



MESSENGER

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

The season of Lent begins this month. We take time during the 40 days of Lent to meditate on our sins, the seriousness of our sin, and what was necessary to free us from our sins in order to forgive us and give us the gift of heaven.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. For Ash Wednesday this year, we will have an interactive display in the narthex area of the church that anyone is welcome to make use of. There will be a bowl of ashes and a banner. If you wish, you may take some of the ashes on your finger and draw a little cross on the banner with the ashes. This banner will remain in the narthex for the duration of the Lenten season.

Job, who probably lived before Abraham (before the year 2000 BC) said “I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6) The practice of applying ashes to one’s head is an ancient practice to symbolize sorrow over sin. It is a confession of what sin deserves, as it recalls what God said to Adam. After Adam and Eve sinned, God pronounce the fallout from Adam’s sin: Gen 3:19, “For dust you are and to dust you shall return.” The practice of applying ashes is a way of symbolizing and confessing the truth: I deserve death because of my sin. While we’re not applying ashes to foreheads or hands this year, the banner with your cross can be a reminder throughout this Lenten season of the dreadful cost, but wonderful gift that God paid for you.

It is fitting that we begin the journey of Lent with Ash Wednesday because of the destination: at the end of Lent is Holy week, which culminates in the joyful Easter celebration of God’s answer to death: In Jesus, Death has been defeated. It had no power to keep Jesus in its grip. And because you, dear Christian, are baptized into Christ, death has no power over you either (Romans 6: 3-9). Every one of your sins has been forgiven, and there is no act you need to perform to make God satisfied with you. Thanks be to God!

Since in Christ you have been set free from not only death, but also set free to live and worship in whatever way will benefit your soul best., you are free from any rules about how to worship. You are free to use or not use physical things to aid your worship. So you are free in your observation of Ash Wednesday to do

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor	pg. 1-2
Communion	pg. 2
Afternoon Worship	pg. 2
Educational Opport.	pg. 3
Memorials	pg. 3
Principal Report	pg. 4
FYI	pg. 5-10
Voter Meeting Highlighta	pg. 11-15
Highlights	pg. 16
Council & Boards	pg. 17
Calendar	pg. 18-19

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Communion is offered regularly on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, and the Wednesday that precede that Sunday. Individual Cup will be available at the Sunday and Wednesday Communion Services.

∞
Wed., Feb. 1 &
Feb. 15
Sun., Feb. 5 &
Feb. 19

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

Please join us for an afternoon worship service on the second Tuesday of each month. Individual cup communion will be served.
**1:30 p.m., Tuesday
February 14**

whatever will most benefit your spiritual life. If participating in our Ash Wednesday banner display will help you to remember the seriousness of sin, then please make use of it. If you have a way that focuses your devotion for Lent already, please use that.

Whatever you choose to do, it is our prayer that this Lenten season be blessing to you and that through your meditation on God's Word, he brings you ever closer to him.

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service
on February 22 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Lenten Supper at 5:30 p.m.
Soup and Salad dinner provided by
the 5-8 graders to support
the 7-8 grade trip to Washington D.C.**

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL, BIBLE CLASSES AND YOUTH GROUP : The Adult Bible Class meets in the church basement; Sunday school (ages 3 through 7th grade) meet in the gymnasium; and Youth Group (8th—12th grades) will meet in the youth room in the church basement. All Sunday classes will meet from at 10:15 a.m.

LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL — Zion started a school in 1858. Currently we teach students from Preschool through 8th grade. Our staff of five teachers are both certified and experienced to provide instructions in all academic areas, but especially in God's Word.

They are:

Deanna Schneck — Preschool

Stacey Sordahl—Kindergarten

Michelle Roth — Grades 1 & 2

Ryan Roth — Grades 3, 4, & 5

Bryan Schneck — Grades 6, 7, & 8 and Principal

MEMORIALS (GIVEN TO GENERAL FUND, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

† *In memory of Elaine Stoll from*

Bari & Wendy Waltz

Jean & Sherry Davis

Frank & Caroline Masserant

Dick & Eileen Hutchison

Ed & Nancy Bomia

Marcella Duvre

Gary Galbraith

David Galbraith

Glen & Bonnie Heck

Diane Bilicic

Anita Kinsey

Ruthann Peters

Jim & Kathy Vanisacker

Lois Freimark Breeding



Principal's Report

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. - 1 John 4:10-12

It amazes me how quickly the time goes as we swing into the new year after Christmas. This month our church year transitions from Epiphany with its focus of sharing the joy of Christ our Savior with the world, to Lent with its focus on the sobering work of Jesus on our behalf, culminating in the cross and the empty tomb on Easter.

What connects these two? Love - the love of a Father who provides his only Son to a needy world; the love of a Son who willingly laid aside his glory to be one of us, taking our place as the perfect sacrifice for our sins; and ultimately, the love worked in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, empowering us to "love one another as God has loved us", a love that responds to God's love by sharing it with the world.

As we continue our "We Are God's Masterpiece" theme at Zion Lutheran School, our students are reminded of the awesome responsibility to share the love of Jesus not just in our words, but also in our actions. This includes continuing our support of Costa Maya Mission in Mahahual, Mexico through our weekly chapel offerings, as well as our students' participation in the St. Jude's Math-a-thon, where students can utilize their math skills to help raise money and awareness for the work of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. But sharing God's love also continues on in our daily lives, as we share the Savior in many small ways by daily living for him, being an example in our words and actions, and taking every opportunity to share Jesus whenever we can.

January saw us finishing our second academic quarter. We have moved full swing into our basketball season. This year like last, along with the schools in our association we are playing three co-ed teams. It's especially nice for our grade 3-4 students to have the opportunity to develop their skills, and we thank all of our coaches for their service. On February 3rd - 4th we send a grade 6-8 co-ed team to the Michigan Lutheran Seminary Tournament in Saginaw. Go Warriors! Several opportunities to see the Warriors in action are available this month with HOME games against Crown of Life, Warren on Friday, February 10th (our Parents' Night!) and on Saturday, February 25th against Trinity, Jenera. All teams also have AWAY games at Divine Grace, Lake Orion on Friday, February 17th and at St. Stephen, Adrian on Friday, February 24th. Our season finishes with the Huron Valley Tournament B Team Tournament and 8th Grade Classic on Saturday, March 4th and the HVL A Team Tournament following ZLS Week on March 10th - 11th. You are invited to come to any of these games and cheer Zion on! The Pee Wee Poms and the Zion Cheerleaders are also meeting regularly and building school spirit at our games and activities. We are always excited for them to share their enthusiasm and skills at our home games and pep rallies!

We begin our ZLS Week coming up in March with our CEA Auction and Zion Fine Arts Fair on March 5th. The Fine Arts Fair provides opportunities for our students in our Zion church and school family to showcase their talents through art, writing, and music. We even have an adult division for those adults in our congregation who wish to share their talents! Details are on the packets on the ministry table by the pastor's office. Special school activities will occur all through ZLS week, which promotes our school program and give our students opportunities to shine and serve. We encourage everyone to come for both the fine arts fair and the auction and help support the special needs, opportunities and activities that CEA provides for our school program.

As we continue in this new year, we thank God for providing supportive parents and families, dedicated teachers, faith-filled students, and Zion congregation members with zeal to serve Christ's lambs by providing support and prayers for Zion Lutheran School. We thank God for you!

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Principal Bryan Schneck

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PASTOR ULRICH RETIRING – Pastor Ulrich has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2023. The Board of Elders has recommendations for Zion in light of Pastor Ulrich's retirement.

Voters' Meeting Call Update:

At the January 29 Quarterly Voters' Meeting, the voters decided to gather more information before making a decision on calling a Head Pastor upon Pastor Ulrich's retirement. On Sunday February 26, there will be a special Open Forum at 10:15am and Special Voters' Meeting at 11:30am on this topic. Please mark your calendars for these important upcoming meetings.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: On Sunday, February 12th at 11:30 am, Cynthia Natsis will be presenting information on the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). A light luncheon will be served. All women of the congregation who are interested are invited to attend.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS: The end of the year contribution statements are available to be picked up in the church office. They will be available in the office until Sunday, February 12. We will be mailing them out after that date.

FOOD PANTRY: The Zion Food Pantry at this time is being closed. We are no longer accepting food donations. With the future construction it has been determined at this time the collection of food is not prudent. If someone is in need please see either Pastor for needed assistance. We have an alternative program now available on a need basis.

Dear Ladies of Zion,

The funeral dinner list has recently been revised, from three groups to one large group. Sherry Fuerstenberg will head the Funeral Dinners and Kathy Wozniak will contact you to see if you are available for set up, serving or making a dessert on a rotating basis.

We will continue to have three groups for church cleanup.

- Group #1 Brenda Chandonnet 241-6857
Front of the church, Sacrasty, Balcony and Flowers
- Group #2 Sherry Fuerstenberg 654-3736
Church Proper (east foyer), Pews, Narthex, and back of Church
- Group #3 Linda Johnson 735-0090
Sue Moore 735-7380
Mother's Room, Kitchen and Pantry

This year there are no Confirmands but we still would like to have our annual cleaning completed by Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023. The leaders will call to let you know when cleaning starts. Men, please feel free to come and help us!

Thanks to all who have helped in the past, continue to help and we pray we can continue to serve our Congregation faithfully together.

Sincerely,
Sherry Fuerstenberg

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SECURITY UPDATE: Zion Church Council decided that as of **Sunday, January 8th** for security reasons they are **locking the school door entrance at 9:10 a.m.** If you get to church after 9:10 a.m. please use the other church entrances. Thank you.

ALTAR GUILD FOR 2023 — WE NEED HELP! There is a sign-up sheet in the west foyer for Altar Guild volunteers for 2023. We really do appreciate all the help we get through the year with this service of love. If you haven't ever done Altar Guild, please consider helping out. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

CHURCH SERVICE LIVE STREAMING VOLUNTEERS: Zion is looking for volunteers to help live stream church services. Once trained, volunteers will be scheduled for services based on their availability, similar to the usher schedule. All members 13 years old and older are welcome to volunteer. This is a great opportunity for youth to serve. Contact Steve Sordahl (sjsordahl@gmail.com) or the office for more information.

PLAYGROUP AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: Come join parents and littles, children kindergarten or younger and their parents, to come have fun. They are meeting on Monday mornings from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Albain Rd. Join for snacks, play and Christian fellowship. Contact Chelsea Kowalski at 507-766-5679 for any questions.

ZION CONGREGATION PARTICIPATION:

ART FAIR – The Zion Art Fair is planned for **Sunday, March 5th**. We would love items from the Zion Congregation to put in alongside the Zion School art projects. Please have all items into the Zion office by Monday, February 27. We look forward to all the beautiful artistic items. Thank you in advance for your participation.

ZION SCHOOL AUCTION – Zion is holding their bi-annual auction on **Sunday, March 5th** at noon. There will be live auction, silent auction, and raffle ticket items. We will also have some fun games to play before and after the auction. There will be a free will offering lunch available. If we have enough participation, we would love to have a bake sale this year – due to the pandemic at the last auction we were not able to have the bake sale.

SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP NOTE: There will be no Stewardship Experience in the upcoming months due to lack of volunteer speakers. No one has come forward to volunteer their life experiences to share with the congregation. If anyone would like to volunteer to share their life stories please contact Mel White, Mark Fuerstenberg or Ken Vagt.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THE BOARD OF SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP: The Board of Service and Fellowship has made the following updates to the Marriage Retreat to be held on March 17-19. We are looking forward to a fun and fulfilling God pleasing learning opportunity.

Location:

Faholo Christian Conference Center, 3000 Mt.Hope Road, Grass Lake, Michigan 49240

Facilitator: Pastor Randy Hunter

Cost Per Person: \$200.00 includes 2 night lodging 4 meals Snacks and refreshment during sessions. Hotel style rooms.

This also covers the use of conference room and AV equipment, all retreat learning materials. This also covers the expenses of the Facilitator.

Many other amenities including an indoor pool are available.

Payment: Checks made payable to: Zion Lutheran Church Payable on or prior to March 1, 2023

At this time, we are full for the marriage retreat. So the sign-up sheet has been removed.

HVL NEWS:

New Logo & Seal for HVL's new name: Hope Christian Academy



Hope Christian Academy is owned and operated by an association of WELS congregations

Logomark - Using the 4 C's of our educational philosophy: Christian, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication; these 4 C's are linked and centered around the cross to keep the focus on Christ. The icon also can be seen as a flower to represent the growing and blooming generations to come through Hope.

Questions, Comments, Feedback - Please contact us at 734-525-0160 or mfoley@hvlhs.org if you have any questions or would like more information about the changes taking place at HVL for next school year.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PLANNING AHEAD



LUTHERAN CAMPSITE ASSOCIATION SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2023 at 2:30pm

***Killarney Lutheran Camp
1200 Chisholm Rd.
Onsted, MI 49265***

This special meeting is being called to approve the loan from LACE (Lutheran Association for Church Extension) to rewire the camp property, including the camp manager's house. The loan will also be used to level the house's foundation, replace the siding, roof, windows and sills, and make other improvements.

Please contact Board President John Rettle at (517) 260-4577 or jrettle@wilburellis.com, if you plan to attend. This announcement is being made to comply with the Lutheran Campsite Association Constitution and Bylaws. You will be informed if this meeting date needs to be changed. Contact John if you have any questions. We will let you know if a virtual option becomes available.

SISTERS IN CHRIST RETREAT

Registration is now open for the Sisters in Christ retreat. Please join us **April 14-16, 2023**, at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing! We will dive into God's Word, refresh our souls, and build up our Sisters in Christ as we focus on our theme: **"My Grace is sufficient for you, because My Power is made perfect in weakness."** 2 Corinthians 12:9 The retreat

is intended for women of the WELS/ELS and their guests. In addition, please visit our website www.sistersinchristretreat.org for complete details and registration information. Please note, an early bird discount is in effect through January 31, but registration will continue through February 28th. **We also have flyers in both foyers with additional information.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

KILLARNEY FISH FRY FUNDRAISER: Zion will host a Fish Fry fundraiser for Killarney Camp on Friday, March 24th. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy. Additional information will be in the March Messenger.

A vertical poster for a Mother Daughter Tea event. At the top is a large green teapot silhouette with the words "Mother Daughter Tea" written inside in a white, cursive font. Below the teapot is a floral arrangement of pink, purple, and yellow flowers with green leaves. The background is a light pink color. The text on the poster is centered and reads: "Zion Lutheran Gymnasium", "Sunday, March 26", "2:00 – 4:00pm", "Mothers, daughters and all other ladies welcome to join us for entertainment, fellowship, treats and tea.", "Suggested donation \$5 per person". At the bottom, there are two smaller floral arrangements and the text: "RSVP for guaranteed seating through the church office by March 24 or call Melissa Freiny 734-652-1638".

*Mother
Daughter
Tea*

Zion Lutheran Gymnasium

Sunday, March 26

2:00 – 4:00pm

Mothers, daughters and all other ladies
welcome to join us for entertainment,
fellowship, treats and tea.
Suggested donation \$5 per person

RSVP for guaranteed seating through the church office by March 24
or call Melissa Freiny 734-652-1638

RUMMAGE SALE: Zion will have its Annual Rummage Sale on Friday & Saturday, June 2 & 3. Drop off of donated items will begin after noon on Friday, May 26th and continue the following week.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PLANNING AHEAD FOR FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME: Zion Annual Killarney Camp-out is scheduled for Friday- Sunday, August 4-6th. So on that note please read the following:

Dear Zion Members,

Think spring, think May 26th.(Memorial Day Week-end), think Killarney Lutheran Camp. It's getting time to start sitting at my table and collect Booster dues! Yearly dues are still only \$40.00 and the Lifetime membership is \$400.00.

Zion continues to be the top supporter of the camp!! We have 13 Lifetime Booster memberships, what a blessing.

This year, I'm having a contest with my son Dan, who now is a member at St. Stephen's in Adrian and their Rep for Killarney. We're going to see who can get the most Boosters. In 2022, Zion had 30 and we have had the most Boosters from any church, for the last five years. Thank you very much!

Please know that even if you are a Lifetime Booster, Killarney would appreciate any donation to the camp! Many projects are being planned to make improvements to the property, the camping area, cabins, and the manager's house.

I will start collecting the second week in February and the beginning of March.

God Bless,
Sherry Fuerstenberg
Killarney Booster Rep for Zion

There were 17 members present.

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Steve Sordahl at 11:38 AM.

- A. The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Sitzman, Micah, 6: 1-8 Remember the good things God has given us and the need to be mindful of the faithfulness and Mercy He has freely extended to us

II. **Membership Changes:**

- A. M/S/C Motion to accept Eugene and Cindy Maynard into communicant membership via profession of faith (Krueger/K. Heusman)
- B. M/S/C to accept Joyce Collins into membership via confession of faith (Kipf/Krueger)

III. **Previous Voter's Meeting Minutes:** M/S/C to approve the Voters minutes from October 30, 2022 (Kipf/Krueger)

IV. **Pastor's Report:** M/S/C to accept the report as submitted (Krueger/Kipf)

- A. A devotion reflective of the 2022 ministerial effort. Beautiful Feet, Romans 10: 14 & 15 Preach the good news of peace...Preach the gospel of good things
- B. Thankfulness for our called teaching staff (Mrs. Schneck, Mrs. Sordahl, Mrs. Roth, Mr. Roth, and Mr. Schneck)
- C. Thankfulness for the filled vacancy of Associate Pastor by Pastor Sitzman and the Blessings of having two pastors
- D. Expressed thanks to the church council, both those fulfilling their terms, and those beginning their work

V. **Principal's Report:** M/S/C to accept the report as submitted (Kipf/Krueger)

- A. Enrollment was at 84. We are adding two students, bringing us to 86. Both non-members at the preschool level
- B. We will begin enrollment in March for 2023/2024
- C. 2023/2024 school calendar is being worked on and is in draft form
- D. The second round of MAP testing is scheduled for February 6th through the 17th. These tests have been very helpful in assessing our student's progress
- E. Curriculum continues to be assessed
- F. CEA Auction is coming up and is very important as CEA has done a great deal for our school
- G. A special thanks to all the Volunteers, Lunch Ladies, Librarian, Amy Vanisacker, our Sunday School teachers for all they do throughout the year
- H. On March 13th, the MLS Children's Theater will be visiting to present their performance for our students and possibly other schools as well. Time to be announced

VI. **Board Reports:**

1. **Board of Education:** M/S/C to accept the report as submitted (Krueger/Kipf)

- A. 2023-24 tuition rates were approved with a roughly 5% increase and will be addressed in New Business
- B. Potential for an assistant being hired to help in the higher grades due to student numbers
- C. Complete consultations with both WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools as well as independent WELS-affiliated consultant Dana Kirchoff with specific questions being answered such as, possibly extending Kindergarten to five full days, should we consider a Devine Call for another full-time faculty or staff member, and will our school or church building need expansion to accommodate any potential change in classroom make-up or enrollment. It is our goal to produce a 1-, 3-, and 5-year plan for the school with regards to mission and scope, including building and classroom needs with the potential for 100+ students
- D. Made appropriate updates to our website with the help of Pastor Sitzman and Jing Loos, our volunteer web designer
- E. All Covid 19 references were removed from our web page Zionmonroe.org and we returned to in person learning
- F. Completed tuition assistance fund raisers (Fall Mums and holiday wreaths) to replenish tuition assistance accounts
- G. Identified areas of need in each classroom with improvements like learning aids, etc. Includes Abeka curriculum as well as future curriculum enhancements as the budget allows
- H. Thanks to Pastor Sitzman as he assumed shared catechism/bible history instruction with Pastors Ulrich and Fager
- I. Dress code was discussed, asking for parents to be mindful and reasonable in how students are dressed

VOTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

2. **Board of Elders:** M/S/C to accept the report including statistical reports as submitted (Bober/Krueger)
 - A. WELS Leadership Conference was attended by Pastor Sitzman Jan 16-18
 - B. Pastor Joel Gartner was at Zion in January to preach and teach about the Jesus Cares Ministry
 - C. Imposition of ashes being worked on and will be announced prior to Ash Wednesday service, February 22, 2023
 - D. Various assisted hearing devices are being looked at. The survey indicated the congregation felt there is a need and council approved the purchase of devices as part of an overall Technology upgrade addressed under new business.
 - E. The doors at entrance A by the school are now locked on Sunday at 9:10 AM. All other entrances remain open. Signage will be placed directing those arriving after 9:10am to use foyer entrances
 - F. The funeral Packet (member funeral/ service directive) is available to the congregation
 - G. Statistical Reports (attendance for FY 2022) were presented and reviewed
 - H. Elders are recommending that we retain two pastors. This will be discussed further in New Business
 - I. Next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2023 @ 7 PM
 3. **Board of Outreach:** M/S/C to accept the report as submitted (Krueger/Kipf)
 - A. VBS June 12-16
 - B. Journey to the Cross is being worked on for the weeks prior to Easter
 - C. Youth activities were provided over the summer with pastor Sitzman overseeing the effort
 - D. Christmas for kids was led by Pastor Sitzman and was very successful
 4. **Board of Service and Fellowship:** M/S/C to approve the report as submitted (Krueger/Kipf)
 - A. Zion is hosting a Pastor/Teacher conference Monday, February 20th
 - B. The Pastor's Conference is on Tuesday, February 21 and both pastors will be attending
 - C. A marriage retreat was approved for March 17, 18, and 19. This will be addressed in New Business
 - D. Blood Drive planned, Mel White looking for volunteers to assist the effort
 - E. Chili cook off is once again being planned for this year
 5. **Board of Stewardship:** M/S/C to approve the report as submitted (Kipf/Bober)
 - A. Vanco Plus App is available for members to make their contributions
 - B. An estate planning event was held at Zion last year
 - C. An operating loss of \$6,630.18 for FY 2022 was reported
 - D. WELS 2022 Congregational Mission Offerings (CMO) totaled \$23.1 million, first time ever that CMO's > \$23 million
 - E. A list of funds for contributions is continuing to be published and is referred to as the giving list
 - F. Ongoing capital campaign efforts will take place with plans to keep the congregation informed
 6. **Board of Trustees:** M/S/C to approve the report as submitted (Krueger/Freiny)
 - A. Keith McBee began his work as Chairman, several improvement projects were identified.
 - B. Bathroom bids are to be received. The architect will be contacted for a progress update
- VII. **Treasurer's Report:** M/S/C to accept the following reports through December 31, 2022. Expenses vs. Budget, Balance Sheet, Monthly P&L, YTD P&L, and year over year P&L (Kipf/Krueger)
- A. Reviewed "Expenses v. Budget" Report. We are at 96% usage of our budget through 4-Qs of fiscal year 2022. The 4% unused portion of the budget was Synod Mission Funds that will be distributed in the near future.
 - B. We were under budget by about \$25,000 for FY 2022. This budgetary surplus was partially the result of savings realized in health care/deductible choices for our called workers
 - C. Balance Sheet is balanced (Total Assets = Total Liabilities plus Equity)
 - D. Monthly net operating income for the month of December, 2022 is \$11,420.82
 - E. YTD net operating income for FY 2022 is a loss of \$6,630.18.
 - F. Year over year income is up \$18,435.74 compared to this time last year and expenses were also up \$58,098.57
 - G. Approved budget for 2023: \$716,209.21
 - H. Restricted funds YTD = \$412,263.99, Unrestricted funds YTD = \$280,808.72
 - I. \$71,771.70 received from the estate of Bill Salow was placed in the capital improvement fund (9559) and is part of the \$412,263.99 restricted fund balance listed above in item H.
- VIII. **Financial Secretary's Report:** M/S/C to accept the Financial Secretary's report through December 31st, 2022 (Krueger/Kipf)
- A. Numbers in Treasure's report balance with special savings account at Merchants Bank

VOTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

IX. Committee Reports:

- *Financial Committee*: no report
- *Budget Committee*: no report
- *Technology Committee*: no report
- *Nominating Committee*: no report
- *Security Committee*: no report
- *Furniture Committee*: no report Some new furniture has arrived, some will be delivered soon
- *Cottage Committee*: no report

X. Unfinished Business:

A. None

XI. New Business:

A. M/S/C To ratify all Church Council Actions (FYI) from previous period (Items 1-4 below). (Krueger/K. Heusman)

1. M/S/C to approve a new computer for the office to support the Shepherd Staff and security system, and a new school office machine to cost around \$442, funded from the 9552 School memorials
2. M/S/C to remove all covid 19 references from our website zionmonroe.org
3. M/S/C to lock the school doors (entrance A) at 9:10 AM on Sundays after the service starts for security purposes (Signs will be posted at entrance)
4. M/S/C to accept a proposal for the Marriage Retreat event as submitted by the Service and Fellowship Board at a cost of \$200 per attendee or \$400 per couple, paid by each couple

B. Church Council Recommendations (Voter Action Items)

1. M/S/C to approve the 2023-2024 ZLS tuition rates, approx. 5% increase (Details in handout) (Freiny/Bober)

A. Preschool 3 & 4-year-olds have a three- and four-day option, both having the same cost:

A \$40 Registration Fee and a Tuition Fee of \$226/month or \$2,034 per year for member or non-member

B. Kindergarten: Registration fee \$100 + an annual Tuition Fee for Members and Sister Congregation Members of \$2,200/year and an annual Tuition Fee for non-members of \$3,330/year

C. Primary Grades (cost per family) Registration \$160 for 1st child and \$60 for each additional child. Tuition is as follows:

1 Child: \$3,060 for member, and \$3,660 for non-member

2 Children: \$5,490 Member and \$6,690 for non-member

3+ Children: \$7,500 Member and \$9,300 for non-member

Again, sister congregation families will be charged the member rate.

A facility cleaning fee of \$250 per student and \$450 per family for K-8

D. Tuition assistance is available for members/sister congregation members and for non-members as well. Applications will be accepted through TADS March 15th through May 1st, 2023 for next school year

2. M/S/C to receive a gift \$71,771,70 from the estate of Bill Salow to be assigned to the capital improvement fund 9559 (Krueger/Kipf)
3. M/S/C to accept proposal by the Technology Committee to upgrade network devices, routers, switches, Wi-Fi antenna, etc. PA speakers, bell systems, phones, clocks for the school and hearing assistance system for the church will be included in this project. Funds not to exceed \$16,000 from the Gertz gift 9611 account. A complete and detailed list of improvements is included in the packet (Freiny/Bober)
4. M/S/C to approve motion to update all bank accounts signature authority to current officers and accountant. Steven Sor-dahl (President) Jason Burke (Vice President) Raymond Palmatier (Recording Secretary) Jeremy Robinson (Treasurer), Kathleen McBee (Accountant) (Krueger/Kipf)
5. M/S/T to approve motion presented by the Board of Elders, that Zion continue having two pastors after Pastor Ulrich retires (Kipf/Bober) *Motion Tabled*
6. M/S/C to table the motion put forth by the Board of Elders to continue having two pastors after Pastor Ulrich retires until February 26th. (Freiny/Krueger)
A special Open Forum and Voter's Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 26th to discuss the issue further. Bible class will be cancelled on February 26th to allow for these meetings.
7. M/S/C to support motion for Trustees to investigate snaking out drains due to tunnel flooding. A sump pump may need to be installed under the first aid room, outside vendor may be consulted (Krueger/Bober)
8. M/S/C to propose having Wednesday evening service regardless of weather or school closures (Ulrich/Krueger)
9. M/S/C to ratify the 2023 Parsonage Allowance per IRS Code 107-2011 (details below) as adopted by Church Council January 19, 2023 (Krueger/Kipf)

VOTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

Section 107-2011

2023 Parsonage Allowance Resolution

The following resolution was duly adopted by the church council at a scheduled meeting on January 19, 2023, a quorum being present:

Whereas, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code specifies that the amount of ministers' compensation that is designated in advance by their employing church as a housing allowance is not taxable in computing federal income taxes to the extent that it is used to pay for actual expenses incurred in owning or renting a home (and for ministers who live in a parsonage and who pay some of their housing expenses) Those ministers who own their own home must not exceed the fair rental value of the home; and Whereas, Pastor Ross Ulrich & Pastor Gregory Sitzman are compensated by Zion Lutheran Church exclusively for services as minister

Whereas, teachers Bryan Schneck & Ryan Roth are compensated by Zion Lutheran Church exclusively for services as teachers (ministers of the Gospel)

Therefore, it is resolved that of the amount paid for 2023 as listed below, includes the amount hereby designated as a housing allowance.

Minister of the Gospel	Amount Paid	Housing Allowance
Bryan Schneck	\$54,983.35	\$12,000.00
Ryan Roth	\$45,329.75	\$30,000.00
Pastor Ulrich	\$59,212.80	\$6,000.00
Pastor Sitzman	\$39,273.90	\$12,000.00

Be it further resolved, that these housing allowances shall apply to all future years that these (Ministers of the Gospel) are employed by Zion Lutheran Church, unless otherwise noted.

Whereas, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code specifies that the amount of ministers' compensation that is designated in advance by their employing church as a housing allowance is not taxable in computing federal income taxes to the extent that it is used to pay for actual expenses incurred in owning or renting a home (and for ministers who live in a parsonage and who pay some of their housing expenses) Those ministers who own their own home must not exceed the fair rental value of the home.

- C. Balance sheet as of December 31, 2022
1. \$280,808.72 unrestricted funds available for operation
 2. \$412,263.99 restricted funds on hand

Balance Sheet	Dec 31, 2021	Mar 31, 2022	Jun 30, 2022	Sep 30, 2022	Dec. 31, 2022
Unrestricted	\$290,694.87	\$285,691.49	\$265,513.32	\$283,401.72	\$280,808.72
<u>Restricted</u>	\$349.724.01	\$331,665.19	\$334,979.50	\$342,242.45	\$412,263.99

VOTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

Income V. Expense:

Approved Budget \$716,209.21
Operating income 2022: \$690,443.34
Operating Expenses 2022: \$697,073.52
Net Annual operating income full year 2022: -\$6,630.18
Net operating income full year 2021: \$33,023.65

Capital Campaign through 12/31/2022

Contributions: \$186,741.22
Expenditures: \$-49,084.76
Committed, not paid: \$-14,252.14
Remaining uncommitted funds: \$123,404.32

XII **Meeting Adjourned:** M/S/C with no further business needing attention, motion to adjourn at 1: 53 PM (Freiny/Kipf)

Items of Note:

A special Voter's meeting to discuss Pastor Ulrich's retirement and how we will move forward will be held on February 26, 2023 at 11:30 AM with an Open forum meeting starting at 10:15 AM that same day. Adult Bible Class will be cancelled to accommodate

The next Regularly scheduled quarterly Voters Meeting will be on Sunday, April 30th at 11:30 AM

Close with prayer by Pastor Ulrich

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Palmatier

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Wed., Feb. 1	7:00 p.m. Worship Service (IC)
Sun., Feb. 5	9:00 a.m. Worship services (IC)
	10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group
Mon., Feb. 6	Noon-5:30 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive
Tues., Feb. 7	10:00 a.m. Bible Class
	5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
	7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting
Wed., Feb. 8	7:00 p.m. Worship Service
Sun., Feb. 12	9:00 a.m. Worship services
	10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group
	11:30 a.m. Friends in Faith Luncheon
Mon., Feb. 13	7:00 p.m. Board of Ed Meeting
Tues., Feb. 14	10:00 a.m. Bible Class
	1:30 p.m. Worship Service (IC)
	5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
Wed., Feb. 15	7:00 p.m. Wednesday Worship Service (IC)
Thurs., Feb. 16	7:00 p.m. Church Council
Sun., Feb. 19	9:00 a.m. Worship services (IC/CC)
	10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group
Mon., Feb. 20	Pastor/Teacher Conference @ Zion, Monroe
Tues., Feb. 21	Pastor Conference @ Zion, Monroe
	5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
Mon.-Tues., Feb. 20-21	No School for Zion
Wed., Feb. 22	7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Sun., Feb. 26	9:00 a.m. Worship services
	10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Youth Group
	10:15 a.m. Special Open Forum
	11:30 a.m. Special Voter's Meeting
Tues., Feb. 28	10:00 a.m. Bible Class
	5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
	6:30 p.m. Service & Fellowship Meeting

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

	Feb. 1 & 5	Feb. 8 & 12	Feb. 15 & 19	Feb. 22 & 26
ALTAR GUILD		Deanna	Schneck	
LIVE STREAM HELPERS	Steve Sordahl	Rob Krueger	Need Volunteer	Miller Sordahl
USHERS	<u>Feb. 1</u> Rob Krueger Ralph Naveaux Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny <u>Feb. 5</u> Tony Affholter Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier Jeff Douglas	<u>Feb. 12</u> Joe Koch Dave Bengé Joe Schmeling	<u>Feb. 15</u> Joe Koch Dave Bengé Joe Schmeling <u>Feb. 19</u> Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson Alan Bober	<u>Feb. 26</u> Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Jake Burke Juergan Koenig Matt McCormick

*“¹⁷ To Adam he said: Because you listened to your wife’s voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, “You shall not eat from it,” the soil is cursed on account of you. You will eat from it with painful labor all the days of your life. ¹⁸ Thorns and thistles will spring up from the ground for you, but you will eat the crops of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the soil, for out of it you were taken. **For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”***

Genesis 3:17-19

CHURCH COUNCIL & BOARDS

PRESIDENT	Steve Sordahl
VICE-PRESIDENT	Jason Burke
SECRETARY	Ray Palmatier
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Joe Schmeling
ASST. FINANCIAL SECRETARY	VACANT
TREASURER	Jeremy Robinson
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF EDUCATION	Erich Freiny
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF ELDERS	Mark Kipf
CHAIRMAN, OUTREACH	Jeff Heusman
Co-CHAIRMAN, SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP	Mark Fuerstenberg, Ken Vagt, & Mel White
CHAIRMAN, STEWARDSHIP	Rob Krueger
Co-CHAIRMAN, TRUSTEES	Keith McBee

THE MESSENGER is printed monthly for the members of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church for the purpose of informing them of the upcoming events along with sharing the good news of the Gospel and information about our members. It is also intended to help and inform those not in our church family.

OFFICE: 734-242-1378

FAX: 734-242-7049

E-MAIL: office@zionmonroe.org

WEBSITE: www.zionmonroe.org

Pastor Ross Ulrich

734-244-4553

Pastor Greg Sitzman

734-309-7877

Principal Bryan Schneck

907-331-7761

Steve Sordahl, Church Council President

734-658-3702

Jeremy Robinson, Treasurer

734-586-2688

Mona Vitale, Organist

734-242-8061

Ross Ernest, Organist

Dottie Bober, Organist

Deanna Schneck, Pianist

Kayla Liechty, Pianist

Miller Sordahl, Pianist

Brenda Chandonnet, Friends in Faith Contact

734-915-5477

**Sherry Fuerstenberg, Ladies Serving
Groups Contact**

734-654-3736

Amy Vanisacker, Office Coordinator

734-790-1481

FEBRUARY 2023

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00 p.m. Worship (IC)	2	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Worship (IC/CC) 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group	6 12-5:30 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive	7 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting 7:00 p.m. Board of Elder Meeting	8 7:00 p.m., Worship	9	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group 11:30 a.m. Friends in Faith Luncheon	13 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Meeting	14 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 1:30 p.m., Afternoon Worship (IC) 5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting	15 7:00 p.m. Worship (IC)	16 7:00 p.m. Church Council	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. Worship (IC/CC) 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, Youth Group	20 No School— Pastor/Teacher Conference—	21 No School— Pastor Conference— 5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting	22 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship	23	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Youth Group 10:15 a.m. Special Open Forum 11:30 a.m. Special Voter's Meeting	27	28 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m. Service and Fellowship Meeting				

February 2023

Zion Lutheran School

186 Cole Road, Monroe, MI 48162

734-242-1378 www.zionmonroe.org



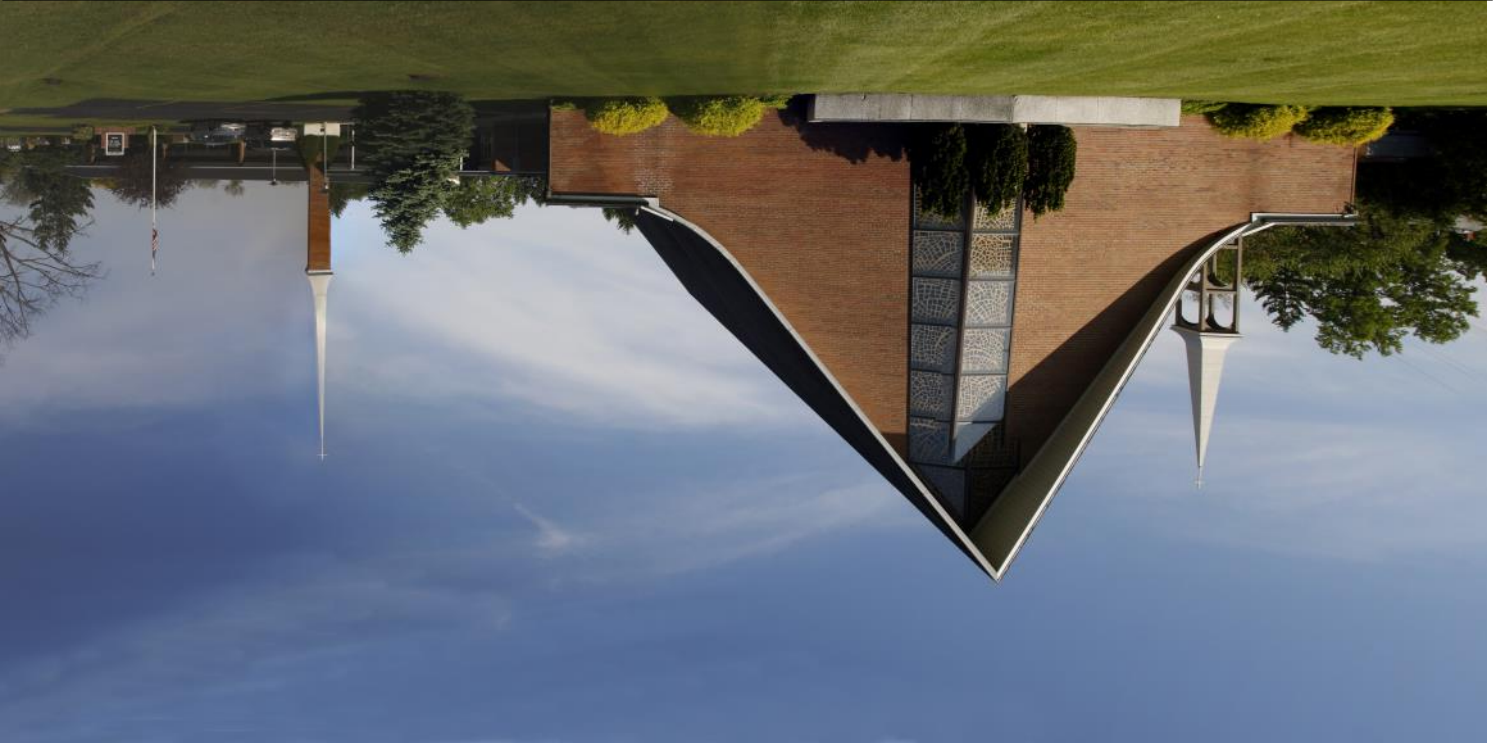
For we are God's handwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. - Ephesians 2:10

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 School Chapel 8:05a <i>Hot Lunch-Nachos</i> Cheerleading 3-4p B-ball Prac. 3-5:30p <i>Worship at Zion 7p</i>	2 Pee Wee Poms 3-4p	3 <i>Warrior Oasis Coffee</i> <i>Hot Lunch-Pizza</i> MLS A Team Basketball Tournament	4 MLS A Team Basketball Tournament
5 Worship at Zion 9am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15am	6 <i>Hot Lunch-MYO Subs</i> <i>Red Cross</i> <i>Blood Drive 12:30-5:30p</i>	7 <i>Warrior Oasis Coffee</i> Zion CEA Meeting 3:10p B-ball Prac. 3-5:30p	8 School Chapel 8:05a <i>Hot Lunch-Pulled Pork</i> Cheerleading 3-4p <i>Worship at Zion 7p</i>	9 MCLS Bookmobile Visits 10a-12p Pee Wee Poms 3-4p B-ball Prac. 3-5:30p	10 <i>Warrior Oasis Coffee</i> <i>Hot Lunch-Pizza</i> <i>PARENTS' NIGHT</i> HOME B-ball Games vs St. Johns (C,B and A) 5:30-8:30p	11
12 Worship at Zion 9am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15am	13 <i>Hot Lunch-Pizza Roll</i> B-ball Prac. 3-5:30p Board of Educ. 7p	14 <i>Warrior Oasis Coffee</i> B-ball Prac. 3-5:30p	15 School Chapel 8:05a <i>Hot Lunch-Grilled Ch./Soup</i> Cheerleading 3-4p <i>Worship at Zion 7p</i>	16 Pee Wee Poms 3-4p B-ball Prac. 3-5:30p	17 <i>Warrior Oasis Coffee</i> <i>Hot Lunch-Pizza</i> AWAY B-ball Games vs Divine Grace (C,B and A) 5:30-8:30p	18
19 Worship at Zion 9am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15am	20 Presidents' Day District Pastor/Teachers' Conference No School Classes	21	22 <i>Hot Lunch-Mostaccioli</i> School Chapel 2:30p Cheerleading 3-4p Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Worship at Zion 7p</i>	23 Pee Wee Poms 3-4p B-ball Prac. 3-5:30p	24 <i>Warrior Oasis Coffee</i> <i>Hot Lunch-Pizza</i> AWAY B-ball Games vs St. Stephen, Adrian (B and A) 5:30-7:30p	25 HOME B-ball Games vs Trinity, Jenera (C,B,A) Time TBA
26 Worship at Zion 9am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15am	27 <i>Hot Lunch-Pigs in a Blanket</i> B-ball Prac. 3-5:30p	28 <i>Warrior Oasis Coffee</i> B-ball Prac. 3-5:30p				





ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
186 COLE RD., MONROE, MI 48162



Check out our website:
www.zionmonroe.org

ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& SCHOOL
186 COLE ROAD
MONROE,
MICHIGAN 48162
Tel: 734.242.1378
Fax: 734.242.7049
E-mail: office@zionmonroe.org
www.zionmonroe.org