

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



Why should I get up in the morning and live life?

I always wanted to be a morning person. You know, the kind of people that whistle on the way to the shower and sing while they dress. Unfortunately, I am not that kind of person. I am one whose addiction to the snooze button almost always has me rushing around in the morning, trying not to be late for the day's events.

God's Word is like an alarm that is ringing. Every time we have lust in our hearts, it rings. Every time we utter an obscenity, it rings. Every time our mouths are full of coarse joking, we hear it ring. The temptation is to hit the snooze button of our conscience and continue sleeping in sin. But snoozing through the alarm of God's holy will is more serious than showing up late for a meeting. If we ignore what God commands, we are in for a rude awakening. In the Bible, we read, "God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient" (Ephesians 5:6). No matter how much we cover our heads with the blanket of denial, we cannot and will not escape the alarm of God's justice.

God's alarm is ringing for us, "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Ephesians 5:14).

Jesus is the light of the world. He came to dispel the darkness that shrouded us by sin and death.



His light shone brightly when he was lifted up on a cross to die in order to take away our death. And his light exploded in brilliance when he rose from the dead to prove that he is the world's Savior. Through the good news of God's Word, the light of Jesus Christ shines on us to awaken us from the slumber of sin and darkness of death.

I have work to do on my morning routine. I need to strive to not keep hitting the snooze button. But praise be to God for Jesus, whose light from the cross and empty grave shines on us. Led by his light, we can get up in the morning to

live life, "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).

WORSHIP WITH US!

Thursdays

6:30 pm

Sundays

8:00 and 10:30 am

WELS NIGHT
AT THE BREWERS

FRI, 7/8 7:10 PM

Make your reservations and start to join thousands of WELS members for the return of WELS Night at Knappton Family Park! Seating will be together for WELS members in all three seating areas.

50% OFF SELECT TICKETS

TICKET PRICES	
WELS MEMBERS	WELS NON-MEMBERS
10.00	15.00

WELS Night at the Brewers

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting	2 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 2:00 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	3 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	4 Fellowship Hall Reserved
5 Pentecost 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion 11:30 am Teacher Farewell Reception in Fellowship Hall	6	7 7:00 pm *WEIS Wind Ensemble Practice	8 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting *Board of Ed Meeting	9 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:30 pm Worship	10 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	11
12 Trinity 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Voters Meeting	13 6:30 pm Stewardship Board	14 7:00 pm *WEIS Wind Ensemble Practice Fellowship Hall Reserved	15 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Council Meeting	16 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 4:30 pm Sanctuary Reserved (Wedding Rehearsal) 6:30 pm Worship	17 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 9:00 am Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall Reserved (Wedding)	18
19 Father's Day Pentecost 2 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	20	21 7:00 pm *WEIS Wind Ensemble Practice	22 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting	23 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	24 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall reserved	25 Fellowship Hall reserved
26 Pentecost 3 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship, Communion	27 9:00 am Sanctuary: Monthly Cleaning	28 10:00 am Fellowship Hall - Blood Drive 7:00 pm *WEIS Wind Ensemble Practice	29 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting	30 7:45 am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 4:00 pm Sanctuary Reserved Wedding Rehearsal 6:30 pm Worship, Communion		

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Council Names and Numbers

Dan Retzlaff, Chairman	920-319-0018
Matt Weidner, Vice-Chairman	920-319-6017
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
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

USHERS FOR MARCH

May 29th & June 5th

8:00am - Team E2	10:30am - Team L6
Dale Schilling (C)	Paul Kehl (C)
Dale Gajdosik	Otto Mattke (A)
Kenneth Schulz	Dennis Winter
Matt Yaroch	Carl Wolf
Nick Yaroch	William Mattke
Nate Yaroch	Nils Johansson
	Shaun Opsahl

June 12th & June 19th

8:00am - Team E3	10:30am - Team L7
Randy Koehn (C)	Matt Huber (C)
Dan Retzlaff	Carter Huber
Noah Litherland	Jeremy Maas
Steven Hahn	Peter Klokow
William Penterman	Jack Klokow
Brian Baney	Brady Grambsch
	Michael Vertz

June 26th & July 3rd

8:00am - Team 4	10:30am - Team L1
Mark Lindell (C)	Tom Schultz (C)
Remington Lindell	Aaron Larson
Roger Weiland (C)	James Kopfer
Bryce Weiland	Brandon Lee
Brett Weiland	Brian Vierck
Norman Weiland	Andy Tratar
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

June 5th

8:00am	10:30am
Kathy Harle	Laurie Kirchberg & Pat Premo

June 12th

8:00am	10:30am
Delmar & Carol Vick	Rick & Lisa Gentz

June 19th

8:00am	10:30am
Emily Henning & Nancy Huebner	Marcia Rewolinski & Arlene Sennhenn

June 26th

8:00am	10:30am
Dale, Joyce Gajdosik	Otto & Sheree Mattke

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 April

Date	Total
3	251
6/10	617
14/15/17	1,164
21/24	422
28	42

Membership Changes

Transfer In:

None

Transfer Out:

Bruce & Pam Zander to Friendship, WI

Released:

Daniel Ruppel



Lois White

18th 86 years

Ministrations

Baptisms:

3. Brooklyn Loeffler
Born 10/15/2014; Baptized 4/22/2022
Parents: John & Gabrielle Loeffler
4. Kaitlyn Loeffler
Born 7/18/2013; Baptized 4/22/2022
Parents: John & Gabrielle Loeffler

Deaths:

6. Darrell Leisses - Born 6/2/1945; Died 4/7/2022
7. Shirley Knudson - Born 12/12/1931; Died 4/27/2022

Marriages:

Brett Weiland & Emiley Stade - Married 4/2/2022

Confirmations:

4/24/2022 - Lily Brey, Allen Cooley, Addison Hallberg, Emma Hallberg, Madden Henning, Max Larson, Landon Margelofsky, Karlee Nack, Brynja Opsahl, Isaac Peck, and Gabe Weidner

Affirmations of Faith:

None

4th of July Parade

Zion Outreach is looking for walkers to hand out candy and riders to wave (from the school bus). We meet at Zion on July 4th at 10 am. Wear your favorite red Zion shirt and gear! People of all ages are welcome. Contact Nils Johansson if you have any questions, nils.johansson@reagan.com or (608) 239-5123

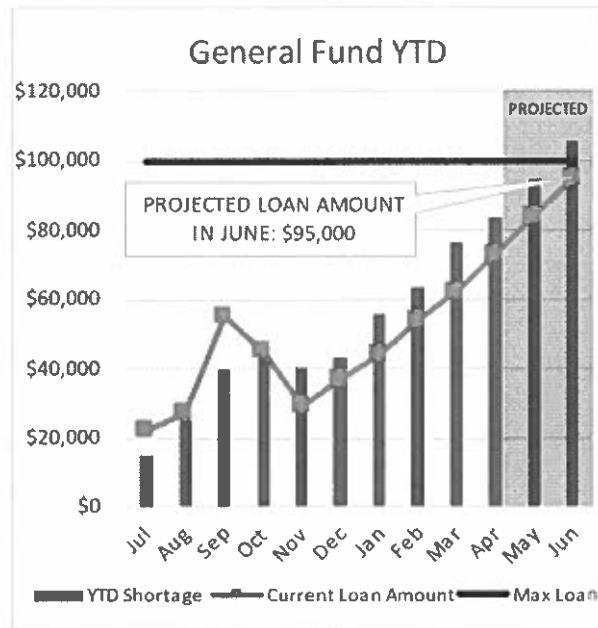
Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by June 20th.

Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or

suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.





We've Gone Graphic!

As noted last week, our balance on our line of credit loan at Farmers & Merchants Union Bank has been growing (see on the graph above). We are nearing the credit limit and it won't be long, at the current trend, until we bump up against it.

Thanks be to God, one of our congregation's families has offered to provide up to \$15,000 to reduce our debt balance if other members collectively will also give a total of \$15,000. They will match dollar for dollar up to that amount!

That means that if you give \$1 to reduce the line of credit loan balance, it becomes \$2. Two for one. Of course, this only works if your contributions are over and above your regular gifts to the Lord.

What a generous offering from this anonymous family and what an exciting way to knock down our debt balance!

When you give to this effort make sure to mark "Debt Reduction" on your offering envelope otherwise it will go directly into the General Fund. If you choose to give online, there will be a special option in which to make your donation.

The Lord has again blessed our congregation. Let's do our part to show our appreciation! As always, the Lord will continue bless us abundantly in Christ Jesus.

Your Stewardship Board

BUILDING FUND CHANGE

It was brought to the council's attention in its meeting on May 18th that the balance of the building fund at the end of April was \$146,558.21 and that approximately an additional \$10,000 had been received so far in May. It did not seem like good stewardship of the money to leave it in this fund receiving very low interest rather than use part of it to pay down the principal balance of the mortgage at American Bank which is at a higher interest rate.

A motion was made and approved to use any balance over \$100,000 to reduce the principal on the church mortgage. This would be done monthly as the financial report is being prepared.

The \$100,000 balance kept in the fund would be a nine month cushion of mortgage payments and would also be a cushion in case emergency repairs needed to be made to the existing school building.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss YTD Comparison
 April 2022

	Apr 22	Jul '21 - Apr 22
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Extended Care Reimbursement	1,108.84	5,769.84
Extra Synod Missions Income	358.00	1,712.50
Family Ministry	0.00	400.00
General Fund Offerings	61,439.68	617,945.24
Gifts to Payoff Bank Loan	20.00	3,524.00
LLHS Building Income	0.00	450.00
Money Borrowed from FMUB	-4,000.00	56,000.00
Other Donations		
Building Fund Donation	7,843.46	8,442.96
Pantry donations	0.00	50.00
Thrivent Choice	1,940.00	3,210.00
Other Donations - Other	0.00	550.00
Total Other Donations	9,783.46	12,252.96
Other Receipts		
Facilities Rental	60.00	685.00
Other Receipts - Other	720.00	2,489.48
Total Other Receipts	780.00	3,174.48
Sub teaching reimburse	0.00	12.16
Total Income	69,489.98	701,241.18
Gross Profit	69,489.98	701,241.18
Expense		
ACH fee	1.00	5.00
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	30,710.66	318,001.85
Church Supplies	175.55	2,378.80
Convention/Cont' Education	0.00	560.00
Copier	0.00	2,180.35
Elders Board	0.00	0.00
Extended Care Expense	734.52	5,745.36
Family Ministry Board	387.25	1,199.92
Funds in Transit	0.00	253.95
Guest Pastor	89.00	1,324.00
Health Insurance	8,418.39	84,183.90
HRA Savings	2,000.00	14,000.00
Interest Expense	197.00	832.88
Janitors		
Church Labor	770.00	6,914.00
School Labor	878.76	10,314.05
Total Janitors	1,648.76	17,228.05
LLHS Building Expense	0.00	350.00
LLHS Expense	0.00	25,750.00
Maintenance		
Inspection fees	120.00	1,452.04
Janitorial Supplies, Church	231.74	1,081.87
Janitorial Supplies, School	0.00	2,072.46
Pest Control	210.00	2,572.00
Property Improvements		
Church	0.00	-140.00
School	0.00	392.00
Property Improvements - Other	0.00	2,335.58
Total Property Improvements	0.00	2,587.58
Property Repair	0.00	1,833.62

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss YTD Comparison
April 2022

	Apr 22	Jul '21 - Apr 22
Trash Removal	386.60	2,405.46
Maintenance - Other	0.00	788.87
Total Maintenance	948.34	14,793.90
Meditations	375.00	1,500.00
Mileage	147.90	767.44
Miscellaneous	0.00	279.94
Organists	560.10	4,943.94
Outreach Board	0.00	480.05
Payroll Expenses	251.00	2,568.00
Pension Insurance	200.00	30,866.00
Postage and Delivery	41.00	1,407.54
Secretaries	2,316.46	22,516.55
Stewardship Board		
Vanco invoice reimbursement	279.92	2,649.54
Stewardship Board - Other	0.00	578.51
Total Stewardship Board	279.92	3,228.05
Substitute Teaching	-265.00	-102.25
Sunday School/VBS	0.00	151.92
Synod Mission Expense	0.00	52,604.50
Telephone & Internet Expense	279.95	3,315.74
Utilities		
Water and Light		
890 Western Ave.	223.98	2,454.44
896 Western Ave.	192.68	2,257.73
Ann St.	146.73	1,886.99
Chapin St. Teacherage	224.70	2,510.87
Dix St. Parsonage	248.94	2,876.82
New Church	1,271.82	13,207.15
School Building	1,177.28	13,609.60
Total Water and Light	3,486.13	38,803.60
We Energies		
890 Western Ave.	65.00	575.00
896 Western Ave.	109.54	742.89
Ann St.	70.48	536.46
Chapin St. Teacherage	92.57	591.13
Dix St. Parsonage	81.00	855.00
New Church	340.78	2,806.51
School Building	1,251.35	9,413.89
Total We Energies	2,010.70	15,520.88
Total Utilities	5,496.83	54,324.48
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	12,843.00	16,207.00
Worship		
Candles	0.00	151.99
Choir	-171.25	-192.52
Communion	102.87	388.39
Licensing	0.00	814.00
Piano Tuning	0.00	1,461.20
Worship - Other	114.00	16,264.63
Total Worship	45.62	18,887.69
Total Expense	67,882.25	702,734.53
Net Ordinary Income	1,607.73	-1,493.35
Net Income	1,607.73	-1,493.35

TOGETHER



May 17, 2022


Assignment Day at Martin Luther College

Assignment Day at Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., is one of the highlights of the year. Last Saturday, May 14, 2022, in a special service, candidates for the teaching ministry learned where they will be serving. All 74 teacher candidates who could go anywhere—57 from the graduating class and 17 previous graduates—were assigned. In addition, 51 teacher candidates who were limited geographically received assignments. Total assignments this year were fewer than in the two previous years; 116 requests to the Assignment Committee for teachers could not be filled.

There are still 140 teaching vacancies in the synod. District presidents will be working with calling bodies and with MLC to address this significant need.

It should be noted that 48 men graduated from the pre-seminary program at MLC, a significant increase over previous years. This will be a real blessing at a time when pastoral vacancies have also increased.

Jesus encouraged us to pray for workers in his harvest field. God's people have prayed, and God has answered those prayers with young people saying, "Here am I; send me!"

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

Reaching communities with compassion

Through its new Community Care & Compassion Matching Grants Program, WELS Christian Aid and Relief is offering matching grants to congregations that want to reach out in their community through a compassion ministry. Grants are available up to \$2,500.

Grants can support any compassion ministry in a community, such as a Christmas toy drive or a Thanksgiving meal at your church. It can also support those who need

encouragement, like seniors, veterans, or victims of domestic violence. WELS Christian Aid and Relief Director Rev. Daniel Sims recommends that a good place to start is to determine the particular needs in your community. If there is a local charity working to serve those needs, find ways to assist them.

"When we act with compassion and love, it gains us opportunities to talk about our Savior," says Sims. "I encourage congregations to find

the people who are hurting in your community, formulate a plan to help them, and get in touch with us. Let us help you reach out to them in love." To learn more and apply for a grant, visit wels.net/relief.

One example of a congregation taking advantage of this new grant program is Bethlehem, Richland Center, Wis. In 2020, this exploratory mission was looking for a ministry space to call home. God provided a perfect fit: a former elementary school that had just come on the market.

The building was more than just a former school. It was also home to a county-run program that provides hot meals each week to senior adults. "We didn't just purchase a facility," says Rev. Daniel Lewig, pastor at Bethlehem. "We got a ministry right along with it—and an open door to see where God leads."


Supported by offerings and a pandemic relief grant from WELS Christian Aid and Relief, Bethlehem members upgraded the former classroom in which the meals are served to make it more welcoming and encourage conversation and connections.

The revitalized dining area also serves as Bethlehem's fellowship hall, and seniors from the community are invited to all church activities. In addition, Lewig visits with guests each week and leads them in prayer. Bethlehem members help serve the meals or simply spend time getting to know their neighbors.

Once the seniors are in the building, it's a natural progression to introduce them to the worship space in the gym. Through God's blessing, several of the seniors have attended worship, and

some have taken Bible information classes and become members.

Bethlehem plans to apply for a new Community Care & Compassion Matching Grant through WELS Christian Aid and Relief to offer even more fellowship opportunities for local seniors, like dinners and movie nights.

"It's not the food that brings them together," Lewig says. "It's the connection. Our members help with that connection and connect it to a higher purpose. We created an environment where you're not just eating a meal for a day but a meal for eternity." 

Military contact pastors meet for conference

WELS Military Services assists WELS congregations serving military members when they are stationed nearby. Civilian ministry to the military is a cornerstone of WELS Military Services' work by equipping churches for local gospel and fellowship ministry to military personnel and their families.

Across the nation, 125 WELS churches near military installations and their pastors (called military contact pastors) are appointed to reach out to the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces.

April 26-28, 2022, the WELS Military Services Committee held its annual Military Contact Pastors Workshop at Risen Savior, Pooler, Ga., near Army Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Members of the Military Services Committee and a group of WELS military contact pastors met to discuss ministry to the military with Fort Stewart chaplains and military personnel. WELS

members Lt. Col. Michael Hefti and his wife, Katie, shared the stresses of military life and the importance of their WELS pastors and church family in supporting them spiritually.

Fort Stewart held a meeting attended by more than a dozen of the post's military chaplains. The chaplains explained their work and the retreat attendees spoke to them about the unique needs of WELS military personnel for religious accommodation. Fort Stewart representatives explained family resources available to military members. The official program ended with a demonstration of how a worship service in the field would be set up and a visit to a museum on the post.


The annual workshop is sponsored through a grant from the Lutheran Military Support Group, a national organization of WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) veterans. The Lutheran Military Support Group also sponsors free professional Christian counseling for military members served by WELS Military Services and WELS and ELS veterans.

Rev. Jim Behringer, director of WELS Special Ministries, said, "Of all the military contact pastors workshops, this year's meeting was superior. Fort Stewart's chaplains went the extra mile to create mutual understanding. They were impressed by WELS' desire to serve military personnel, and they made every effort to help us in that regard. Our attendees are always highly motivated by the speakers, but we had some outstanding presentations that I hope will improve our ability to serve military members with the gospel while helping them carry their burdens."

Rev. Paul Horn, chairman of the WELS Military Services Committee, notes

that the key to serving more WELS members in the military is through referrals from their loved ones made at wels.net/refer. "When we know who our WELS military members are and where they are stationed, we can better serve them with Word and sacraments," says Horn. "When our congregations are aware that military families are in their church, the best thing they can do is to assimilate them into the mission and ministry of the congregation as quickly as possible. Military families move often. Making your church their church home will provide much needed encouragement and support."

To learn more about WELS Military Services, visit wels.net/military.

For more information about the Lutheran Military Support Group, visit lutheranmilitary.org. 

Watch the WELS Investment Funds quarterly update webinar

If you missed it live you can still catch the latest WELS Investment Funds quarterly update. The 30-minute webinar featured Bill Burns, CFA, senior investment consultant for Vanguard, as he delivered a quarterly market recap, an investment performance review for the WELS Funds, and Vanguard's market and economic outlook.

The webinar also included an informative Q&A featuring current issues impacting the markets. Here is a sample of the questions that were addressed:

- With rising inflation and daily market volatility, is there anything

we should be doing now to protect our endowment investments?

- How will the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the related economic sanctions affect the global economy and the investment markets?
- Will the WELS Balanced Fund and WELS Endowment Fund be able to keep up with inflation long term?

As of March 31, 2022, WELS Investment Funds' net assets totaled approximately \$300 million. WELS Investment Funds currently provides investment portfolios for 245 WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod ministries, and each quarter more and more WELS members are tuning in to these updates to learn how their congregations' or organizations' investments are making an impact on ministry.

Visit wels.net/wif to watch the webinar and to learn more. 

Did you know...

WELS has a Facebook page?
facebook.com/welslutherans

WELS has Instagram?
instagram.com/welslutherans

***Forward in Christ* magazine has a Facebook page?**
facebook.com/forwardinchristmagazine

***Forward in Christ* magazine has Instagram?**
instagram.com/forward_in_christ_magazine/



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