

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



Can God Help Me to be More Fulfilled?

About this time of the year, millions of people make New Year's resolutions. We make them because there is some area of our lives that we would like to change. We want to stop doing something (overeating, smoking, drinking) and start doing something else (being a better parent, doing a better job at work, living a healthier lifestyle). Can we find satisfaction in keeping our resolutions? Maybe, at least, we can for awhile. Usually, most people end up breaking their resolutions. Then what kind of emotions set in? Frustration: "Oh, I can't believe it is January 5th, and I am already back to my same old unhealthy diet." Despair: "I am never going to be able to stop doing that (whatever that may be)." Failure: "Why even try? There is no way I will ever be able to do it. I'm a loser."

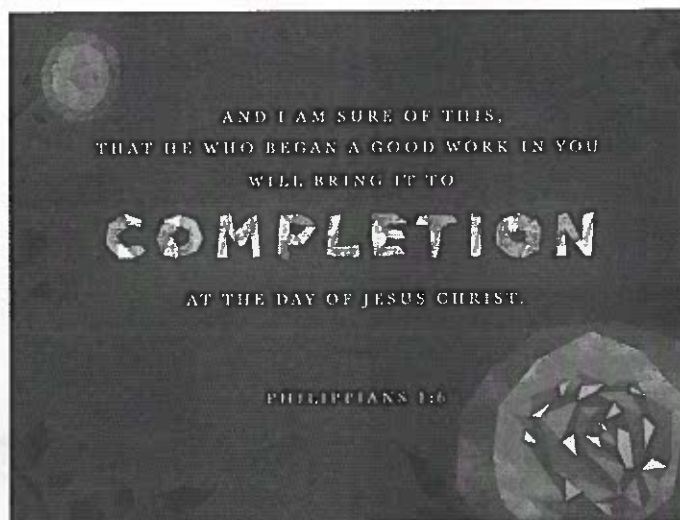
There is another problem that causes us to feel a lack of satisfaction and fulfillment in our lives. We can't control things. The storm hits and causes damage to the roof—expensive damage. The interest rates go up and cause that loan to be a little more stressful to pay off. The boss decides that he is going to give the other person the promotion even though you worked harder and did better work. Do we wonder if we can ever find true and lasting satisfaction in this kind of world?

Thank God the answer is a resounding "YES." In Psalm 107:9, God tells us that "he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Here is the catch, but it is a good one. The "good things" God gives us are not the good things we normally are

looking for. Certainly, God can give us a good job, the willpower to keep our resolutions, and the good fortune not to have unforeseen accidents come into our lives. However, those things are minor compared to the real "food" that God gives us. God truly satisfies us and gives us fulfillment in life when he shows us, in his Word, that we have a Savior in Jesus.

No job, no relationship, no possession, or no person can give us the satisfaction and fulfillment God offers us in Jesus. In Jesus, we are assured of the forgiveness of our sins. In Jesus, we know that God is our loving Father. In Jesus, we are confident that we will be in heaven one day because of what he has done for us.

Jesus lived and died for you. He has opened heaven to you. Believe in him and find the peace and fulfillment he wants you to have in this life and in the one to come.



Worship with Us in 2023!

Thursday evening: 6:30

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30

Sunday School and Bible Study between services

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 8:00 AM Worship, Communion 10:30 AM Worship: Communion Online Worship Posted	2	3 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	4 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	5 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 2:00 Ladies Aid 6:30 Worship	6 6:00 Bible Breakfast End 2 nd Quarter BB Away Lebanon Lutheran	7
Christmas Break						
8 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Online Worship Posted	9 Pastors Conference MAPS Testing 6:30 Board of Ed 6:30 Stewardship Board	10 MAPS Testing BB Away St. John's Juneau 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	11 MAPS Testing 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	12 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning BB Away vs. St. Paul's, Lake Mills 6:30 Worship, Communion	13 6:00 Bible Breakfast BB Home vs St. Paul, Ixonnia	14 A Girls BB Tourn at LLHS B Boys Tourn at Pardeeville
15 8:00 AM Worship, Communion 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship: Communion Online Worship Posted 12:00 PM PATZ Bowling Event	16 Martin Luther King Day No School: Inservice 9:30 Pastors' Circuit Meeting	17 6:30: PATZ 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	18 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Church Council 7:00 Choir	19 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 6:30 Worship	20 6:00 Bible Breakfast BB Home CLCA	21 B Girls BB Tourn at Pardeeville
22 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Online Worship Posted	23 9-10:30 Sanctuary: Monthly Cleaning	24 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	25 4:00 6-7, 8 Catechism 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	26 7:45-11 Sanctuary Cleaning 6:30 Worship, Communion	27 6:00 Bible Breakfast BB Away: St. Stephens, Beaver Dam	28 B Girls BB Tourn at Juneau
29 8:00 AM Worship, Communion 9:15 AM Bible Study, Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship: Communion Band Students Play for Worship Online Worship Posted	30	31 7:00 WELS Wind Ensemble	Spirit Week			

Devotional Thought: I Am the Lord's Servant

By Wade Johnston

Rejoice with Mary as she would rejoice with you. Be blessed, like her, with humility from God, so that you may serve joyfully and willingly wherever and in whatever role God has placed you.

After our Lord Jesus, Mary is the most controversial figure in the history of the church. From the earliest days of the New Testament there has been a deep-rooted respect for Mary and an ardent desire to imitate her. She is depicted in art with Christ (an infant and yet God) in her womb or on her lap, gazing at him lovingly and in awe. Mary is the Mother of God and worthy of honor. She is blessed among women, highly favored. And this is all connected to Jesus, the fruit of her womb, our Savior. This the Bible makes clear.

With time this honor began to shift, however. Rather than pointing to Christ, Mary was sometimes presented in a way that distracted from him. By the Middle Ages, honoring Mary had turned into prayer and veneration. In popular piety, she became a mediator between Christians and her Son. Protestants rightly objected to this. Those objections, however, ought not lead us into the opposite ditch. Mary does have much to teach us. Most of all, she points us to her Savior and ours, as we see in her song.

How many of us when we get something new or accomplish something big can't help but prance like a peacock? How often are we tempted to serve more for the accolades and gratitude than the benefit of others? How often do we as a church body look for glory in numbers, good press, or some other visible sign? We all want to be members of the body of Christ, but who here seeks to be the parts that go unseen and lack glory? Look at Mary today, however. She's the Mother of God. There's only ever been one of those. She has Jesus within her in a way no one else ever has or will. And what does she do? While pregnant, she travels a great distance – by foot – in order to care

for Elizabeth, her cousin, as she carries her baby, John.

What humble women we encounter here. They're not out advertising what's happened. They're not bragging to the other ladies. They're not trying to figure out what exactly made God choose them. They're simply encouraging each other and rejoicing together in the promises of God.

Who besides Jesus is greater than Mary in the New Testament, and yet she never sought any role the Lord had not given her. She was content to be the single most influential person in the life of her Son, God's Son, our Savior. And what could be more of an honor than that?

Do you ever think about the fact that our God had parents, a mother, and a stepfather? What a wonderful calling parenthood is! What a sacred responsibility!

Fathers, as Joseph protected and provided for this holy Child entrusted to him as a stepfather, you have a similar sacred trust and honor. Think of all the trials Joseph endured out of love for his wife and this infant God, this Child who would give Joseph new birth into eternal life. You too get to love in such a way.

Mothers, it's no coincidence that after Christ the most famous and cherished saint of the church is a woman, and her song is perhaps its most famous and cherished song. The apostles had important roles. They did things no one else could do, but so did Mary, and she was right there with them along the way. We see that at the foot of the cross and in the upper room. She didn't preach like them. She didn't go out into all the world like many of them. But what she did do was as important, and her song tells us why she did it. She loved Jesus as her son and as her God, her Savior. She loved him like no one else could, as a mother.

As Christian men and women, our goal is not to be what we want to be, or to be what someone else is, or to be what we are told we ought not to be. Rather, like Mary, our goal is to be what God asks us to be. We say with Mary, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be done to me as you have said."

We, like Mary, have Christ within us. He dwells in us through the Word. He came to live in us in our Baptism. In Holy Communion, he comes to us with the same body and blood that lived and grew in Mary.

“Blessed is the who has believed that what the Lord has said will be accomplished,” Elizabeth told Mary. And we too believe, not because we deserve to, but because God has revealed it to us as he revealed it to Elizabeth and to John in the womb. The Greek word used for John’s leaping in the womb at Christ’s presence is no simple kicking or turning. This was leaping for joy. The Greek word even sounds like our English word “skip.” Think of the youthful, innocent skipping of a child with no troubles in the world.

This is the joy of a forgiven Christian. It is a joy that sings with Mary, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” “My soul.” “My spirit.” Not just the mouth, the head, or the pages of the hymnal, but our entire being. Rejoice with Mary as she would rejoice with you. Be blessed, like her, with humility from God, so that you may serve joyfully and willingly wherever and in whatever role God has placed you, but most importantly, essentially, and eternally, be blessed through “the fruit of her womb,” our Lord Jesus. As this Child and the promises about him moved her to song, let it move us to song as well, now and forever. Amen.

For similar articles and podcasts and other resources, visit <https://www.1517.org/>

Newsletter of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

The Messenger

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Council Names and Numbers

Dan Retzlaff, Chairman	920-319-0018
Jeff Krakow, Vice-Chairman	920-210-2388
Nick Uebelacker, Secretary	608-225-8861
Will Penterman, Treasurer	920-750-8763
Andrew Tratar, Education	920-296-1485
Noah Litherland, Elders	608-354-5131
Nils Johansson, Outreach	608-239-5123
Aaron Larson, Property	608-220-6906
Otto Mattke, Stewardship	608-516-5279
Craig Lathrop, Family Ministry	608-770-2498

Our Mission

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

Get in Touch

Church/School Office
(920) 623-5180
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Tim Schwartz, Pastor
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Ben Zuberbier, Pastor
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cgrambsch@zioncrusaders.com

Don Schultz, Lakeside Principal
(920) 648-2321

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

USHERS FOR JANUARY

January 1st

8:00am - Team E3	10:30am - Team L1
Randy Koehn (C)	Tom Schultz (C)
Dan Retzlaff	Aaron Larson
Noah Litherland	James Kopfer
Steven Hahn	Brandon Lee
William Penterman	Max Larson
Brian Baney	Andy Tratar

January 8th

8:00am - Team E4	10:30am - Team L2
Mark Lindell (C)	Dale Schultz (C)
Remington Lindell	Daniel Schultz
Roger Weiland (C)	Dylan Schultz
Bryce Weiland	Michael Hallberg
Brett Weiland	Nathan Hallberg
Norman Weiland	Henry Tews
Eric Turnquist (C)	

January 15th & January 22nd

8:00am - Team E5	10:30am - Team L3
Kim Schilling (C)	Jim Kluetzman (C)
Ronald Knudson	Gabe Uttech
John Zandler	AJ Uttech
Andy Neuman	Michael Uttech
Matt Vosberg	Gary Schuhmacher
	Jadon Schwartz

January 29th & February 5th

8:00am - Team E6	10:30am - Team L4
John Brey (C)	Kurt Zander (C)
Jim Greiling	Jim Yohn
Rick Gentz	Wyatt Browskowski
Hunter Sommer	John Loeffler
Jordan Crave	Madden Henning
Christian Bagocius	Tim Petrie

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

January 1st

8:00am	10:30am
Kathy Harle & Joan Sennhenn	Bev Herold & Nicole Henning

January 8th

8:00am	10:30am
Delmar & Carol Vick	John & Sarah Brey

January 15th

8:00am	10:30am
Emily Henning & Nancy Huebner	Nils & Lara Johansson

January 22nd

8:00am	10:30am
Jim & Jenny Greiling	Aaron & Rachel Larson

January 29th

8:00am	10:30am
Dale & Joyce Gajdosik	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 November

Date	Total
3/6	372
10/13	308
17/20	267
23/27	424
30	54

Membership Changes

Transfer In:

Tim Petrie from Our Redeemer, Madison, WI

Transfer Out:

None

Released:

Robert & Sandy Pratt



Emily Henning	2nd	84 years
Sharon Homman	7th	82 years
Ruth Lienke	11th	95 years

Ministrations

Baptisms:

10. Lucas David Vierck
Born: 10/18/2022
Baptized: 11/6/2022
Parents: Brian & Ashley Vierck
11. Violette Annie Heim
Born: 11/6/2022
Baptized: 11/6/2022
Parents: Andrew & Miranda Heim
12. Shepherd Kurtiss Zander
Born: 9/23/2022
Baptized: 11/20/2022
Parents: Zach & Stephanie Zander

Deaths:

11. Richard Derr
Born 6/20/1932; Died 10/25/2022
12. Wayne Moungey
Born 3/16/1937; Died 11/18/2022
13. LaVerne Linde
Born 8/19/46; Died 11/24/2022

Marriages:

None

Confirmations:

None

Affirmations of Faith:

None

2023 Men of His Word Conference - MAN UP: in a man down world

This year's theme states succinctly what Christian men are supposed to do (Man UP!) and how the world/society is treating men (a man down world). Joshua 24:14a encourages us, "Fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully" (EHV). Joshua was delivering his "farewell sermon" to the Israelites, encouraging them to "man up" by honoring the LORD, removing spiritual distractions and keeping focused on a life of grateful, devoted service to God. Joshua urged the people to make God-pleasing use of their sanctified freewill by choosing to serve the LORD, not false gods, and by being faithful to the LORD, not foolishly pursuing their sinful whims of the past. Without being prideful, Joshua directed the people to observe himself and his own family as examples, by saying, "As for me and my household - we will serve the LORD!" Join us to learn how you can MAN UP in this man down world. The 14th Annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, February 18, 2023. Additional details and online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org. The registration fee is \$60 for adults and \$30 for youth -- these rates increase to \$75 and \$37 respectively after January 29th. Please join us for a day of worship, praise and fellowship in God's Word!



Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by January 20th.

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, November 2022

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Percentage
INCOME				
CONTRIBUTION INCOME				
UNRESTRICTED	\$78,663.92	\$312,692.39	\$0.00	0.00%
DONOR RESTRICTED	20,889.24	71,583.39	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Contribution Income	99,553.16	384,275.78	0.00	0.00%
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME				
	833.24	53,992.21	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL INCOME	100,386.40	438,267.99	0.00	0.00%
EXPENSES				
FIXED EXPENSES				
CALLED WORKER PAYROLL	\$29,834.17	\$147,442.41	\$154,732.50	95.29%
SUPPORT STAFF	4,421.33	17,523.60	20,837.50	84.10%
BENEFITS	13,496.30	70,069.26	91,828.75	76.30%
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	694.65	5,689.47	8,166.65	69.67%
BUILDING & GROUNDS	7,253.00	40,640.51	47,045.85	86.38%
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	55,699.45	281,365.25	322,611.25	87.21%
DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES				
OUTSIDE SUPPORT	9,070.00	43,270.00	42,932.50	100.79%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	149.37	1,797.33	1,666.70	107.84%
WORSHIP/MUSIC	800.00	1,419.88	5,520.90	25.72%
EVANGELISM/OUTREACH	57.36	389.55	2,708.35	14.38%
ELDERS	0.00	0.00	41.65	0.00%
STEWARDSHIP	285.84	1,399.64	1,375.00	101.79%
FAMILY MINISTRY	59.44	885.40	1,333.40	66.40%
Subtotal Departments/committees	10,422.01	49,161.80	55,578.50	88.45%
OTHER EXPENSES				
CONVENTIONS & SEMINARS	0.00	510.00	625.00	81.60%
TOTAL EXPENSES	66,121.46	331,037.05	378,814.75	87.39%
TRANSFER ACCOUNTS				
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	-\$22,227.32	-\$70,505.59	\$0.00	0.00%
TRANSFER FROM OTHER FUNDS	8,428.31	78,199.17	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL TRANSFERS	-13,799.01	7,693.58	0.00	0.00%
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$20,465.93	\$114,924.52	-\$378,814.75	-30.34%

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

November 2022

Previous Month Assets	\$132,465.44
Total Transactions	\$18,116.60
Total Current Assets	\$150,582.04

	\$143,097.69
New Church/School Total	
checking/savings	

Accounts	Undesignated		Monthly Statements		NEW Church/School
	Checking	Explanation	NEW Church/School Fund Savings	Explanation	
Previous Balance	\$746.59		\$55,684.00		\$69,127.37
Monthly Transactions*	(\$169.72)		\$3,983.08		\$14,303.24
Current Balance	\$576.87		\$59,667.08		\$83,430.61
Transactions	(\$150.00)	loan Marks			\$1,653.08
					11/2 transfer
					\$5,000.00
					11/9 donation
					\$1,051.00
					11/10 vanco
					\$1,700.00
					11/18 donation
					\$1,372.46
					11/20 vanco
					(\$5,425.00)
					11/22 am bank
					\$3,015.08
					11/29 transfer
					\$2,694.54
					11/30 vanco
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	(\$169.72)		\$0.00		\$3,983.08
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$18,116.60				\$14,303.24

Notes:

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