

Zion News February 2024

A Father's Love

Jesus said, "The son got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).

He was homeless, smelly, and almost starving to death. But the worst thing



was that he knew it was all his fault. He thought his father was cruel and overbearing; there were too many rules. He wanted freedom. He wanted to have fun, but his father was all about responsibility and hard work. So, he asked for his share of the inheritance.

He didn't care about the farm; he just wanted the money. As soon as he got it, he left. He could finally

do what he wanted to do. But it didn't take long, and all that money was gone—partying is expensive. Those he thought were his friends left as soon as he ran out of money. He was all alone and miserable. He had two choices, and neither seemed pleasant. He could continue as he was and hope he could scrape enough together each day so that he wouldn't starve to death, or he could go back home.

He headed for home. He was prepared to grovel, to ask to be just a hired hand on his father's farm. But he didn't get the opportunity to do much groveling. As soon as his father saw him coming, he ran out to meet him. He hugged and kissed him and gave orders for a huge celebration in his honor. The rebellious son had expected a cool reception. He had expected an "I told you so." Instead he got what he knew he didn't deserve: a joyous welcome home.

You and I are that young man who rebelled against his father. We have all rebelled against our heavenly Father. We have considered him to be cruel

and overbearing and having too many rules—someone who doesn't want us to have any fun. We have all separated ourselves from him and broken his commandments. Our consciences tell us that he is angry, that we deserve whatever pain or suffering comes our way. Could our heavenly Father still love us? Could he still welcome us to his eternal home in heaven?

Jesus' story about the disobedient son in Luke 15:11-24 is a short story that speaks volumes for our lives. It assures us of God's love and our heavenly home. Our heavenly Father loves us so much that he punished his obedient Son, Jesus, in our place so that he can welcome us as his dear children and heirs of eternal life. Instead of giving us what we deserve for our rebelliousness, he gives us what we don't deserve: complete forgiveness in Jesus.

We welcome you to gather with us for worship and learn more about our heavenly Father's love.

-WELS Outreach newsletter

Congregational News



Annual Meeting Recap Our annual meeting was held on February 22nd in the fellowship hall. Here are a few of the highlights from the meeting:

- Three larger maintenance projects – insulating the church proper ceiling, the parsonage roof and a portion of the fellowship hall roof – were approved
- It was decided to make up the shortfall in our commitments to WELS and KML
- The 2024 Budget was passed as recommended by the Council
- Two new Councilmen – Mike Pamperin and Tom Schulz – were elected to replace Corey Schulz and John Schulz

Complete annual reports will be available on the cabinets by the middle of February.

Church Council After the annual meeting, the members of the Council organized as follows:

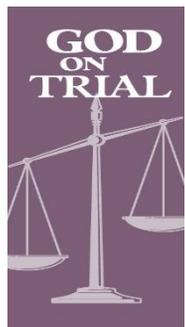


Keith Bartelt - president; Dan Ehlke - building and grounds; Lester Hahn- evangelism; Adam Janz - stewardship / endowment; Jeff Karch – treasurer; Rick Meier - financial secretary; Mike Pamperin – elders; Tom Schulz – secretary.

We thank them all for their willingness to serve. **We also thank** Corey Schulz and John Schulz, whose terms have expired, for their years of service on the Council.

Please keep these men in your prayers as they serve the Lord and the members of Zion. Any questions or concerns can always be brought to these leaders of the congregation.

Lent 2024 The theme for our 2024 Lenten series is “God on Trial.” The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God—and his people—are judged for what we believe. Because of that, Christians are tempted to respond in different ways...by treating unbelievers as enemies, by retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves.



How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model—and our motivation—in Jesus.

This series will take us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before men in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and

courage to testify to the truth.

Since Easter is relatively early this year, Ash Wednesday falls already on February 14th. Right now the time for our worship services is still up in the air. Since most churches have gone to a 6 or 6:30 p.m. service, we’re considering moving ours up to 6:30 p.m. as well. Hopefully you received an e-mail or text asking for your input. If you haven’t responded already,

please do so as soon as possible so we can make an informed decision. As soon as a decision is made, we’ll inform our members.

We will still have our customary Ash Wednesday supper on February 14th. The time for the supper will also be announced asap. Join us for Ash Wednesday and then the following six Wednesday evenings as we see the depths of Jesus love as we see “God on Trial.”

Sunday Worship Focus Beginning in the season of Lent (mid-February) we’ll be starting a new worship series called “Rethinking Religion.” Everyone has assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone has assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Americans are walking away from Christianity in breathtaking numbers.

It raises the question. How do those people know if their assumptions about religion are correct? Do they really understand Christianity at all? Do we? Do we truly understand this religion?



In the season of Lent, as much as any other, Jesus teaches things that turn the world’s assumptions about religion completely upside down. We call it “Christianity.” So, in this holy season, let us go straight to Christ and let him replace assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

2023 Contributions Please check your church mailbox for your contribution statements for 2023. If you have any questions, please text or e-mail our financial secretary Rick Meier at 262.909.1069 or rrrick4919@yahoo.com.

KML News

Winter Musical Don't miss KML's production of *Shrek The Musical* on **Friday & Saturday, February 16 & 17 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, February 18, at 2:00 PM**. Ticket information can be found at kmlhs.org/theatre.

Save the Date! Mark Saturday, April 20, 2024, on your calendar and plan to join us on campus at KML for the Golden Gala! Watch kmlhs.org/gala for more info coming soon!

Area Events, Invitations & Announcements

OWLS Meeting The next meeting of Flyway OWLS (Chapter 77) will take place Tuesday, February 13, 2024 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Lomira Community Center (425 Water Street, Lomira). Our speaker for February is Sergeant Donald Counard #123 with the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. His presentation will be on current frauds and scams targeting older adults.

Men of His Word Conference We all want to be good at something. Whether we realize it or not, God has given each of us the exact abilities we need to do the work he has planned out for us. In addition, Galatians 5:13 reminds us that Christ has set us free so that we can use those abilities to serve one another in love. Join hundreds of Christian men on **Saturday, February 17th** in Oshkosh at the annual Men of His Word Conference to learn how you are *Built to Serve* in all of the different vocations to which God has called you. This year's conference will be hosted at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh. For details, including a registration link, go to www.menofhisword.org.



Wine Tasting Night Out Christian Life Resources (CLR) invites you to its 9th Annual *Wine Tasting Night Out* on **Thursday, February 22nd**, from 6-8 p.m. at the Chandelier Ballroom, 150 Jefferson Avenue, Hartford, WI. This evening of wine and craft beer paired with gourmet appetizers and desserts, as well as a silent auction, will benefit the CLR ministry. Cost is \$60 per person or \$480 for an 8-person table reservation. Go to christianliferesources.com to purchase tickets.

Christian Life Resources partners with the WELS and ELS to advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves with a network of pregnancy care centers across the United States and a Christ-centered home for mothers, *New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers*. It also fills an unmet need in today's world by providing education about a multitude of life and family issues, especially the value and sanctity of human life.

FUNDRAISER

CLR is dedicated to finding "bridges" with life and family issues to talk about God, his will, and his plan for our salvation in Christ. Your support touches lives by your demonstration of love and the sharing of the message of love that lasts forever in Christ. Thank you and hope to see you at the fundraiser on February 22nd! To learn more or to register for the fundraiser, go to www.christianliferesources.com.

WELS Night with the Herd The Wisconsin Herd are excited to be hosting our annual WELS Night on Saturday, **February 24th**, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.!



There will be some in-game promotions to celebrate WELS and the Winnebago Lutheran Academy band will be performing during the game. All attendees are invited to shoot some free throws and take a photo together on the court after the game to commemorate the experience together. For more information or to purchase tickets, please go to www.fevogm.com/WELS

Women's Retreat You are invited to join hundreds of Christian women at the annual Pathways to Christ Women's Retreat to be held **March 1-3**, 2024 at LaSure's Hall in Oshkosh. The theme for this year's Pathways to Christ Women's Retreat is based on Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" as well as the song "Same God" by Elevation Worship. For details, including a registration link, go to www.pathwaystochrist.org.

Local Women's Retreat The women of St. Lucas in Kewaskum, WI invite you to join them for their annual Women's Retreat. Branches Band will be presenting the program, entitled "Make a Joyful Noise," based on the study and performance of a number of Psalms from the Bible. Andy Braun, Rachel Braun, and Jeremy Bakken of Branches Band have a special love for the Psalms, having recorded close to 20 original settings as well as familiar hymns based on the Psalms. You can look forward to a day spent diving deeper into Scripture through songs, stories, and Christian fellowship!

This event will be held at St. Lucas Lutheran School in Hoenecke Hall on **Saturday, March 9th, 2024**. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:30



a.m. A registration fee of \$30 includes lunch and presentations. Pick up a registration brochure from the bulletin board. We hope to see you there!

Love Your Summer! Camp Phillip in Wautoma, WI has a camp for your children or grandchildren, from kindergarten through 8th grade and beyond. The summer camp season at Camp Phillip begins on June 9th and ends with the Fall Family Camp on August 30 – September 2nd. With hilarious campfires, amazing games, creative bible studies, rockin' song periods, campers will have a week they will remember for a long time.



Capacity is limited and online registration opens on February 1st, so register soon to secure a spot. Go to www.campphillip.com to find out more or pick up the cardstock calendar of summer camps and dates available on the cabinets in the entryway.

By the way, for those outside the ages of 5-14, there's probably a camp available that you would enjoy as well. From teen retreats to women's retreats, quilting weekends to work weekends, a 20s-30s retreat to grandparent / grandchild weeks, you're bound to find something for you!



Our Sunday morning bible study is taking a look at the life of Joseph. See how much you know about this favored son of Israel, then join us on Sundays to see how you can apply the life of Joseph to your own life.

1. Who were Joseph's parents?

- a) Abraham & Sarah
- b) Isaac and Rebekah
- c) Jacob and Leah
- d) Jacob and Rachel

2. What was Jacob's gift to Joseph?

- a) Diamonds
- b) a coat of many colors
- c) Rubies
- d) a new model chariot

3. How many stars bowed before Joseph in his dream?

- a) 12
- b) 15
- c) 11
- d) 16

4. Who prevented his brothers from killing Joseph?

- a) Dan
- b) Reuben
- c) Gad
- d) Asher
- e) Benjamin

5. Who suggested selling Joseph instead?

- a) Levi
- b) Benjamin
- c) Judah
- d) Issachar

6. Of what did Potiphar's wife falsely accuse Joseph?

- a) attempted rape
- b) attempted murder
- c) household theft
- d) household mismanagement

7. Who told Pharaoh about Joseph's interpretation of dreams?

- a) his chief baker
- b) his treasurer
- c) his chief cupbearer
- d) his wife

8. What was foretold in Pharaoh's dream?

- a) 3 years' war
- b) 7 years' famine
- c) a flood
- d) an earthquake

9. Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt?

- a) to see the pyramids
- b) to swim in the Nile
- c) to sell sheep
- d) to buy food

9. What was the name of Joseph's wife?

- a) Asenath
- b) Delilah
- c) Potiphera
- d) Nefertiti
- e) Hatshepsut

10. How many years did Joseph live?

- a) 110
- b) 116
- c) 120
- d) 104

Joseph Quiz Answers

- 1. d
- 2. b
- 3. c
- 4. b
- 5. c
- 6. a
- 7. c
- 8. b
- 9. d
- 10. a
- 11. A

