faith in the gospel, die before they have completed their instruction. Such people are under our spiritual care, though they may not be on our membership roles. For such people we would provide Christian funeral services.

Those who reject our faith, or those who give no evidence of faith, whether members or non-members, make it impossible for pastor or congregation to state confidently that this person possessed saving faith. Jesus told the young man who asked to be excused to bury his unbelieving father, "Let the dead bury their own dead" (Matthew 8:22). In such cases our congregation would have to decline the invitation to perform funeral services. Instead of a public funeral at our church, our may be able to offer family members our private words of comfort and support.

3. Christian Funeral Services Focus Attention on Jesus Rather Than Eulogizing the Dead.

Our comfort at the time of a believer's death lies in the grace and forgiveness of Jesus, not in the good things that person had done throughout his life on earth. "No one will be declared righteous in his (God's) sight by observing the law" (Romans 3:20). "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Eulogies tend to reinforce the popular and false notion that someone has gone to heaven because "he was a good person." *Lutheran funeral services don't include a place in the service for eulogies.*

That does not mean that during the sermon the pastor will avoid all examples of good works from the life of this departed soul. These things can serve as evidence he had a living faith in his heart. However, the pastor will be careful to make it clear that the person was not saved because of these good works, but through the faith in Jesus' forgiveness that produced them.

Naturally we want to spend time talking with others about the person who has passed away and what they meant to us. A luncheon following the services or a gathering at home with friends and family are more appropriate places for this kind of reminiscing to take place.

4. Christian Funeral Music Clearly Proclaims the Gospel That Comforts Us.

Like our Sunday services, the funeral is a worship service to God. Its purpose, as stated before, is to strengthen our faith in the Gospel, not to fill us with sentimental feelings. The music we choose will reflect this. Secular songs that were favorites of the deceased may stir fond memories of time spent together, but they distract our attention from the comfort our Savior offers us in his Gospel. If we want to share non-sacred music with our guests, we will look for places other than the funeral service or the Christian committal rites at the graveside.

Since we want the message of salvation by grace through faith to be clear to us and to our guests, hymns that emphasize this truth will be most appropriate for the funeral. Sometimes even hymns that have long been popular with Christians fail to present the gospel clearly. We want to be careful not to obscure our Savior's powerful message of comfort in this way.

5. Those Who Lead Worship in A Christian Funeral Need to Share The Same Faith.

As with every other worship service conducted by our church, we expect that a common understanding of the teachings of the Bible will unite those who lead the worship by preaching, reading, singing solos, or playing instruments. Our God wants those who join together to carry out his gospel mission to be united in how they understand his message (1 Corinthians 1:10), not divided (Romans 16:17). Unfortunately, such a unity does not exist between the denominations of Christianity today. A funeral is a great opportunity for our non-WELS family and friends to hear the simple message of salvation that we believe. It is not the time to give them the impression that the differences that divide our churches are unimportant. We will avoid giving that impression if *we choose only those within our fellowship to lead at worship.*

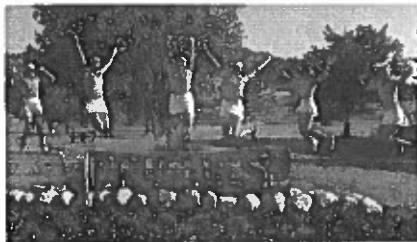
It's been said that a "Lutheran preacher worth his salt would prefer to conduct ten funerals before one wedding" ... and Lutheran preachers love to preach the gospel at weddings! However, at a Christian funeral it seems that we get to speak more directly of the soul's ultimate goal – life in heaven through faith in our Savior, Jesus. Our practices are not meant to exclude or discourage, but rather to make the comfort we have in the gospel as clear as possible when we need it the most.

"I will not die. No, I will live, and I will proclaim the works of the Lord." (Psalm 118:17 EHV)

LAKESIDE GOOD NEWS *and* NOTES

- ◆ Our annual **What's New at Lakeside** video is always a fan favorite! Check out what's changed here on campus for the 2020-21 school year—and remember what will never change. See it at bit.ly/LLHSNew2020-21
- ◆ To keep our students planning for the future, to accommodate guidelines, and to take advantage of our great fall weather, **college visits** have been held in the courtyard. Some of those visits were made by **Forever Warriors**: **Sami Huebner** ('15) for WLC and **Ted Klug** ('92) for MLC.
- ◆ Our **A Cappella Sundays** have begun. Some will be virtual and some in person. Visit our Lakeside YouTube page to listen to some of ACap's beautiful songs this year. [youtube.com/user/llhstechclub/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/llhstechclub/videos)
- ◆ **Teens for Christ** supported a drive-through baby shower hosted by the Alpha Resource Center in Watertown. Our teens collected baby items and donated money to support Alpha's mission of supporting life from conception to eternity.
- ◆ This year **Cross Country** families participated in the 2020 MLC sprinter fun run. About 30 LLHS students and parents ran or walked in support of LLHS Forever Warriors who attend Martin Luther College.
- ◆ On Oct. 4, **Kirk DeNoyer** (St. Paul, Lake Mills) was inducted into the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Hall of Fame for his years in ministry and athletics at Wisco. We're blessed to have such a dedicated, accomplished servant as our executive director.

- ◆ **Girls golf** good news! They placed second at Sectionals, which means they qualified for the State Meet as a TEAM—for the first time in program history! Senior **Maya Heckmann** (St. Andrew, Middleton) was the sectional medalist, and teammates **Ella Butzine** (Holy Cross, Madison), **Kaylea Affeld** (St. Mark, Watertown), **Lauren Lostetter** (St. Paul, Lake Mills), **Ava Heckmann** (St. Andrew, Middleton) and **Brooke Parkhurst** (St. Luke, Watertown) joined her for weather-challenged but exciting days at the WIAA Division 2 state girls golf tournament at Blackwolf Run in Kohler where Heckmann tied for sixth place and the team placed sixth overall.



- ◆ To reach out to more families who may be looking for a Christian education, **Steve Lauber** (St. Paul, Lake Mills) and his team put together a radio spot that aired on 102.5 FM Christian radio before our 8th grade parent open house Oct. 27. It encouraged people to check out what sets your LLHS apart!
- ◆ This semester, **Alex Quist** is a student teacher in Matt Doering's classroom. Alex, a senior at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, is pursuing Secondary Social Studies and Elementary Education.
- ◆ Last month we put out a call for grandparents to make a "connection" since we were unable to host our traditional Grandparents Day on campus this fall. Close to 200 sets of grandparents answered the call, with stacks of love in envelopes flooding the LL mailbox. On October 20, students were called to the "mail station" to receive their cards and letters and photos. It was absolutely amazing! llhs.org/apps/pages/gpd



Honoring our Veterans

One of our favorite traditions is our Veterans Day observation, this year planned for Wed., November 11.

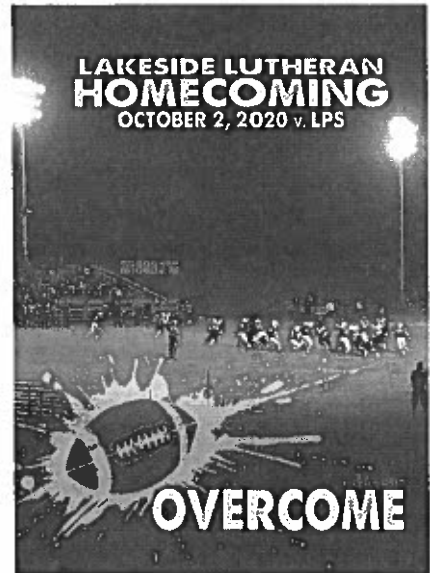
Unfortunately, we aren't able to invite veterans to campus this fall, but we still plan to honor their service.

Join us by submitting names—and a photo, if possible—of family members or LL alum and supporters who have served or are still serving.

We'll display them during the day. We'll also line our campus sidewalks with a flag for each name submitted.

Submit veteran info by 11/4/20

llhs.org/apps/form/vets2020



- ◆ Members of the 2020 Homecoming Court were freshmen **Ella Ristow** (St. Luke, Watertown) and **Alex Reinke** (St. Luke, Watertown); sophomores **Marissa Duddeck** (St. John, Cold Spring) and **Japheth Yahnke** (Trinity, Watertown); juniors **Ketia Vater** (St. Luke, Watertown) and **Jesse Schultz** (Zion, Columbus); senior reps **Stephanie Schafer** (St. Paul, Lake Mills) and **Devin Splinter** (St. Matthew, Oconomowoc); and **Queen Grace Seim** (St. Stephen, Beaver Dam) and **King Graham Hatcher** (St. Matthew, Ocon).
- ◆ Forever Warriors (FW) reached the limited capacity for our 2020 **Alum Zone**, a gathering for food and fellowship before the football game on Homecoming night. The class of '86 won the attendance award. Other FWs around the country cheered on the Warriors by submitting photos of themselves in Warrior spirit wear. Follow our Forever Warriors on Instagram @llhsforeverwarriors
- ◆ The Warrior Football team earned a Homecoming victory over Luther Prep on Friday. Then on Saturday, varsity soccer capped off HoCo week with a BIG win (8-0) over Hustisford/Dodgeland.
- ◆ Our abbreviated talent show was held on Friday with some beat making, singing, and piano playing. Congrats to **Will Popp** (Our Redeemer, Madison) and **Jack DePrey** (Holy Cross, Madison) for their first and second place wins. See the YouTube channel to watch their performances.
- ◆ Souvenir Memory books (cover pictured above) are available for anyone wishing a print full-color celebration of fall athletes, seniors and Homecoming activities. Contact office@llhs.org to request a copy; see an online archive at issuu.com/llhs/docs/homecoming-booklet2020-web



CONTACT INFO: 920-648-2321 · office@llhs.org
231 Woodland Beach Rd. · Lake Mills, Wis. 53551



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

	Sept 20	Estimated Monthly Budget	Fiscal Year to Date Jul 20 - Sep 20	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Extra Synod Missions Income	141.00		756.00	
General Fund Offerings	47,909.48		154,509.07	
LLHS Building Income	-		-	
Other Donations	1,530.00		(3,657.45)	
Other Receipts	-		27.11	
<i>Transferred from Undesignated</i>	-		-	
<i>FMUB Revolving Line of Credit @ 3.5%</i>	-		-	
WLCFS Income	-		-	
WLIM Income	-		-	
Total Income	49,580.48		151,634.73	
Expense				
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	28,396.47	28,152.17	86,767.52	337,826.00
Church Supplies	(238.32)	454.17	105.41	5,450.00
Convention/Cont' Education	-	83.33	-	1,000.00
Copier	429.53	275.00	429.53	3,300.00
Elders Board	-	20.83	-	250.00
Family Ministry Board	195.58	350.00	134.58	4,200.00
Guest Pastor	286.00	125.00	286.00	1,500.00
Health Insurance	8,418.39	8,504.17	16,768.17	102,050.00
HRA Savings	1,000.00	1,500.00	5,500.00	18,000.00
Interest Expense	-	166.67	-	2,000.00
Custodial	962.08	1,950.00	3,386.52	23,400.00
LLHS Building Expense	-	-	-	-
LLHS Expense	2,750.00	2,750.00	8,250.00	33,000.00
Maintenance	2,057.17	4,150.00	5,593.17	49,800.00
Meditations	-	125.00	362.00	1,500.00
Mileage	542.24	500.00	1,046.24	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	43.21	12.50	43.21	150.00
Organists	470.82	566.67	1,339.91	6,800.00
Outreach Board	4,000.00	666.67	4,000.00	8,000.00
Payroll Expenses	329.70	308.33	926.90	3,700.00
Pension Insurance	200.00	3,556.67	600.00	42,680.00
Postage and Delivery	43.50	150.00	128.93	1,800.00
Secretarial	1,991.76	2,144.17	5,071.81	25,730.00
Stewardship Board	260.37	291.67	1,247.86	3,500.00
Substitute Teaching	48.94	-	48.94	-
Sunday School/VBS	-	250.00	-	3,000.00
Synod Mission Expense	5,641.00	5,500.00	17,256.00	66,000.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	368.94	291.67	906.82	3,500.00
Utilities	4,355.19	1,827.08	1,652.37	21,925.00
WLCFS Expense	375.00	-	450.00	-
WLIM Expense	-	-	-	-
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	-	1,250.00	-	15,000.00
Worship	173.83	545.83	1,105.77	6,550.00
Total Expense	63,101.40	66,467.58	163,407.66	797,611.00

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

September 2020

Previous Month Assets	\$62,329.70
Total Transactions	-\$16,683.44
Total Current Assets	\$45,646.26

New Church/School Total	\$40,708.09
Checking/savings	

Accounts	Undesignated Checking	Explanation	Undesignated Savings	Explanation	Monthly Statements		
					NEW Church/School Fund Savings	NEW Church/School Checking	
Previous Balance	\$95.79		\$4,989.82		\$55,087.97	\$2,156.12	
Monthly Transactions*	\$350.02		(\$497.46)		(\$17,048.40)	\$512.40	
Current Balance	\$445.81		\$4,492.36		\$38,039.57	\$2,668.52	
Transactions							
	(\$150.00)	Jean Marks 9-9 transfer from Undes	(\$500.00)	9-9 transfer to Undes Checking	\$80.00	9-1 deposit	\$8,000.00
	\$500.00	Interest	\$2.54	Interest	(\$5,425.00)	9-1 Mortgage Payment	(\$7,962.50)
	\$0.02	Interest			\$200.00	9-2 deposit	\$4,000.00
					\$150.00	9-3 deposit	(\$3,525.10)
					\$2,491.50	9-4 deposit	
					\$305.00	9-8 deposit	
					\$75.00	9-9 deposit	
					\$40.00	9-11 deposit	
					\$65.00	9-14 deposit	
					\$2,755.00	9-15 deposit	
					(\$5,425.00)	9-15 Mortgage payment	
					(\$8,000.00)	9-15 transfer to NCS Checking	
					\$300.00	9-16 deposit	
					\$2,301.00	9-18 deposit	
					\$410.00	9-21 deposit	
					\$130.00	9-22 deposit	
					\$75.00	9-23 deposit	
					\$1,265.00	9-25 deposit	
					\$65.00	9-28 deposit	
					\$180.00	9-29 deposit	
					(\$4,000.00)	9-29 transfer to NCS Checking	
					(\$5,425.00)	9-29 Mortgage Payment	
					\$339.10	9-30 deposit	
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	\$350.02		(\$497.46)		(\$17,048.40)		\$512.40
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	(\$16,683.44)						
Interest Received	\$2.56						

Notes:
 Check # 2282 School Roof Repair
 Check # 2283 New Sound system

TOGETHER



October 20, 2020

Conference of Presidents' October meeting

The Conference of Presidents (COP) met at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, Wis., during the second week of October. This was the first face-to-face meeting of the COP since January. Other meetings, including the assignment of graduates from Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, have been held via Zoom video conference.

In addition to extensive discussion of topics relating to doctrine, congregations, and called workers, the COP took the following actions:

- Extended a divine call to Rev. Tom Westra to serve as a congregational counselor. This is a new position approved last year by the Synodical Council.
- Extended a divine call to Rev. Paul Lindhorst to serve as a Christian giving counselor.
- Received an encouraging financial update from Chief Financial Officer Mr. Kyle Egan. Egan's report showed the synod ended the last fiscal year in good financial shape due to better-than-expected offerings and significantly lower expenditures. The report also included the good news that Congregation Mission Offerings for the year continue to be higher than planned. Egan also gave an overview of the proposed Ministry Financial Plan (budget) that will be considered by the Synodical Council in November.
- Chose "Here We Stand" as the theme of the 2021 synod convention. On the 500th anniversary of Luther's bold confession at the Diet of Worms, this theme reminds us of the importance of continuing to stand on the truth of Scripture.
- Encouraged Martin Luther College to discontinue the requirement for at least one in-person course in the synod teacher certification program.
- Reviewed a new video that reminds congregations of the importance of Congregation Mission Offerings. The district presidents will be strongly encouraging all congregations to make this video available to their leaders and members.
- Adopted recommendations for bylaw changes that would re-

duce the wait time needed for issuing calls for professors at synodical schools.

The next meeting of the Conference of Presidents is scheduled for January 2021. ☩

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

Home missions faithfully moving forward

Two young WELS mission congregations launched their first public worship services in September.

“Even in the face of the difficulties of COVID-19, our home missionaries and members are faithfully sharing God’s Word in weekly worship following appropriate health guidelines,” says Rev. Keith Free, administrator of WELS Home Missions. “Extra efforts are worth it so that we have more opportunities to tell people about Jesus Christ.”

On Sept. 13, Hope, Houston, Texas, held its opening service in a local dance studio. WELS Board for Home Missions authorized funding for this new mission in a growing urban neighborhood in Houston in May 2019. Rev. Andrew Nemmers was assigned to serve the congregation, which is made up of a dedicated group of core members that have been meeting monthly for Bible study since 2015.

Nemmers notes, “Even though this was not how we anticipated start-


ing worship—several core group families unable to join in person, everyone wearing masks, and social distancing—our first service was definitely successful! After months of not being able to gather in person, it was incredibly uplifting to be able to gather together around the Word again. We are excited to see what God has in store for us as we continue worshipping together and reaching out to our community.”

Members of Sure Foundation, Brandon, S.D., opened their ministry center on Sept. 18 and then held their grand opening worship service at a local hotel on Sept. 20.

“After a year of meeting, working, connecting, and planning, there was a great deal of excitement from the core group of Sure Foundation as well as some prospects from the Brandon community,” says Rev. Craig Wilke, Sure Foundation’s home missionary. “We are incredibly excited to continue to reach out to the community of Brandon and to proclaim the comforting message of our Sure Foundation, Jesus.”

Two other home mission congrega-

tions celebrated milestones on Sept. 27. Christ the Rock, Hutto, Texas, and St. Paul, Adams-Friendship, Wis., both dedicated their new worship facilities. WELS Church Extension Fund, Inc., helped provide funding for both locations.

For more information on WELS Home Missions, visit wels.net/home-missions. 

WELS Benefit Plans announces limited open enrollment


The WELS VEBA Commission is announcing a limited open enrollment for the WELS VEBA Group Health Care Plan for the 2021 plan year. The limited open enrollment is available to eligible workers at sponsoring organizations with at least one active worker enrolled in medical benefits under the WELS VEBA health plan. Enrollment for health and dental plans will open on Nov. 2, 2020, and run through Nov. 30, 2020.

The WELS VEBA Commission has also announced the 2021 premium rates for WELS VEBA medical benefits will not change from the 2020 rates. The commission is pleased to provide this rate stability to help support WELS ministry efforts.

“WELS VEBA is purposefully designed for workers serving at WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod ministries. As a plan sponsored by a religious organization, WELS VEBA is

uniquely consistent with both God’s Word and the law,” says Mr. Joshua Peterman, director of WELS Benefit Plans.

Information regarding the 2021 limited open enrollment and WELS VEBA benefits and WELS VEBA health plan rates for 2021 are available on the Benefit Plans website at welsbpo.net.

In addition to steady health care rates, the WELS Benefits Plans Office has implemented a Pension Plan contribution holiday underway during the October 2020 quarter. No contributions were charged to calling bodies for pension benefits this quarter. Peterman says this is a savings of \$1,132 per full-time called worker and a total of about \$5 million in savings across all of WELS. In a difficult year for many WELS schools and churches, WELS Benefit Plans is able to offer this small relief to ministry work. 

New series highlights God’s guidance in life

A new series in *Forward in Christ* magazine (FIC) is highlighting how God works in the lives of everyday Christians.

“My Christian life” focuses on real-life blessings and challenges of WELS members and how God helps Christians through whatever circumstances they find themselves in.

Articles this year have highlighted adoption, mental illness, cancer, and

tragic accidents as well as looked at how Christians share their faith through various vocations.

“Every Christian is on a journey through life, trusting Jesus to guide, strengthen, and comfort them,” says Rev. John Braun, FIC’s executive editor. “We want to share the stories of Christians who faced challenges along the way to encourage us all. Jesus does not abandon us even in life’s difficult days. We hope this series reminds us all of the Lord’s promises to be with us and sustain us.”


“My Christian life” is just one of the new features introduced by *Forward in Christ* in its redesign launched in January 2020. A Q&A column with accompanying Bible study, an expanded “Confessions of faith” feature, and a monthly photo montage highlighting pictures from our readers join other stories of faith and articles designed to address important issues facing Christians today as well as provide in-depth looks at important biblical truths. As WELS’ official magazine, FIC also shares news from its congregations, schools, ministry affiliates, and synodical areas of ministry.

This year, FIC launched a new website, forwardinchrist.net, and a free weekly e-newsletter that includes articles, photos, and special sneak-peeks. Readers also can engage with the magazine through its

social media sites on Facebook and Instagram.

Read this month’s “My Christian life” article on a WELS nurse.

To subscribe to the *Forward in Christ* newsletter or to read a “My Christian Life” article as well as many other great articles, visit forwardinchrist.net.

For subscription information, visit Northwestern Publishing House’s website at nph.net or call 1-800-662-6093. 

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facebook.com/weslutherans

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