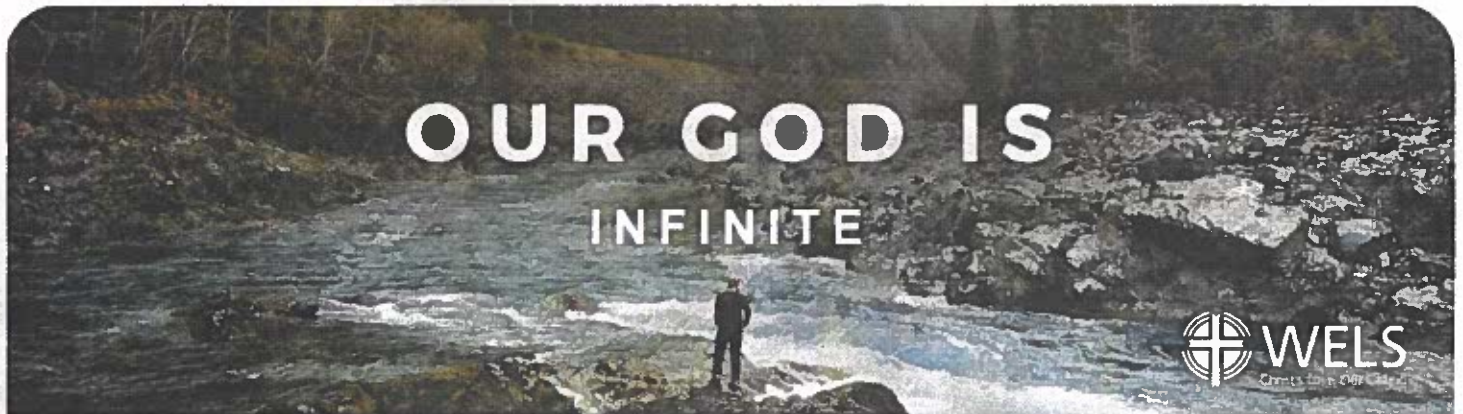


The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



"You are!"

"No, you are!"

"Yeah? Well, you are times a gazillion!"

Katie knew that gazillion was going to be tough to beat, but thinking hard she finally proclaimed: "Oh yeah? Well, you are ... to infinity!"

His jaw dropped because Joey knew his sister had him beat. How could he compete with infinity?

Simply put, infinity means stretching on and on, without any end. When something is infinite it has no boundaries. It is unlimited and immeasurably great.

The Bible helps us understand the concept as it describes God. "'Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?' declares the LORD. 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:24).

There is only One who is everywhere, who always has been, who always will be, who had no beginning, and who will have no end. That is God.

God wants us to feel good about him being infinite.

As we begin a new year, it can be great to know that God is always with us. Wherever the year takes us, God will be there too.

The comfort of God's unending presence is ours through faith in his Son, Jesus. As the Apostle Paul says: "In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence" (Ephesians 3:12).

God knows everything we think, everything we do, and most importantly, he knows everything we need. In fact, God already took care of our greatest need. He sent his infinite Son to be our Savior! Trust him.

Joey and Katie challenged each other with the concept of infinity. Come and visit us to learn more about the only one who can truly change your life so you have comfort that will last...to infinity!

WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAY 8:00 and 10:30 AM

THURSDAY 6:30 PM

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

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

Zion Lutheran Church and School

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 New Year's Worship 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion	4	5 3:00 pm Fellowship hall reserved	6 Epiphany 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	7 BB Home Randolph Christian (B-girls A-girls only) 6:30 pm Worship	8 End of 2nd Quarter BB A-team Scrimmage (A-teams) 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	9
10 The Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	11 Pastor-Principal Conference *Board of Ed Meeting 6:30 pm	12 3:00 pm Fellowship hall reserved 7:00 pm Stewardship Board	13 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 Council Meeting	14 6:30 pm Worship: Communion	15 BB Home St. John's, Waterloo (A-boys only) 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	16
17 Epiphany 2 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship: Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion	18 No School: Teacher Inservice Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6:30 pm Annual Voters Meeting	19 BB Home St. John's, Juneau 3:00 pm Fellowship hall reserved 6:00 pm PATZ Meeting	20 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	21 6:30 pm Worship	22 BB Home St. John's, Juneau 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	23
24 Epiphany 3 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	25 Zion Spirit Week	26 3:00 pm Zion Spirit Week Fellowship hall reserved	27 Zion Spirit Week 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	28 BB Home Lebanon Lutheran Zion Spirit Week 6:30 pm Worship: Communion	29 BB Home Lebanon Lutheran Zion Spirit Week 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	30
31 Epiphany 4 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship, Communion						

Dale and Joyce Gajdosik

Sophie, Walker, and Azalee. Jody lives in Princeton and has two sons, Eddie and Alex. We are very proud of all of them.



Where did each of you grow up and go to school? How did you end up in the Columbus area?

Dale: I grew up in Indian Ford, a little town southwest of Edgerton, where I attended a one-room country school. I moved to Janesville in 7th grade and graduated from Janesville Craig High School. Went to MATC – Madison for Restaurant / Chef Management.

Joyce grew up on a small farm in Columbus, attended Zion Lutheran School and graduated from Columbus High School.

We moved to Columbus from McFarland because we bought a supper club here.

How did you meet and marry? How do you keep your marriage strong?

We met in a pub on State Street in Madison. We were married by Pastor Cares 52 years ago. We keep our marriage strong by supporting each other, sharing responsibilities, and keeping in the Word.

What do you want people to know about your family?

We have two daughters. Pam lives in Minneapolis with her husband Joel who has three children:

What do you do to get out of town and have some fun?

We enjoy going to Minneapolis to see our daughter and husband and take in the sights of big city life. We also enjoy fishing and hiking with our daughter and seeing grandchildren that live out of the state when possible.

How has life during COVID changed things for you – in a positive or negative way?

We deeply miss that all of our Christian brothers and sisters may not be able to worship in church with us.

Aside from worship, what kinds of habits have you started to keep your personal faith strong?

We pray every day, read “Forward in Christ” and Meditation booklets. Dale

attends Bible Breakfast often. Thankfully, the God we know is always willing and ready to connect with us. Knowing that kind of love makes it so much easier to trust God and keep our faith strong.

How did you each become a member of Zion? What are some highlights from your time here?

Joyce has been a member most of her life. Her parents and grandparents were members of Zion. Dale became a member after we were married. Joyce was baptized and confirmed at Zion and both our daughters were confirmed here and graduated from Zion Lutheran School.

One of the highlights would be seeing our new church built. Over the years we have had excellent pastors and teachers dedicated to keeping us in the truth of God’s Word.

What are your hopes for the future of our congregation?

We hope the church continues to grow and to see a new school in the future. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus says, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

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Our Mission

The mission of Zion
Evangelical Lutheran Church
and School is to preach and
teach God's saving Word in
all its truth and purity.

Get in Touch

Church/School Office

(920) 623-5180

office@zioncrusaders.com

www.zioncolumbus.org

Tim Schwartz, Pastor

(509) 480-2967

tschwartz24@gmail.com

Ben Zuberbier, Pastor

(920) 517-7940

pastorbenzuberbier@gmail.com

Alex Vandenberg, Principal

(507) 353-0719

avandenberg@zioncrusaders.com

Jim Grasby, Lakeside Principal

(920) 648-2321



Council Names and Numbers

Dan Retzlaff, Chairman	920-319-0018
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

Thanks
be to God
for his
indescribable
gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

Greeter Schedule



January 3rd

8:00am — E9
Merle Nehmer

10:30am — L3
Rick & Lisa Gentz

January 10th

8:00am — E11
Delphine Schaefer

10:30am — L5
Marcia Rewolinski &
Arlene Sennhenn

January 17th

8:00am — E1
Jeff & Melody Krakow

10:30am — L7
Wayne & Darlene Powers

January 24th

8:00am — E2
Dale & Kathy Harle

10:30am — L8
Otto & Sheree Mattke

January 31st

8:00am — E4
Delmar & Carol Vick

10:30am — L9
Bev Herold &
Nicole Henning

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.



January 3rd & January 10th

8:00am - Team E7
Mike Vick (C)
Troy Kehoe (A)
Bruce Hatzinger
Ron Yerges
Jake Boness
Brian Peck

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

January 17th & January 24th

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

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

January 31st & February 7th

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

10:30am - Team L3
Otto Mattke (C)
Paul Kehl (A)
Dennis Winter
Carl Wolf
William Mattke
Nils Johansson
Shaun Opsahl

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.



Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by January 22nd.

Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.



**Church Attendance
November 2020**

Date	Total
1	96
5/8	214
12/15	174
19/22	157
25/29	269

Ministrations

Death:

9. Gordon Zander - Born 5/4/1929; Died 11/3/2020.



Joan Herzberg	1st	87 years
Emily Henning	2nd	82 years
Sharon Homman	7th	80 years
Ruth Lienke	11th	93 years

Zion's Ladies Society

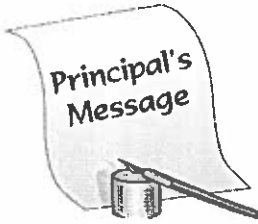
Please remember we do not have a meeting in January, so we will see you in February.





LLHS FEDERATION CONNECTION

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



The most overlooked festival

It's all in the name.

Perhaps the most overlooked church festival falls on January 1. It's not New Year's Day which is a secular holiday. Rather, it's the naming of Jesus.

In Matthew 1, Jesus' genealogy, beginning with Abraham, is laid out. Following that, the content of Joseph's dream about his yet-to-be-born child is revealed. In that dream, the angel commanded him, "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Following Jewish custom, a male baby was circumcised and named eight days after his birth. Using December 25 as the traditional date of Jesus' birth, this naming would have occurred on what we now call January 1.

The name Jesus is Hebrew. Its original form is *Yeshua* or *Y'shua*, meaning to deliver or rescue. It was a common name. Perhaps many baby boys at this time were named Jesus, hoping that one of them would be the *savior* to break Roman oppression.

But the angel's command to Joseph added, "He will save his people from their sins." This was no ordinary child. He would be the Savior from sin. This is further explained in Matthew 1 where the holy writer quotes the prophet Isaiah, "'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')." (Matthew 1:23). Mary and Joseph's son whom they named Jesus is the Son of God. He is the one that God the Father sent as the sacrifice for humankind's sins. By his resurrection, he shattered death and now reigns on high as our victorious, eternal King.

So, on January 1, continue to celebrate that God has given us a new year to live in his grace. But, also pause that day to recall God's greatest show of grace—a Savior, named Jesus, who redeems us from sin, death, and Satan.

Remember, it's all in the name.

Jim Grasby is principal of Lakeside Lutheran High. Reach him at 920.648.2321 or jgrasby@llhs.org

AND HE
GAVE HIM
THE NAME
JESUS.

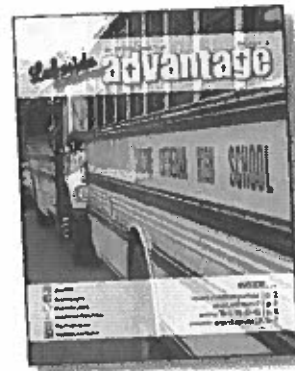


MATTHEW 1:25. NIV

JANUARY EVENTS

See full and up-to-the-minute sports & more at rSchool under Quicklinks at llhs.org

- Thurs. Jan. 7 (*changed*)..... Classes resume/Second semester begins
- Sat. Jan. 18.....Kentro "Drive-thru Thank You" event
Jazz-Fest at WLC
- Sun. Jan. 17A Cap @ St. Stephen, BDam | 7:30/9/10:30 AM
"New Friends" event at LL
- Mon. Jan. 18.....Board of Regents | 6:30 PM
- Wed. Jan. 20..... 7th Gr. "Warrior for Day" | Regular school day
- Wed. Jan. 27 Music Dept. (MPO) Fundraiser begins
- Sun. Jan. 31 A Cap @ St. John, Waterloo | 8/10:30 AM
Chili Luncheon/LES Visual Arts
Pops Concert | 1:30 PM & MPO Meeting after concert
Enrollment deadline for new and returning students for lowest fee



Another edition of the Lakeside Advantage magazine just mailed to LES homes, with a "Winter B-I-N-G-O" contest perfect for passing some family time this season that could win your K-8 student a giftcard or even tuition credit!

Does your household have children in K-8 but you didn't receive one in the mail? We'd like to hear!

Please let us know you'd like your own copy. Along with news, photos and inside info about LL, grade school students are invited to enter a new contest each issue, with prizes and features for participants. See the mag for details, or go to llhs.org/advantagecontest Send an e-mail to contact us at info@llhs.org

	CONTACT INFO 920-648-2321 • office@llhs.org 231 Woodland Beach Rd. • Lake Mills, Wis. 53551	
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LAKESIDE GOOD NEWS *and* NOTES

- ✦ Our Warrior volleyball team's generosity made NBC 15 news. When Edgewood withdrew from the state competition, our team reached out with a note signed by each member of our team and a gift card for them to go out and celebrate their season—when the time is right.
- ✦ Our Aerospace Engineering class wrapped up a unit on Flight with a solo flight simulation activity. They also designed airfoils that were tested for lift and drag using our new JetStream 500 wind tunnel, which was provided by a generous donor. These are the same tests that engineers do when designing airplane wings.
- ✦ Five Warriors were named to the All-Region Team by the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association, including seniors Nate Chesterman for outside linebacker (*Peace, Sun Prairie*); Micah Cody, running back and inside linebacker (*St. John, Juneau*); Tersony Vater, defensive back (*St. Luke, Watertown*); John O'Donnell, tight end and defensive end (*Shepherd's Fold*); and sophomore Ben Buxa, o-line and defensive end (*Immanuel,*



Farmington).

- ✦ Because Teens for Christ has not been able to host New Friends—one of our favorite events—the students created and dropped off Blessings Bags. Each bag included crafts and treats, handwritten notes, and pictures from past New Friends events.
- ✦ Lakeside's National Honor Society officers—along with Karen Fischer, a counselor from Christian Family Solutions—kicked off our six-session resiliency training. Using the Cornerstone curriculum, a three-person team from CFS meets with students in every religion class, equipping them with tools and strategies to develop their resilience, enhance their quality of life, and decrease stress and anxiety. Lakeside is the first high school in the nation to offer resiliency training through Cornerstone!



- ✦ Mr. Doering's senior American Government classes practiced some citizenship skills as "presidential candidates" presented their positions in mock debate. This debate is one part of an entire campaign where students design posters, give speeches, and create a video. Candidates will pass through two primaries and a caucus before the field is reduced to two candidates. MLC student teacher Alex Quist, a student teacher of Mr. Doering's pursuing Secondary Social Studies and Elementary Education, served as moderator for the debates.
- ✦ Our Tech Ed classes are wrapping up semester projects. In metals, students are creating new drainage covers for the soccer field, a drift trike, homemade fire pit, and a pondweed scraper for Monona. In Environmental Science, they are making animal calls and habitat homes. The CAD class is using the 3D printer to create a reinforced clothes hanger, personal indoor soccer ball, no-drip mug, foldable keychain with LED light, and fishing lure with removable hooks.
- ✦ At our 2nd quarter's Pastors Day, 25 pastors from 25 congregations attended, including one who was here for the first time! Of these, 20 were from the federation. 371 students, or 86.9% of our Warrior teens, met with their shepherds!
- ✦ With seating limited at our events, keep up with many of our athletics on our Livestream page livestream.com/llhslive.
- ✦ At the Fall Capitol Conference Math Meet (held virtually), both Varsity Team 1 and JV Team 1 took first place. Top individual scorers among to conference for varsity were first place Douglas Weittenhiller (*Peace, Sun Prairie*) and second place Austin Schwab (*St. Paul, Fort*). Top overall individual scorers for JV were first place Isaac Winters (*St. Luke, Watertown*) with a perfect score and Juan Gulrud (*St. John, Waterloo*) in second place.
- ✦ National Honor Society teens also hosted a school wide "Snack" collection for our friends at the Milwaukee Lighthouse for Youth. Lighthouse has told us that a variety of snacks and drinks would bring the biggest smiles to the teens who gather there, and our teens responded with tables full of personal-size, wrapped goodies delivered to I.Y.C.



- ✦ Student Council hosted its school-wide semester mission giving opportunity to help the building of our first church in Mahahual, Mexico. A neat video that featured several Warrior alum volunteering at the mission was shown to introduce teens to the opportunity can be seen at youtu.be/65dUpVu12lw



Giving Tuesday pARTnership

The pARTnership and generous gifts toward our December 1 #GivingTuesday effort allowed us to reach (and exceed) a \$12,000 goal. Lakeside art teacher Lori Tetzlaff is thrilled to be ordering new pottery stools and drawing station tables! By mid-December, we had received over \$19,000! Gifts above and beyond the needs for art will be shared with the Fine Arts department in general. What a blessing to be reminded daily through all our activities and classes,

"O LORD...we are all the work of your hand" – Isaiah 64:8

Thank you.

We are so grateful for our Lakeside family.

Twice is Nice needs us on Saturdays!

Our 100%-volunteer resale store in Jefferson reports that help at the back door receiving and sorting donations is scarce. They ask for family duos, friend partnerships or individuals to use the sign up at bit.ly/3gXi3Ei to volunteer for one or more 3-hour Saturday shifts (10–1 or 1–4 pm), with openings the first Saturday in January through the end of March.



Please consider this vital, active role that benefits not only Lakeside students but all the surrounding communities with amazing bargains and a great place to donate unneeded items from households! For questions on this or other opportunities, feel free to call the store and ask for a day manager anytime the store is open.

Open Mon–Sat 10–4 pm
(donations accepted 10–3:30)
907 W. Racine St. Jefferson, Wis. 53549

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

	Nov 20	<i>Estimated Monthly Budget</i>	Fiscal Year to Date Jul 20 - Nov 20	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Extra Synod Missions Income	492.00		1,648.00	
General Fund Offerings	71,230.21		275,451.64	
LLHS Building Income	25.00		25.00	
Other Donations	1,601.50		(3,520.95)	
Other Receipts	29.64		81.75	
<i>Transferred from Undesignated</i>	-		-	
<i>FMUB Revolving Line of Credit @ 3.5%</i>	-		-	
WLCFS Income	-		-	
WLIM Income	-		-	
Total Income	73,378.35		273,685.44	
Expense				
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	29,774.85	28,152.17	144,486.53	337,826.00
Church Supplies	371.04	454.17	962.08	5,450.00
Convention/Cont' Education	-	83.33	-	1,000.00
Copier	-	275.00	429.53	3,300.00
Elders Board	-	20.83	-	250.00
Family Ministry Board	18.00	350.00	152.58	4,200.00
Guest Pastor	-	125.00	573.00	1,500.00
Health Insurance	8,418.39	8,504.17	33,604.95	102,050.00
HRA Savings	1,500.00	1,500.00	8,500.00	18,000.00
Interest Expense	-	166.67	-	2,000.00
Custodial	854.34	1,950.00	5,097.52	23,400.00
LLHS Building Expense	25.00	-	25.00	-
LLHS Expense	2,750.00	2,750.00	13,750.00	33,000.00
Maintenance	5,796.43	4,150.00	12,086.55	49,800.00
Meditations	-	125.00	737.00	1,500.00
Mileage	650.00	500.00	2,196.24	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	27.20	12.50	75.41	150.00
Organists	462.48	566.67	2,300.80	6,800.00
Outreach Board	2,411.96	666.67	5,861.96	8,000.00
Payroll Expenses	345.30	308.33	1,611.35	3,700.00
Pension Insurance	200.00	3,556.67	1,000.00	42,680.00
Postage and Delivery	43.15	150.00	236.90	1,800.00
Secretarial	1,943.37	2,144.17	10,377.90	25,730.00
Stewardship Board	251.37	291.67	1,878.56	3,500.00
Substitute Teaching	41.91	-	77.77	-
Sunday School/VBS	298.45	250.00	298.45	3,000.00
Synod Mission Expense	5,992.00	5,500.00	29,148.00	66,000.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	269.95	291.67	1,449.29	3,500.00
Utilities	4,773.62	1,827.08	9,912.03	21,925.00
WLCFS Expense	375.00	-	825.00	-
WLIM Expense	-	-	-	-
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	-	1,250.00	-	15,000.00
Worship	91.54	545.83	1,197.31	6,550.00
Total Expense	67,685.35	66,467.58	288,851.71	797,611.00

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

November 2020

Previous Month Assets	\$48,552.61
Total Transactions	\$11,391.07
Total Current Assets	\$59,943.68

New Church/School Total	\$55,305.49
Checking/savings	

Accounts	Undesignated Checking		Undesignated Savings		NEW Church/School Fund Savings	
	Balance	Transactions	Balance	Transactions	Balance	Transactions
Previous Balance	\$295.82		\$4,492.36		\$41,095.91	
Monthly Transactions*	(\$149.99)		\$0.00		\$11,541.06	
Current Balance	\$145.83		\$4,492.36		\$52,636.97	
Transactions	(\$150.00) Joan Marks				\$563.00	11-2 deposit
	\$0.01 Interest				\$230.00	11-3 deposit
					\$400.00	11-4 deposit
					\$75.00	11-5 deposit
					\$2,240.28	11-6 deposit
					\$165.00	11-9 deposit
					\$80.00	11-10 deposit
					(\$5,425.00)	11-10 mortgage payment
					\$75.00	11-12 deposit
					\$10,818.00	11-13 deposit
					(\$120.00)	11-13 NSF check
					\$655.00	11-16 deposit
					\$80.00	11-17 deposit
					\$105.00	11-18 deposit
					\$4,235.00	11-20 deposit
					\$250.00	11-23 deposit
					\$1,327.78	11-24 deposit
					(\$5,425.00)	11-24 mortgage payment
					\$325.00	11-25 deposit
					\$568.00	11-27 deposit
					\$319.00	11-30 deposit
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	(\$149.99)		\$0.00		\$11,541.06	
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$11,391.07					\$0.00

Notes:

Interest Received	\$0.01
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TOGETHER



December 15, 2020

Mid-year graduation at Martin Luther College

Even though on-campus learning at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., has been interrupted for a time, we are happy to see that the work of the college to prepare young people for the public ministry continues. One visible reminder of that is the announcement that 22 students have completed their studies and have received their diplomas and graduated mid-year.

While most of those students will defer their assignment into the public ministry until next spring, several of them will be assigned to their field of labor when the Assignment Committee meets on Fri., Dec. 18.

Plans have been put in place to welcome students back to campus in January. In addition, President Richard Gurgel has announced that the governing board of Martin Luther College will be distributing an additional \$200,000 in financial assistance to help students who return for the second semester.

Even in difficult times, God's work—and his blessings—continue in our congregations and in our synod.

On behalf of all who work with you and for you in our synod's mission, have a blessed Christmas! ☩

Serving together with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder



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

Update from Vietnam

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lord is always with his church. Christians in the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam are continuing to reach out to lost souls. In 2020, the Holy Spirit brought more than 12,000 Hmong people throughout Vietnam to faith in Jesus. The Hmong Fellowship Church has grown from 126,000 to 138,000 members.

Rev. Zang, one of the Hmong leaders, said, "Most of the pastors in the Hmong Fellowship Church have heard many scary things through television and radio about the impact of COVID-19, but they see it as less dangerous when compared to the lost souls who have no chance to hear the gospel before they die."

Rev. Fong and his evangelism team reached out to many villages in his area. The Lord blessed their efforts, and they were able to establish nine new mission congregations.

The Lord also has provided a way for WELS to continue training the Hmong Fellowship Church leaders. In November, the Vietnam mission team responded to the request of the Hmong Fellowship Church and offered Zoom training to 57 students. WELS provided phones and internet connectivity when needed to allow these students to participate in online training classes. Rev. Joel Nitz taught the gospel

of Mark, and Rev. Bounkeo Lor taught law and gospel. Instruction via Zoom is something new for the Hmong Fellowship Church, but the students were very excited. Some students even asked permission for their wives and parents to join the training as well.

While the Hmong Fellowship Church has been tremendously blessed, there are also some big challenges ahead. More than 1,360 leaders are waiting for someone to train them in the Word of God. They are also waiting to build more churches for new believers to worship their Lord. Lor explains that the Hmong Fellowship Church leaders are very skilled at doing evangelism in their communities. With proper training and materials, these men will continue to share God's Word.

The theological education center building project in Vietnam is still active but has been delayed due to COVID-19. Once Lor is able to visit Vietnam, he will arrange a Zoom or face-to-face meeting, if possible, between WELS and Vietnamese representatives. The government also wants to make this project happen as quickly as possible.

Lor shares that brothers and sisters in Vietnam send their greetings and say, "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!" to all WELS members. They appreciate your help and support, especially to train their leaders in the Word of God. They also ask for your continued support and prayers. ☪

Open to **WELS** members of all ages and backgrounds
with a heart for mission work

WELS Mission Journeys

Zion's Trip to Bonney Lake, WA:
April 10th-15th, 2021
If interested:
1) Mark your calendar. 2) Inform Nils Johansson, evangelism chairman



WORSHIP ONLINE
www.zioncolumbus.org

- New service uploaded every Sunday at 8:00 AM.
- View worship guide and YouTube video of service of Bible readings, hymns, prayers, and sermon
- *Worship with your family at home. Share with those you love!*

- ★ **PURCHASE** cards to use like cash at local retailers.
- ★ **SUPPORT** our Christian Schools!
- ★ **AVAILABLE** Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Friday in the Fellowship Hall

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