

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



Short Stories that
Speak Volumes
for Our Lives

WELS

A Father's Love

Jesus said, "The son got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).

He was homeless, smelly, and almost starving to death. But the worst thing was that he knew it was all his fault. He thought his father was cruel and overbearing; there were too many rules. He wanted freedom. He wanted to have fun, but his father was all about responsibility and hard work. So, he asked for his share of the inheritance. He didn't care about the farm; he just wanted the money. As soon as he got it, he left. He could finally do what he wanted to do. But it didn't take long, and all that money was gone—partying is expensive. Those he thought were his friends left as soon as he ran out of money. He was all alone and miserable. He had two choices, and neither seemed pleasant. He could continue as he was and hope he could scrape enough together each day so that he wouldn't starve to death, or he could go back home.

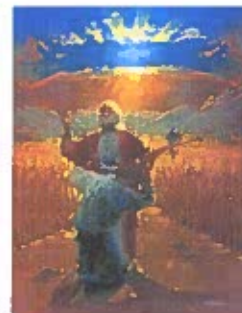
He headed for home. He was prepared to grovel, to ask to be just a hired hand on his father's farm. But he didn't get the opportunity to do much groveling. As soon as his father saw him coming, he ran out to meet him. He hugged and kissed him and gave orders for a huge celebration in his honor. The rebellious

son had expected a cool reception. He had expected an "I told you so." Instead he got what he knew he didn't deserve: a joyous welcome home.

You and I are that young man who rebelled against his father. We have all rebelled against our heavenly Father. We have considered him to be cruel and overbearing and having too many rules—someone who doesn't want us to have any fun. We have all separated ourselves from him and broken his commandments. Our consciences tell us that he is angry, that we deserve whatever pain or suffering comes our way. Could our heavenly Father still love us? Could he still welcome us to his eternal home in heaven?

Jesus' story about the disobedient son in Luke 15:11-24 is a short story that speaks volumes for our lives. It assures us of God's love and our heavenly home. Our heavenly Father loves us so much that he punished his obedient Son, Jesus, in our place so that he can welcome us as his dear children and heirs of eternal life. Instead of giving us what we deserve for our rebelliousness, he gives us what we don't deserve: complete forgiveness in Jesus.

We welcome you to gather with us for worship and learn more about our heavenly Father's love.



Worship with us!

Sundays: 8 & 10:30 am, Thursday 6:30

Sunday School and Bible Study 9:15

You are always welcome here!



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 Epiphany 5 Cap. Camp. Celebration weekend 8:00 am Grades 5-8 Sing 8:00 am Worship, Communion Online Worship Posted 9:15 am *Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion 11:30 am CC Celebration</p>	<p>5 MAPS Testing 5pm Zion Culvers Night</p>	<p>6 MAPS Testing 6pm 4K/Kindergarten Information Night 7pm *WELS Wind Ensemble practice</p>	<p>7 MAPS Testing BLAC BB play in games 4:00 pm 6th-8th grade Catechism classes 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir 10 pm Church cleaning</p>	<p>1 Spirit Week CC Celebration 2pm Ladies Aid 6:30p Worship, C 7:30 Cap Camp</p>	<p>2 Spirit Week CC Celebration 6:00 am Bible Breakfast BB HOME vs Lebanon</p>	<p>3 Celebration weekend B-Girls BB Tournament</p>
<p>11 Transfiguration 8:00 am Worship Online Worship Posted 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am *Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11am Fellowship Hall Reserved 6:30 pm Stewardship Board Mtg</p>	<p>12 9:30 am Pastors Circuit Meeting 1:30 pm Zion Spelling Bee 6:30 pm *Board of Ed</p>	<p>13 4:00 pm 6th-8th gr. Catechism classes 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall in use 7pm *WELS Wind Ensemble practice</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday Midterm 3:30pmAshWed. worship 3:30pm Jr Choir/handch. 4:30 pm Lent Supper 6:00 pm Bell Choir 6:30pmAshWed. worship 7:00 pm Adult Choir 10 pm Church Cleaning</p>	<p>15 No School - Teachers' Conf. 6:30 pm Worship</p>	<p>16 No School - Teacher's Conf. 6:00 am Bible Breakfast LLHS BB Tournament</p>	<p>17 LLHS BB Tournament</p>
<p>18 Lent 1 8:00 am Worship 8:00 am 4K & K5 Sing Online Worship Posted 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am *Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Hall Reserved LLHS BB Tournament</p>	<p>19 LLHS Kinderfest</p>	<p>20 4:00 pm 6th-8th gr. Catechism classes 6pm PATZ Mtg 7pm *WELS Wind Ensemble practice</p>	<p>21 3:30 pm Lent Worship 4:30 pm Lent Supper 6:00 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Lent Worship 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Council Mtg. 10 pm Church cleaning</p>	<p>22 6:30 pm Worship, Communion</p>	<p>23 6:00 am Bible Breakfast Chick-fil-a Day</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Lent 2 8:00 am Worship, Communion Online Worship Posted 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am *Sunday School 10:30 am Worship, Communion</p>	<p>26 9am Sanctuary monthly cleaning 3:30 pm Faculty meeting</p>	<p>27 4:00 pm 6th-8th gr. Catechism classes 7 pm *WELS Wind Ensemble Practice</p>	<p>28 3:30 pm Lent Worship 3:30 pm Grades 1-4 Sing 4:30 pm Lent Supper 6:00 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Lent Worship 7:00 pm Adult Choir 10 pm Church cleaning</p>	<p>29 6:30 pm Worship, Communion</p>		

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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
Will Penterman, Treasurer	920-750-8763
Andrew Tratar, Education	920-296-1485
Noah Litherland, Elders	608-354-5131
_____, Outreach	_____
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

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

USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

January 28th & February 4th

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

February 11th, February 14th & February 18th

8:00am - February 11th	10:30am - February 11th
7:00pm - February 14th	10:30am - February 18th
<u>Team E2</u>	<u>Team L1</u>
Dale Schilling (C)	Tom Schultz (C)
Dale Gajdosik	Aaron Larson
Matt Yaroch	James Kopfer
Nick Yaroch	Brandon Lee
Nate Yaroch	Max Larson
	Andy Tratar
	Drew Tratar

February 18th, February 21st & February 25th

8:00am - February 18th	7:00pm - February 21st
8:00am - February 25th	10:30am - February 25th
<u>Team E3</u>	<u>Team L2</u>
Randy Koehn (C)	Dale Schultz (C)
Dan Retzlaff	Daniel Schultz
Noah Litherland	Dylan Schultz
Steven Hahn	Michael Hallberg
William Penterman	Jesse Schultz
Brian Baney	Henry Tews

February 28th, March 3rd & March 6th

7:00pm - February 28th	10:30am - March 3rd
8:00am - March 3rd	7:00pm - March 6th
Mark Lindell (C)	Jim Kluetzman (C)
Remington Lindell	Gabe Uttech
Roger Weiland (C)	AJ Uttech
Bryce Weiland	Michael Uttech
Brett Weiland	Gary Schuhmacher
Norman Weiland	Jadon Schwartz
Eric Turnquist (C)	

If you have any questions about the usher schedule, would like to be added as an usher or won't be able to serve any longer as an usher, please call Randy Koehn at (920) 296-4333.

WORSHIP WELCOMERS

February 4th

8:00am	10:30am
Delmar & Carol Vick	Bev Herold

February 11th

8:00am	10:30am
Emily Henning & Nancy Huebner	John & Sarah Brey

February 18th

8:00am	10:30am
Jim & Jenny Greiling	Nils & Lara Johansson

February 25th

8:00am	10:30am
Dale & Joyce Gajdosik	Aaron & Rachel Larson

If you are interested in being added as a greeter or need to be removed from the schedule, please contact Melody Krakow at (920) 210-6323.



Church Attendance December

Date	Total
3	252
7/10	435
14/17	733
21/24 (am)	233
24 (4pm & 7pm)	530
25 (9am)	229
31	239

Membership Changes

Transfer In:

None

Transfer Out:

Stephanie Hayes to St. Paul's, Fort Atkinson

Released:

Chelsie Hayes, Upon her request

Ministrations

Baptisms:

15. Soren John Hauf

Baptized 12/31/2023

Parents: Michael & Meghan Hauf

Deaths:

17. Sylvia Stadler

Born 7/3/1942; Died 12/21/2023

Marriages:

None

Confirmations:

LaVonne Fleury - Confirmed 12/17/2023

Affirmations of Faith:

None



John Potenberg 3rd 83 years

Delmar Vick 28th 85 years

Save the Date! Zion Lutheran Culver's Night

Monday, February 5th from 5pm - 8pm

Dine in, carry out or visit the drive thru.

If you dine in, we will also be collecting non-perishable food items. A list will be provided closer to the date. A percentage of the funds raised will be donated to the Fall River/Columbus Food Pantry on behalf of Zion. If you purchase your Culver's scrip cards early, you can even use those on the day of the event!

Rethinking Religion

Ash Wednesday (Feb 14 3:30 & 6:30 PM) and Thursday/Sundays

Our Lenten season theme is Rethinking Religion. Everyone has assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone has assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Americans are walking away from Christianity in breathtaking numbers. It raises the questions; How do those people know if their assumptions about religion are correct? Do they really understand Christianity at all? Do we? Do we truly understand this religion? In the season of Lent, as much as any other, Jesus teaches things that turn the world's assumptions about religion completely upside down. We call it "Christianity." So, in this holy season, let us go straight to Christ and let him replace assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion! Our **Thursday 6:30 pm** service will repeat each week on **Sunday at 8 & 10:30 am**.

God on Trial

Wednesdays (3:30 & 6:30 pm)

The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God—and his people—are judged. Temptations are many in this environment: treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model—and our motivation—in Jesus. On Wednesdays in Lent, area pastors will take us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before humankind in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes from God's Word, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and courage to testify to the truth.

Lenten Meals

Wednesdays (4:30-6:00 pm)

Free Lenten suppers will be served between services each Wednesday beginning Feb 14 and continuing Feb 21 & 28, Mar 6, 13, and 20. Meals are served from 4:30-6:00. Watch the Weekly Word each week for the menu. We are looking for Zion committees or friend groups to serve meals. Each group is responsible for the meal, drinks, and dessert. Zion's pantry has paper products. The sign-up sheet will be in the entryway next week. Direct your meal questions to Rachel Grambsch 414-489- 0235.

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.

Calling All 8th Graders

Enroll now to claim your spot in Warrior nation for 2024/25. Enrolling now helps Lakeside make decisions about faculty and resources, and we thank the more than 100 families who have already enrolled their incoming freshmen! The \$200 required during the new student online enrollment process is a downpayment on tuition. Go to llhs.org/apps/pages/fresh-enroll. Call Mr. Lauber with any questions at 920-648-2321 x2218 or email slauber@llhs.org.

Warrior Summer Band

8th grade band members! Summer band season begins Sunday, May 5, 2024, with the 6 pm mandatory parent & teen meeting. This year is an awesome week trip to and around St. Louis for its spectacular 141st America's Birthday Parade! Register early to help us plan! See llhs.org/apps/pages/summerband for more info. If you are planning to join us in summer band, you are also invited to participate in Spring Fundraising to help offset costs. This spring's cookie dough fundraising begins March 15. For more info, contact Mr. Pufahl (gpufahl@llhs.org).

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by February 23rd.

Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or

suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Income and Expense Statement
GENERAL FUND 01, December 2023

01/22/2024 12:33 PM

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget Percentage
INCOME				
CONTRIBUTION INCOME				
UNRESTRICTED	\$85,988.44	\$437,653.82	\$0.00	0.00%
DONOR RESTRICTED	320.00	-4,066.44	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Contribution Income	<u>86,308.44</u>	<u>433,587.38</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
INTEREST INCOME	18.55	33.65	0.00	0.00%
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	30,660.42	45,651.97	0.00	0.00%
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	0.00	30,162.84	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL INCOME	<u>116,987.41</u>	<u>509,435.84</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
EXPENSES				
FIXED EXPENSES				
CALLED WORKER PAYROLL	\$31,864.72	\$187,835.69	\$190,296.96	49.35%
SUPPORT STAFF	10,254.91	46,858.33	26,645.04	87.93%
BENEFITS	5,923.49	80,322.17	95,276.52	41.93%
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	2,131.32	7,626.19	12,531.00	30.43%
BUILDING & GROUNDS	7,700.96	49,686.39	62,302.50	39.88%
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	<u>57,875.40</u>	<u>372,328.77</u>	<u>387,052.02</u>	<u>48.03%</u>
DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES				
OUTSIDE SUPPORT	9,480.00	57,080.00	56,880.00	50.18%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	226.76	3,065.02	1,350.00	113.52%
WORSHIP/MUSIC	418.17	4,251.81	7,054.92	30.13%
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	3,250.02	0.00%
ELDERS	0.00	0.00	49.98	0.00%
STEWARDSHIP	446.64	950.53	1,999.98	23.76%
FAMILY MINISTRY	1,566.42	2,932.46	1,675.02	87.54%
Subtotal Departments/committees	<u>12,137.99</u>	<u>68,279.82</u>	<u>72,259.92</u>	<u>47.25%</u>
OTHER EXPENSES				
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	0.00	50.00	499.98	5.00%
Subtotal Other Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>499.98</u>	<u>5.00%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>70,013.39</u>	<u>440,658.59</u>	<u>459,811.92</u>	<u>47.86%</u>
TRANSFER ACCOUNTS				
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	-\$7,802.00	-\$51,123.80	\$0.00	0.00%
TOTAL TRANSFERS	<u>-7,802.00</u>	<u>-51,123.80</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	<u>\$39,172.02</u>	<u>\$17,653.45</u>	<u>-\$459,811.92</u>	<u>-1.92%</u>

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

December 2023

Previous Month Assets	\$88,199.80
Total Transactions	\$33,515.64
Total Current Assets	\$121,715.44

New Church/School Total	\$116,104.74
checking/savings	

Accounts	Undesignated		Monthly Statements	
	Checking	Explanation	Fund Savings	Explanation
Previous Balance	\$398.40		\$81,328.42	
Monthly Transactions	(\$149.91)		\$24,420.88	
Current Balance	\$248.49		\$105,749.30	
	(\$150.00) 12/8 Loan Marks		\$16,609.15 12/1 Deposit	\$4,090.00 12/5 Transfer from savings
	\$0.09 12/29 Interest		\$735.00 12/5 Deposit	(\$4,090.00) 12/5 Wash
			(\$4,090.00) 12/5 transfer to checking	(\$610.34) 12/7 Identity Printing
			(\$5,425.00) 12/5 American Bank	\$4,000.00 12/15 Transfer from savings
			\$1,589.99 12/7 Vanco	(\$4,000.00) 12/15 Great Lakes Roofing
			\$3,165.00 12/12 Deposit	\$10,235.72 12/18 Transfer from savings
			(\$4,000.00) 12/13 Transfer to checking	(\$4,090.00) 12/20 Wash
			\$2,213.46 12/14 Vanco	(\$4,090.00) 12/20 Wash
			\$5,500.00 12/15 Deposit	\$1,908.00 12/21 Transfer from savings
			\$13,880.00 12/15 Deposit	(\$1,908.00) 12/22 Zion(MH Printing)
			(\$10,235.72) 12/18 Transfer to checking	\$9,845.00 12/26 Transfer from savings
			\$985.00 12/19 Deposit	(\$1,018.11) 12/26 Campaign Consultant
			(\$5,425.00) 12/19 American Bank	(\$1,037.61) 12/26 Campaign Consultant
			(\$1,908.00) 12/21 Transfer to checking	
			\$900.00 12/22 Deposit	
			(\$9,845.00) 12/26 Transfer to checking	
			\$5,417.00 12/27 Deposit	
			\$7,500.00 12/29 Deposit	
			\$6,676.46 12/29 Vanco	
			\$6,676.46 12/29 Vanco	
			\$178.54 12/29 Interest	
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	(\$149.91)		\$24,420.88	\$9,234.66
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$33,515.64			

Notes: \$20,000 in New Church/School Savings is designated for New School Building seed money.



Practicing Patience

By [Kent Robinson](#)

Where did January go? With February here, many of us have already abandoned our New Year's resolutions by now. Ever wonder why? How could something that we were so passionately driven to achieve last month change into something we care so little about this month?

[In a previous blog about managing expectations](#), I wrote about the first principle of mindfulness, called "Beginner's Mind," in which we attempt to see things as they are, in the here and now, as if for the first time, with an unbiased, unprejudiced look. The second principle of mindfulness, patience, is sometimes what we lack in working toward a long-term goal or resolution. We expect to see results faster, and when we don't exercise patience, we become frustrated and discouraged and give up.

When patience is exercised on a daily basis, we become more anchored in the here and now. We bring ourselves back from wishing the future was already here, or that something was different from how it is now. Patience is letting go of wanting the future to be now, and allowing "now" to be now. Does this mean that we become complacent or lazy and don't work hard on achieving our goals? Not at all. But it does mean that the more we exercise patience, with ourselves, with others, and with our circumstances, the more content we will be and less anxiety we will experience.

As the hymn writer says:

*"Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change He faithful will remain.*

*Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end."*

Here is a prayer for patience: "Dear heavenly Father, help me to be patient as you are patient. Grant me endurance to patiently wait for change to come. Help me to remain in the here and now and to focus on what you have for me to do today and not to be anxious for tomorrow. For yours is the glory, honor, and praise, both now and forevermore. Amen."

*"The end of a matter is better than its beginning,
and **patience** is better than pride" (Ecclesiastes 7:8).*

THE
SEASON
OF
EPIPHANY

**FROM THE RIVER
TO THE MOUNTAIN**
A Journey that Reveals Who Jesus Is

JAN 11 - FEB 11
THU 6:30 PM
SUN 8 & 10:30 AM

CLICK TO VIEW
SERVICES ONLINE

Wednesdays in Lent
3:30 & 7:00 PM

Supper served
between services

GOD
ON
TRIAL

Rethinking Religion

What does it mean
to be "religious,"
according to Jesus?

Weekly Worship in Lent

Rethinking
Religion

Feb 15 - Mar 28
Thu 6:30 p Sun 8:00 & 10:30 a

SAVE THE DATE: FEB 5

- Zion Culver's Night
- Volunteer to serve
- Proceeds of your purchases benefit local food shelter



Sunday School



September – May
Age 3 – Teen
Register at
www.zioncolumbus.org



Men of His Word

REGISTER AT:
menofhisword.org

February 17, 2024
Oshkosh, WI

Rochester, MN | Phoenix, AZ | Oshkosh, WI

The background of the poster is a photograph of a person standing on a mountain peak with their arms raised, set against a blue sky and snow-capped mountains.

An architectural rendering of a large, modern school building with a white roof and yellow accents, situated on a green hillside. A logo in the top right corner reads "Building TOMORROW Together" with a cross symbol.

Latest renderings for our new school on display in the fellowship hall. See our Weekly Word for updates on our capital campaign.