The Messenger

A

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



Canceled Debts

Jesus said, "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" (Luke 7:41,42)

One day Jesus was invited to dinner at the home of a religious leader named Simon. He was a member of the group called the Pharisees that believed their good works made them worthy before God; they didn't believe that they needed to be saved from their sins. There was an unexpected guest at the gathering—a sinful woman, a prostitute.

She had come to honor Jesus by pouring expensive perfume and even her own tears on his feet. Simon was upset that Jesus was welcoming the praise of this sinful woman. He thought that if Jesus really knew who she was, he would not even let her touch him. The truth is Iesus knew that she had lived a sinful life. He also knew that her joyful tears were born of his forgiving love for her. So Jesus told a story to teach Simon and us a lesson about forgiveness. There were two men who were in debt. One of them owed a moneylender about three years' worth of wages. The other owed the same moneylender about 50 days of wages. Neither was able to repay, so the moneylender graciously canceled both debts. Jesus posed a question: "Now which one of them will love him more?"

Simon answered correctly that the one who had the larger debt canceled would have loved the moneylender more.

Jesus' short story speaks volumes for our lives. We all have a huge debt that we cannot pay. We cannot make up for all the sinful things we do, not by doing more good things or by doing less bad things. We can't cancel the debt of sin by anything we think, do, or say.

But God saw our desperate need and loves us so much that he canceled our debt of sin. He did that by having his Son, Jesus, pay it completely for everyone. The price he paid was his death. As the sinless Son of God, he was able to take all of our sins on himself and suffer their punishment for us.

By his death, he canceled the debt of our sin. Three days after he died, he rose from the dead to prove that his sacrifice counted for all of us.

It's springtime, and Christians are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. What a great time of the year to be reminded that Jesus has canceled our debt of sin and given us new life with him.

Sundays 8 & 10:30 am

Thursdays 6:30



Worship with us this Easter Season! You are always welcome here.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church	l Lutherar	Church			A	April 2024
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 No School – Easter Monday	2 6 pm Zion Fine Arts Concert 7 pm *WELS Wind Ensemble Practice	3 4 pm 6-8th grade Catechism classes 6 pm Bell Choir 7pm Adult Choir	4 2 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	5 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	6 LLHS Fine Arts Fair
7 Easter 2 8:00 am Worship, Communion Online Worship Posted 9:15 am *Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion	8 Pastors Conference Principals Conf. 6:30 pm "Board of Ed Meeting	9 Pastors Conference 7pm *WELS Wind Ensemble practice	4 pm 6-8 th grade Catechism classes 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Adult Choir 10 pm Church cleaning	11 6:30 pm Worship	12 6:00 am Bible Breakfast *11:30 am Zion K for a Day 6 pm Zion Dance	52
8:00 am Worship Online Worship Posted 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am *Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11 am Fellowship Hall reserved	51	16 6 pm PATZ Mtg 7pm *WELS Wind Ensemble practice	17 7/8 Field Trip Brewers 4 pm 6-8th grade Catechism classes 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Council Mtg 7 pm Adult Choir 10 pm Church Cleaning	18 6:30 pm Worship	19 6:00 am Bible Breakfast *Chick-fil-A Day Midterm	20 9am FH in use
21 Easter 4 8:00 am Worship, Communion Online Worship Posted 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am "Sunday School 10:30 am Worship, Communion	9 am Sanctuary Monthly cleaning 5:30 pm Food Pantry Volunteer Meeting	23 7pm *WELS Wind Ensemble practice	24 LLHS Math Meet 4 pm Confirmation Practice 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Adult Choir	25 Special Visitor/ Arbor Day 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	26 No School – Teacher Inservice 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	72
28 Easter 5 8:00 am Worship, Communion Online Worship Posted 9 am Fellowship Hall Reserved 9:15 am Conf. Examination 10:30 am Gym Reserved 10:30 am Worship: Confirmation 10:30 am Grades 5-8 sing	29 MAPS Testing	30 MAPS Testing 7 pm *WELS Wind Ensemble Practice				

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Council Names and Numbers

Jeff Krakow, President	920-210-2388
Roger Weiland, Vice-President	920-285-7360
Nick Uebelacker, Secretary	608-225-8861
Dan Weiland, Treasurer	920-319-1703
Andrew Tratar, Education	920-296-1485
Noah Litherland, Elders	608-354-5131
Matthew Starrs, Outreach	608-338-9727
Aaron Larson, Property	608-220-6906
Otto Mattke, Stewardship	608-516-5279
Mike Hallberg, Family Ministry	608-225-4351

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

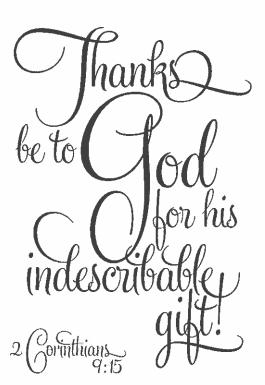
(920) 623-5180 office@zioncrusaders.com www.zioncolumbus.org

Tim Schwartz, Pastor (509) 480-2967 tschwartz24@gmail.com

Ben Zuberbier, Pastor (920) 517-7940 pastorbenzuberbier@gmail.com

Chad Grambsch, Principal (414) 313-4308 cgrambsch@zioncrusaders.com

Don Schultz, Lakeside Principal (920) 648-2321



USHERS FOR APRIL

March 31st - Easter & April 7th

8:00am - Team E1 10:30am - Team L7

Jeff Henning (C) Matt Huber (C)

Leo Fischer Carter Huber

Matt Weidner Jeremy Maas

Gabe Weidner Korben Maas

Rodney Hacht Brady Grambsch

Mark Tiedt Michael Vertz

April 14th & April 21st

8:00am - Team E2

Dale Schilling (C)

Dale Gajdosik

Matt Yaroch

Nick Yaroch

Nate Yaroch

Nate Yaroch

Max Larson

Andy Tratar

Drew Tratar

April 28th & May 5th

8:00am - Team E3

Randy Koehn (C)

Dan Retzlaff

Noah Litherland

Steven Hahn

William Penterman

Brian Baney

10:30am - Team L2

Dale Schultz (C)

Daniel Schultz

Dylan Schultz

Michael Hallberg

Jesse Schultz

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.

WORSHIP WELCOMERS

April 7th

8:00am 10:30am

Emily Henning & John & Sarah Brey

Nancy Huebner

April 14th

8:00am 10:30am

Jim & Jenny Greiling Nils & Lara Johansson

April 21st

8:00am 10:30am

Dale & Joyce Gajdosik Aaron & Rachel Larson

April 28th

8:00am 10:30am

Delphine Schaefer Laurie Kirchberg &

Pat Premo

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
1/4	302
8/11	275
14/15/18	660
21/22/25	544
28/29	303

Membership Changes

Transfer In:

Linda Meyers - St. Stephen's, Fall River

Transfer Out:

Ben Grambsch - St. Paul's, Algoma, WI

Released:

None

Removed:

None

Ministrations

Baptisms:

- Amelia Sue Fleury Born 9/19/2017 - Baptized 2/9/2024 Parents: Tyler & LaVonne Fleury
- Lillian Grace Wendt
 Born 11/22/2023 Baptized 2/11/2024
 Parents: Dillon & Kathryn Wendt
- Emelia Grace Peters
 Born 8/24/2023 Baptized 2/18/2024
 Parents: Zakory & Samantha Peters

Deaths:

- Dale Sennhenn Born 12/30/1947; Died 1/29/2024
- 3. Nancy Kind Born 5/27/1942; Died 2/9/2024

Marriages:

None

Confirmations:

None

Affirmations of Faith:

Betty Lundeen - 2/21/2024 Randy & Rhonda Minick & Kendall - 2/21/2024 Karen Senn - 2/21/2024



Athlyn Herzberg	10th	90 years
Kenneth Schulz	10th	81 years
Beverly Herold	18th	80 years
Jerome Tjugum	24th	80 years
Ray Owens	25th	89 years
Ethel Tjugum		100 years



EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

Join your Zion family and friends for a delicious, free Easter breakfast from 7-10am on Easter morning. The breakfast is served in the gym and will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit and more.

WELS/ELS Singles Retreat

We invite all singles (widowed, divorced, or never married) to join us at the 2024 WELS/ELS Singles Retreat for a weekend of fellowship and fun! The retreat will be April 26-28, 2024 at Camp Shiloh in Pittsburg, TX. Our theme is "Living In Our Season". The price is \$150. You can register at wels-els-singles.com/2024-texas-retreat (http://wels-els-singles.com/2024-texas-retreat). Any questions can be sent to texassingleswels@gmail.com

LLHS Spring Theatre

Disney's High School Musical On Stage Friday–Saturday, April 26-27 7pm, Sunday, April 28 2pm

Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life! Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of first love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extracurricular activities. Fun for the whole family! Tickets are on sale April 1 -- visit LLHS.org/drama.

Tickets available for LLHS Grand Event

Is your calendar open on April 13? Join us to celebrate that we are *Simply Blessed!*

Things you enjoy when you attend 2024 in person: catch up with friends—and make new ones, enjoy lovely live entertainment, eat a fabulous Irish dinner, be served by smiling (& dressed up!) Warrior teens, participate in our penny raffle, dash for AMAZING desserts, get a sneak peek at the new campus construction plans and enjoy our fantastic live auctioneer | Call 920-648-2321 and ask Bari Vredeveld or start at llhs.org/grandevent.

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by April 19th. Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or



suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Twice is Nice Retail Store News, April 2024

Shop: Spring/summer clothes have been on the sales floor since mid-March! It's time to get serious (and by that, get some serious bargains) toward an updated warm weather wardrobe. We're easy-to-find and open Mondays-Saturdays from 10-4 PM: just a minute east on the Hwy 18 exit off the 26 bypass at 907 W. Racine St., next to the Jefferson Piggly Wiggly.

Volunteer: Come see what we're about at a sorting night! April sort nights are Tuesdays on the 9th and 23rd from 6-8 pm. With one of our faithful cashiers needing a medical leave, we are also in need of backup in check out. Talk to someone you recognize from the following list and ask how easy and fun it is to help. All training is provided! Thanks to Sarah Bilitz (Peace, Sun Prairie), Mary Dorn and Emily Gulczynski (St. Paul, Lake Mills), Hannah Ewerdt (St. John's, Watertown), Ashley Grundman (St. John's, Newville), Lara Johansson (Zion, Columbus), Ann and Ervin Loest (St. Stephen's, Beaver Dam), Kristina Meinel (St. John, Jefferson), Megan Rupnow (St. Paul's, Ixonia), Pam Starkenburg (Holy Cross,

Madison). Questions? Call 920-674-6868, ask for the manager or email Megan directory at manager@twiceisnice.shop.

Donate! Done with spring cleaning? Bring donations to the door on the backside of the store from 10-3:30 any day we are open.

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

Zion will be offering a marriage enrichment seminar for married and engaged couples called "Lifetime Lasting Love." The purpose of this weekend workshop is to dig into God's Word with a pastor and other married couples to give and receive encouragement in your life as a married couple.

The sessions run on Friday night, May 3 from 7-9 pm and Saturday, May 4 from 8:30 am – 1 pm and includes refreshments and brunch. If interested or just curious, speak with Pastor Schwartz. A \$25 fee per couple covers the costs of materials and food. To register, go to www.zioncolumbus.org/lifetime-lasting-love.

Community Help and Outreach

The Columbus Fall River Food Pantry feeds people in need all year round. As a way to help our community and spread the word about our ministry, Zion is taking responsibility for distribution of food in the month of May. Distribution is done by appointment only. We need volunteers to take care of scheduling and to take care of putting together and distributing food packages on our given days once each week in May from 4:00-7:00 pm.

Donations of Food can be given and the Columbus Pick-N-Save. Monetary donations can be made at Farmers and Merchant Bank.

What we specifically need from our church is volunteers for scheduling appointments and distributing food to those who have made pick-up appointments. It costs nothing but a limited amount of time. If you would be interested in helping with our outreach in this way, please contact Pastor Schwartz for more information.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Zion has an online church directory that includes contact information and family photos of the members of our church. If you'd like to have access to this directory, please visit instantchurchdirectory.com and use the email address we have on file. Once we have received enough pictures, printed copies will be available upon request. Having family photos in our directory helps us get to know each other.

- To have your photo in the directory, there are two options:
- 1) Email a current picture to office@zioncrusaders.com
- 2) Have your family photo taken after church on Mar 24 or 31

LET'S TALK!

Share your thoughts on Breast Cancer Screenings

BE A PART OF A BREAST HEALTH & MAMMOGRAM RESEARCH STUDY

- English & Spanish Options
- Flexible Virtual Meetings
- Qualifying Participants Earn \$75

For more information call 608-263-2052, email wren@fammed.wisc.edu or scan the QR code









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COME TO THE LWMS BEAVER DAM CIRCUIT SPRING RALLY!

NEW DATE! Saturday, April 27th
NEW MEETING PLACE: Zion Lutheran Church

326 Vine St. Kingston WI

Co-hosts St. Paul, Manchester and St. John, Salemville

THEME: CHRIST'S LOVE IS SHARING WITH OTHERS

SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY

SPEAKER: Pastor Daniel Sims, Director of WELS

Christian Aid and Relief



Bible Verse: James 2:16

If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

Service Project:

Native Christian Ministries, Peridot - Our Savior's Lutheran School, Peridot, AZ (monetary donations ONLY for their school/teacher housing building projects)

Registration 9:30 Reporter's Meeting 9:45 Opening of Rally 10:15 Bible Study 10:20 Business Meeting 11:00

Schedule:

Lunch 11:45
Devotion 12:50
Speaker 1:00
Offering and other info 2:00
Closing Activities 2:10

We are looking forward to seeing you in Kingston at the LWMS Beaver Dam Circuit Spring Rally!

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Income and Expense Statement GENERAL FUND 01, February 2024

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget Percentage
INCOME CONTRIBUTION INCOME				
UNRESTRICTED	\$88,649.90	\$619,871.84	\$0.00	0.00%
DONOR RESTRICTED	355.00	-10,010.44	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Contribution Income	87,004.90	609,861.40	0.00	0.00%
INTEREST INCOME	0.00	33.65	0.00	0.00%
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	3,005.18	49,744.47	0.00	0.00%
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS				
RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	0.00	33,484.84	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL INCOME	90,010.08	693,124.36	0.00	0.00%
EXPENSES FIXED EXPENSES				
CALLED WORKER PAYROLL	\$31,286.54	\$250,280.03	\$253,729.28	65.76%
SUPPORT STAFF	5,562.49	57,838.33	35,526.72	108.54%
BENEFITS	3,702.21	112,798.95	121,375.38	58.88%
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	1,345.43	9,799.81	16,708.00	39.10%
BUILDING & GROUNDS	6,630.47	64,413.01	83,070.00	51.69%
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	48,527.14	495,130.13	510,409.36	63.88%
DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES				
OUTSIDE SUPPORT	9,480.00	76,040.00	75,840.00	66.84%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	0.00	3,065.02	1,800.00	113.52%
WORSHIP/MUSIC	231.56	7,597.78	9,406.56	53.85%
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	4,333.36	0.00%
ELDERS	0.00	0.00	66.64	0.00%
STEWARDSHIP	569.10	1,546.03	2,666.64	38.65%
FAMILY MINISTRY	0.00	3,182.16	2,233.36	94.99%
Subtotal Departments/committees	10,280.66	91,430.99	96,346.56	63.27%
OTHER EXPENSES				
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	0.00	117.00	666.64	11.70%
Subtotal Other Expenses	0.00	117.00	666.64	11.70%
TOTAL EXPENSES	58,807.80	586,678.12	607,422.58	63.72%
TRANSFER ACCOUNTS				
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	-\$31,758.00	-\$90,103.80	\$0.00	0.00%
TOTAL TRANSFERS	-31,758.00	-90,103.80	0.00	0.00%
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	-\$555.72	\$16,342.44	-\$607,422.56	-1,78%

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

FEBRUARY 2024

Monthly Transactions Previous Balance Current Balance Accounts **Total Current Assets** Previous Month Assets otal Transactions Monthly Transactions TOTAL Undesignated Checking \$253,188.22 \$48,151.28 \$301,339.50 \$**598.67** (\$149.85) (\$150.00) 2/8 transfer Joan Marks \$500.00 2/19 transfer from Undesig \$448.82 (\$500.00) 2/19 transfer to C&S Savings \$0.15 2/29 interest Explanation Undesignated Savings \$5,362.21 (\$500.00) \$4,862.21 (\$500.00) 2/19 transfer to undesign Explanation NEW Church/ School **Fund Savings** \$295,518.03 \$5,248.01 2/8 Vanco \$12,265.00 2/1 Deposit \$3,220.00 2/2 Deposit \$1,000.00 2/9 Deposit \$242,085.45 \$53,432.58 \$296,028.47 (\$5,425,00) 2/27 American Bank \$12,275,00 2/28 Deposit \$53,432.58 \$15,685.00 2/16 Deposit \$4,134.00 2/26 Vanco \$3,140.00 2/23 Deposit \$2,184.00 2/21 Deposit \$3,156.87 2/16 Vanco \$1,690.00 2/15 Deposit (\$713.30) 2/12transfer to C&Schecking \$5,425.00) 2/13 American Bank \$294.00 2/19 Deposit \$500.00 2/19 transfer from undesign \$234.00 2/29 Vanco (\$30.00) 2/23 Vanco returns New Church/School Total Explanation checking/sovings NEW Church/School Checking (\$4,631,45) (\$4,090.00) 2/6 Walsh & Assoc (\$4,631.45) \$510.44 (\$541.45) 2/8 Campaign Consultant \$713.30 2/12 transfer from Savings Explanation

TOTAL TRANSACTIONS

\$48,151.28

\$18214.54 paid to Groth Design Group

The Lathrop Family



Where did you each grow up?
Craig grew up in Beaver Dam, while I grew up in Rice Lake.

How did you meet and marry and end up in Columbus? While we were both students at UW-Stout, we did a semester overseas & met while attending school in Scotland. After graduation, we both lived in Waukesha for a short time, then moved to Jefferson before spending several years in Madison. We were both looking to have somewhere to raise kids in not quite as large of a city, and found a place with a little bit of land for the dogs to run & us to enjoy nature.

What do you like to tell people about each of your kids?
We are proud of both of our kids & work to celebrate their strengths. We love that Zion brings out the kindness of both of them and teaches them not only about the core subjects, but also about God & His Word.

What do you do for work and how did you get into it?
Craig teaches Auto Mechanics for Madison College & has been there for the past 22 years. He went to school for Auto Mechanics as well as Manufacturing and worked as a mechanic and an engineer before being hired at the school. I have taught College Success at Madison College for the past 13 years. I went to school for education, worked for a private school, then public school, and then worked as an Education Coordinator for several years.

Hockey – you are into it – how did you get into it and does it affect your life?

Beaver Dam offers a free Learn to Skate program where kids as young as three can use the rink's hockey gear & learn how to skate. Once you have a few basics down, they will move you up to working with a stick & puck. Both kids enjoyed learning how to skate & we were so proud of when they "earned their stick." These days, we spend a lot of time in the car or at a rink for hockey practices, games, and

tournaments. The kids love it, and the sport has not only taught them the fundamentals of the sport, but also how to win graciously as well as how to lose properly.

Any pivotal moments in your life when your faith was in question, but then strengthened?

Hailey was born three months early. To say that you don't question why things didn't go "as planned" would probably not be true. Thankfully things happened so quickly, that you had no choice but to accept that was the way things were happening. There must be a reason for it so you accept what is happening, learn from it, and adapt to your new normal.

How did you come to be a part of Zion?

After living in Fall River for several years, we were still active members of Eastside in Madison. As the kids became closer to being school-aged, we moved to Zion due to logistics to be closer to the church & school.

Your kids are going to Zion Lutheran School. If someone asks you "Why are you sending them there?" what do you tell them?

Not only are our kids getting a good education in the core subjects, but they are more importantly gaining a better understanding of God's Word, how it affects their lives, and how it can guide them.



What do you do to keep your faith strong – Bible study habits, prayer time, etc.?

We attend church or do online worship, depending upon schedules, and try to incorporate Jesus' lessons into teaching our kids life lessons. In addition, our family makes prayer a priority each evening in our house.

When you think about the future of Zion, how do things look different? What do you hope remains unchanged?

As things adapt and grow at Zion, our hope is that the centering of the Word remains unchanged. The Buddy System at school helped each of our kids feel welcomed quickly when they first started at school, and now that they are older, they enjoy being able to help the younger students feel welcomed.



