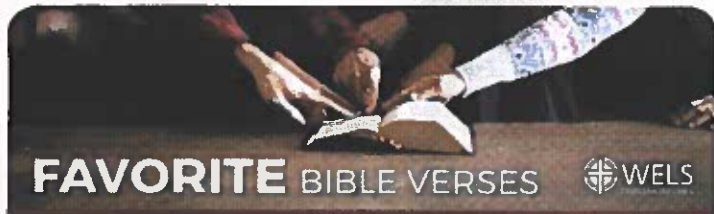


# The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



God says, "Throw it all on me!" He wants to take away all those burdens. He wants to remove the guilt from the sins of the past. He wants to hold us up under the stress of the present. He wants to assure us about the future.

But, as ugly as it sounds, he does this by taking our burdens onto himself. In fact, he already has taken our burdens when Jesus Christ bore the sins of the whole world. He carried all of them when he died on the cross. He didn't drop anybody's burden of sin. He didn't leave anybody out so that now they're stuck carrying their own.

Do you know people who help others so much that they hardly have any time left for themselves? You can marvel at how much they give of themselves, how many burdens they carry for other people. But if you would ever ask them how they can possibly do so much to help others, the answer might come back so plainly, "I just love them."

God's attitude toward you is so full of love—so overflowing with love—that no matter how many of your burdens you pile on him, his love will still spill out for you through Jesus. So take out the trash!

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you..

## WORSHIP WITH US

Thursday Evenings at 6:30

Sunday Mornings at 8:00 and 10:30

New online service every Sunday by 8:00 AM at

[www.zioncolumbus.org](http://www.zioncolumbus.org)

## Take Out the Trash!

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible. This month's favorite Bible verse is: **1 Peter 5:7**

*"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*

If you were asked to write down your top-ten favorite places, it's hard to imagine a landfill making anybody's list. There's nothing pretty about a landfill. There's nothing attractive or inviting about a place where trash is piled high and deep. It's no fun to be at a landfill; all you can do is watch the pile get bigger. And you certainly wouldn't want to take home any souvenirs!

But in 1 Peter 5:7, God is inviting us (if it can be said this way) to treat him like a landfill. "Pile it up!" he says. "Keep it coming! I can take it! Cover me with it!"

What kind of trash is God asking us to cover him with? *Anxiety*. Worry about the future. Stress of the present. Burdens from the past. All the things that pile up and make life feel like an endless slog through a murky, mucky swamp. All the things that press hard and cause pain, on the inside and the outside.

## The Fall Harvest Mission

An Outreach Initiative at Zion  
Selected Sundays in September & October

September 17 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup>	World Missions
September 24 <sup>th</sup> /27 <sup>th</sup>	Home Missions
October 1 <sup>st</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Welcome
October 23 <sup>rd</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup>	Community Outreach

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 2:00 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Worship Communion	<b>2</b> Early Release- Teacher Inservice Bible Breakfast 6:00 am	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> THE FALL HARVEST MISSION: WORSHIP WELCOME 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion Grades 1&2 Music Recording	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> * Picture Day	<b>7</b> 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	<b>8</b> Outreach Meeting 6:30 pm Worship	<b>9</b> 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> THE FALL HARVEST MISSION: OPERATION GO Lakeside A Capella 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	<b>12</b> Columbus Day (regional holiday) 9:00 am Pastor's Circuit Meeting *Board of Ed Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Stewardship Board	<b>14</b> 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 Council Meeting	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Worship	<b>16</b> 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Grades K4 & K5 Music Recording	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00 pm PATZ Meeting	<b>21</b> 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	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	<b>23</b> 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 5:00 pm Praise and Proclaim: Outreach Training Seminar	<b>24</b> 8:00 am Praise and Proclaim: Outreach Training Seminar
<b>25</b> THE FALL HARVEST MISSION: COMMUNITY OUTREACH 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship, Communion Grades 7&8 Music Recording	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> End of 1st Quarter 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	<b>29</b> No School- Teacher's Conference 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	<b>30</b> No School- Teacher's Conference 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	<b>31</b> Halloween



## Feeling Anxious?

One of the untold factors in dealing with COVID-19 are the spiritual/emotional effects that lockdowns and other mandates are having on us. The following is a blog written by a therapist from Christian Family Solutions, a WELS partnering organization that offers counselling and other services. While not a devotional article, the following offers great insight into dealing with anxiety from a Christian perspective. For more information about how CFS might be of help to you or those you love, go to <https://christianfamilyolutions.org/>.

By [Drew Dyrssen](#)

If you answered "Yes!" to that question at the top of the page, you are not alone. In fact, you are part of the majority. Data collected in 2017 noted that **3 out of 4** college students in the United States reported feeling "overwhelming anxiety" at some point in their college career. Further, 30% of students reported feeling overwhelming anxiety within the past two weeks.

Anxiety, in short, is a disconnect between your mind and body. Your mind is worrying about something in the past or future (like an exam). Your body, however, does not have the capability to recognize past or future; it can only live in the here and now. This causes your body to have a set of physical reactions as it is preparing to fight, run, or freeze.

Experiencing occasional anxiety is a normal part of life. It is healthy for the mind and body to experience some anxiety. However, anxiety becomes a more serious issue when it begins to interfere with your daily life, becomes excessive, is unmanageable, or leads to panic attacks. Professionally speaking, you could be diagnosed with anxiety if you experience symptoms for six consecutive weeks. Instead of waiting for those weeks to pass, you can take steps to reduce your anxiety now.

Here are some useful (and maybe even a little goofy) **scientifically supported** techniques you can use when you're experiencing anxiety.

**1. Give your mind a name.** If you give your mind a name, it makes it easier to disagree with and move on to a more helpful thought. The average human has 60,000-80,000 thoughts every day. That's a ton! How many of those thoughts are actually useful for you? Maybe a small handful each day? Do yourself a favor and name your mind. Mine is named Jeff. We are friends. Jeff gives me

quite a few strange thoughts, but I can respectfully disagree with him.

**2. Go to Target.** Well, you don't have to physically go there, but imagine that your mind is like Target. There are tons of items in Target. Some that are useful. Some that are worthless to you. Some that you never even knew existed! Do you go into Target planning to buy everything in the store? No way! Your mind works the same way. As you are shopping around the aisles of your thoughts, you get to choose what you buy and what you leave on the shelf!

**3. Repeat it.** Created by psychologist Edward Titchener, this little trick shows people how a word loses its meaning when repeated over and over and over. If you want to give it a try, take the word "milk." Take a moment and think of a nice, cold glass of milk. Then repeat the word "milk" out loud for 30 seconds. You'll notice that it starts to lose meaning and just becomes a weird sound that's hard to say. Try doing 30 seconds of "failure" or "loser" or "ugly" the next time a thought like that causes you anxiety or pain.



**4. Sing the thought or say it in a funny voice.** I suggest using "Happy Birthday" as the melody to that anxious thought you're experiencing, and maybe your favorite cartoon character's voice. I know, I know, it sounds strange. I promise you, though, this is based on hundreds of scientific studies!

These are just a handful of skills that are a portion of Cognitive Defusion. Defusion is part of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), which was created and researched by Dr. Steven Hayes. I hope they are helpful for you!

To learn more about Cognitive Defusion, you can watch Dr. Hayes speak about it during his TedTalk here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnSHpBRLjrQ>.

Drew Dyrssen is a Liscenced Professional Counsellor



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## 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

## 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](mailto:office@zioncrusaders.com)  
[www.zioncolumbus.org](http://www.zioncolumbus.org)

**Tim Schwartz, Pastor**  
(509) 480-2967  
[tschwartz24@gmail.com](mailto:tschwartz24@gmail.com)

**Ben Zuberbier, Pastor**  
(920) 517-7940  
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**Alex Vandenberg, Principal**  
(507) 353-0719  
[avandenberg@zioncrusaders.com](mailto:avandenberg@zioncrusaders.com)

**Jim Grasby, Lakeside Principal**  
(920) 648-2321

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

## Greeter Schedule



### October 4th

8:00am — E5  
Emily Henning &  
Nancy Huebner

10:30am — L13  
Aaron & Rachel Larson

### October 11th

8:00am — E6  
Jim & Jenny Greiling

10:30am — L1  
Janell Allar &  
Kay Salzwedel

### October 18th

8:00am — E7  
Dale & Joyce Gajdosik

10:30am — L2  
Laurie Kirchberg &  
Pat Premo

### October 25th

8:00am — E8  
Wilma Lenz &  
Joan Herzberg

10:30am — L3  
Rick & Lisa Gentz

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.



### September 27th & October 4th

8:00am - Team E6  
Jim Greiling (C)  
Matt Greiling  
Rick Gentz  
Hunter Sommer  
John Brey  
Bob Marousek  
Jordan Crave

10:30am - Team L2  
Dale Schultz (C)  
Daniel Schultz  
Dylan Schultz  
Michael Hallberg  
Nathan Hallberg  
Henry Tews

### October 11th & October 18th

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

10:30am - Team L3  
Jim Kluetzman (C)  
Gabe Uttech  
AJ Uttech  
Michael Uttech  
Gary Schuhmacher  
Tony Owens

### October 25th & November 1st

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

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

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.



### Church Attendance August 2020

Date	Total
6/9	172
13/16	195
20/23	243
27/30	221

### Ministrations

#### Marriages:

- Hailey Soldner & Eric Musser - Married 8/22/2020.
- Mariah Rake & Remington Lindell - Married 8/29/2020.



Wayne Powers	15th	86 years
Harold Beitz	23rd	84 years
Larry Fischer	26th	81 years

#### Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by October 23rd.

Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or

[suehenning25@gmail.com](mailto:suehenning25@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



#### Zion's Ladies Society

Our next meeting is on the first day in October. Try not to let it slip by you.



We will be discussing the Sunshine Committee schedule, an explanation of how to do visits along with the supplies needed. We will also discuss the results of the Lutheran Women's Mission Society door collection.

We hope to see you October 1st at 2:00pm. It's always fun to socialize after the meeting.

#### College Students

It's time for many of our college students to head back to school. Zion likes to have the most accurate information possible. Would you please let the church office know where our students are headed to school this fall? Hopefully wherever they are headed there is a WELS campus pastor serving that area. We can also help put students in contact with them or find the closest WELS/ ELS church for you when you are not able to attend here in Columbus. You can call the church office at 920-623-5180 or email the office at [office@zioncrusaders.com](mailto:office@zioncrusaders.com). Blessings on your new school year!

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

	<b>August 20</b>	<b>Estimated Monthly Budget</b>	<b>Fiscal Year to Date Jul 20 - Aug 20</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Extra Synod Missions Income	330.00		615.00	
General Fund Offerings	55,546.40		106,599.58	
LLHS Building Income	-		-	
Other Donations	391.00		(5,187.45)	
Other Receipts	27.11		27.11	
<i>Transferred from Undesignated</i>	-		-	
<i>FMUB Revolving Line of Credit @ 3.5%</i>	-		-	
WLCFS Income	-		-	
WLIM Income	-		-	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>56,294.51</b>		<b>102,054.25</b>	
<b>Expense</b>				
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	27,888.91	28,152.17	58,371.05	337,826.00
Church Supplies	-	454.17	343.73	5,450.00
Convention/Cont' Education	-	83.33	-	1,000.00
Copier	-	275.00	-	3,300.00
Eiders Board	-	20.83	-	250.00
Family Ministry Board	(61.00)	350.00	(61.00)	4,200.00
Guest Pastor	-	125.00	-	1,500.00
Health Insurance	8,218.39	8,504.17	8,349.78	102,050.00
HRA Savings	1,500.00	1,500.00	4,500.00	18,000.00
Interest Expense	-	186.67	-	2,000.00
Custodial	1,512.78	1,950.00	2,424.44	23,400.00
LLHS Building Expense	-	-	-	-
LLHS Expense	2,750.00	2,750.00	5,500.00	33,000.00
Maintenance	2,251.77	4,150.00	3,536.00	49,800.00
Meditations	-	125.00	362.00	1,500.00
Mileage	348.00	500.00	504.00	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	-	12.50	-	150.00
Organists	542.10	566.67	869.09	6,800.00
Outreach Board	-	666.67	-	8,000.00
Payroll Expenses	298.60	308.33	597.20	3,700.00
Pension Insurance	-	3,556.67	400.00	42,680.00
Postage and Delivery	42.98	150.00	85.43	1,800.00
Secretarial	1,580.45	2,144.17	3,080.05	25,730.00
Stewardship Board	863.30	291.67	1,138.29	3,500.00
Substitute Teaching	-	-	-	-
Sunday School/WBS	-	250.00	-	3,000.00
Synod Mission Expense	5,830.00	5,500.00	11,615.00	66,000.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	168.94	291.67	537.88	3,500.00
Utilities	3,969.91	1,827.08	(2,702.82)	21,925.00
WLCFS Expense	-	-	75.00	-
WLIM Expense	-	-	-	-
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	-	1,250.00	-	15,000.00
Worship	931.94	545.83	931.94	6,550.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>58,637.05</b>	<b>66,467.58</b>	<b>100,457.06</b>	<b>797,611.00</b>

# Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

August 2020

Previous Month Assets	\$131,524.15
Total Transactions	-\$69,194.45
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$62,329.70</b>

	\$57,244.09
<b>New Church/School Total</b>	
<i>checking/savings</i>	

Accounts	Undesignated Checking	Explanation	Monthly Statements		Explanation
			Undesignated Savings	NEW Church/ School Fund Savings	
Previous Balance	\$245.79		\$4,989.82	\$124,749.92	
Monthly Transactions*	(\$150.00)		\$0.00	(\$69,661.95)	
Current Balance	\$95.79		\$4,989.82	\$55,087.97	
Transactions	(\$150.00)	Joan Marks			
			\$325.00	8-3 deposit	\$63,000.00
			\$80.00	8-4 deposit	8-13 transfer from NCS savings
			(\$5,425.00)	8-4 Mortgage payment	\$8,000.00
			\$150.00	8-5 deposit	(\$60,000.00)
			\$3,504.00	8-7 deposit	Check # 2279
			\$1,585.00	8-10 deposit	(\$2,420.00)
			\$130.00	8-11 deposit	Check # 2281
			\$900.00	8-12 deposit	
			(\$63,000.00)	8-13 transfer to NCS checking	
			\$40.00	8-14 deposit	
			\$625.00	8-17 deposit	
			(\$8,000.00)	8-17 transfer to NCS checking	
			\$110.00	8-18 deposit	
			(\$5,425.00)	8-18 mortgage payment	
			\$1,718.05	8-19 deposit	
			\$125.00	8-20 deposit	
			\$759.00	8-21 deposit	
			\$100.00	8-24 deposit	
			\$405.00	8-25 deposit	
			\$75.00	8-26 deposit	
			\$895.00	8-27 deposit	
			\$40.00	8-28 deposit	
			\$622.00	8-31 deposit	
<b>Monthly Transactions TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$150.00)</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$69,661.95)</b>	<b>\$617.50</b>
<b>TOTAL TRANSACTIONS</b>	<b>(\$69,194.45)</b>				

Interest Received	\$0.00
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Notes:  
 Check # 2279      1901 Inc - Summer preventative maintenance  
 Check # 2280      Mortgage Principle payment  
 Check # 2281      CR Roof Systems - School Roof repair



# THE FALL HARVEST MISSION

Join us for these upcoming worship, study and ministry opportunities at Zion in this October.

**Operation**  
#WarriorsGo



**October 11: Operation Go!**

Guest Speaker: **Pastor Mike Helwig**  
Lakeside Lutheran High School Operation Go  
Coordinator

**PRAISE &  
PROCLAIM**  
MINISTRIES



**October 23-25: Community Outreach**

Guest Speaker: **Mr Dave Malnez,**  
Praise and Proclaim Ministries

## The importance of your Congregation Mission Offering

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**F**all is the time of year when most congregations begin to discuss and plan their budgets for the coming year. Ministry plans are developed, and then those plans are prayerfully adopted in keeping with the anticipated financial resources.

The ministry of a congregation is not limited to what is done locally. Some congregations are members of federations that support Lutheran high schools; others cooperate with neighboring congregations to carry out important joint ministries nearby. And, since our congregations are members of a synod, they also recognize that they join with all the other congregations of the synod to carry out ministry together that individual congregations could not easily do alone.

Fall is also the time when synod administrators are developing the synod's ministry financial plan (budget) for the next two years. Like the budget in your congregation, the ministry financial plan is much more than a list of line items with dollar amounts attached. More accurately, it is a description of the synod's plan for ministry, along with the resources needed to carry it out. The plan is based on careful estimates of the financial resources that, God willing, will be available from all sources. Those sources include gifts from individuals, grants from foundations, bequests, and income from investments. But the most important source of financial support comes from congregations like yours through what we call Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO). Congregations throughout the synod inform synod planners what they intend to send as their gift to support our work together.

Your congregation's mission offering is used to operate our system of ministerial education, where young people are trained to serve as pastors, teachers, and staff ministers in congregations like yours. Your gifts to the synod train national pastors in our rapidly growing sister synods in Malawi, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Your support enables us to share the gospel with hundreds of thousands of people in Latin America through modern communication tools and helps to operate orphanages in India where hundreds of children learn to know their Savior. Your gifts of love and faith provide needed assistance to sister church bodies like the Ukrainian Lutheran Church as they face huge challenges. Your offerings enable WELS to establish and support home missions in places like Houston, Texas, and to enable campus ministries to serve young people at many different universities. Your generous gifts support the work of WELS Congregational Services, which provides resources and advice to congregations as they carry out their local ministries. And, yes, you provide the financial means for the less exciting but necessary administration and structure

that support all the ministry we do. These are only a few of the many ways in which your mission offerings are used.

As your congregation decides what its Congregation Mission Offering will be, don't just think of the dollars. Think of the faces of the people around the world whose lives and eternities will be changed by the power of the saving gospel. Be a voice that advocates for generous support of this work. Talk to your congregational leaders and with your fellow members. And pray that God will continue to bless the work we do together in his name.

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder

## **ALHS Online starts 10th year of online education**

**T**his fall, ALHS Online (Association of Lutheran High Schools Online) entered its 10th year of offering online classes.

ALHS Online started as a collaborative effort of the WELS Association of Lutheran High Schools to offer high quality online courses to expand the course offerings of WELS high schools. Enrollment and class offerings have increased every year, from an average of 30 students per semester and 5 courses in the 2011-12 school year to more than 300 students and 28 courses per semester in the 2020-21 school year.

These courses provide supplemental educational opportunities for students, especially from WELS' smaller high schools. Ms. Micayla Bork, a sophomore at Wisconsin Lutheran College, took several courses through ALHS Online that were not offered at her high school, Apostles Lutheran High School, San Jose, Calif. "What I appreciated most about these courses are the important life skills they taught me," she says. "Not only did I learn the material, but I learned

how to be successful in an online class. Overall, they really prepared me for college."

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School (MVL), New Ulm, Minn., is the largest yearly user of the program, with between 40 and 50 students a semester taking online courses. "The teachers from ALHS Online really go above and beyond to try to meet the needs of the kids," says Dr. Tim Plath, MVL principal and also one of the founding members of ALHS Online. Besides paying for the classes for its students, MVL provides time during the school day for online learning. Plath says students take a variety of the courses offered, with AP Psychology and AP U.S. History being especially popular.

Since its inception, ALHS Online also has added math and foreign language courses for seventh and eighth grade students (students from 32 Lutheran elementary schools are taking courses this year) and a four-year high school religion curriculum.

ALHS Online was recently accredited by the Middle States Association as a learning service provider. Dr. James Grunwald, superintendent of ALHS Online, says that besides being a good

peer review for the organization, accreditation “gives the parents of the students who we work with the assurance that we have high quality teachers and educational programs.”

Learn more at [alhs.org](http://alhs.org). 

## Hymns for Life: preserving a priceless spiritual treasure

For many Christians, hymns are woven into the fabric of our faith lives. “Jesus Loves Me” may be the first song we learn as a toddler; “Amazing Grace” may be the last song that passes our lips before Jesus carries us home. Hymns have the power to convict and comfort, to instruct and inspire. And for many, a beloved hymn may be a memory that lingers when others are stolen by age or disease.

In 2012, the WELS Commission on Worship discussed the importance of preserving our rich hymn heritage—ensuring that the next generation of believers doesn’t lose this priceless spiritual treasure. In response, the Hymns for Life Committee was established to craft a three-year hymnology curriculum for WELS teachers to use in their primary, middle, and upper grade classrooms. Content from the curriculum can also be incorporated into Sunday school programs.

“The Hymns for Life curriculum is designed to impress the biblical truths expressed in hymns on the hearts and minds of young believers,” says Mr. Jeremy Bakken, publishing editor of the project. The title of the curriculum sums it up simply: hymns learned in childhood will stay with children for an entire lifetime. Bakken continues,

“Our prayer is that students will appreciate these hymns and recall their spiritual truths in every stage of life.”

The curriculum helps students learn from and appreciate all components of a hymn: from its scriptural truths to the poetry of its language to the joy and beauty of its music.

Mr. Kevin Bode, teacher and music director at Emmanuel Lutheran School, Tempe, Ariz., is the curriculum development chair of the Hymns for Life Committee. As a teacher, he understands the need to connect young believers with hymns: “This curriculum is so important because hymns are a powerful blessing God has given us. They keep us close to him amidst all the chaos and evil around us.”

In fact, Bode has put the curriculum into practice in his own classroom. Each week, he introduces students to the content of a hymn, which is then sung each day. Once students are comfortable with the melody, Bode adds musical variations or physical movements to bring out the joy of the music: “They are simple to do, keep the hymn fresh, and students find them fun to do,” he adds.

According to Bode, two powerful elements come together in the Hymns for Life curriculum: music and biblical teachings. “Music moves the soul and has a way of touching our emotions, and we want to give students the chance to experience this. And we know the power of biblical truths and the words of Jesus. Hymn lyrics remind students what God has already done for them, is doing right now, and will continue to do for them until they are safe in his arms.”

To learn more or purchase Year A of the Hymns for Life curriculum, visit [online.nph.net/hymnsforlife](http://online.nph.net/hymnsforlife) or call 800-662-6022. Year B will be released in the summer of 2021, and Year C will be released in the summer of 2022. All three years of the curriculum have been developed to coincide seamlessly with the new Christian Worship, which will be released in 2021. ●

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