August/September 2021



Zion Lutheran Church

Auburn, MI

Message from Pastor

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

A few weeks ago on Zion's Facebook page I shared a series of videos from David Maier, the president of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. These short videos are about getting back together in worship. In the first video, President Maier quotes from the following passage from Hebrews 10:

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

What an applicable passage for us at Zion where our mission statement is, "To better know and show Christ's love." We come to better know Christ's love as we hear his word read and proclaimed and receive his body and blood in the Lord's Supper. We better show Christ's love to each other as we meet together to do so and encourage one another in person.

Worshiping online worked for a time and may very well be useful in certain instances in the future. We will for the time being continue to make our services available online. That said, and as President Maier has said, worship is most often described in the New Testament as gathering and assembling together.

As Lutherans in particular, we gather around God's word AND sacrament. At least two weekends a month at Zion we receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper. While a person can watch this communion online, to participate fully one has to be with us in person, in the flesh.

In John 1:14 we read that, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Our God loves us so much that he took on human flesh and blood that he might live with and for his people. He took on human flesh and blood that he might offer that flesh and blood upon the cross and give it to us as food and drink for the strengthening of our faith toward him and our fervent love towards one another. Our relationship to God and one another is a very flesh and blood thing.

Unfortunately, there are always those among us who, on account of sickness or disability, are unable to gather together with the rest of God's people and receive his word and sacrament. We refer to such individuals as shut-ins and the pastors visit them every month, in person, bringing to them God's word as well as his body and blood in the Lord's Supper. (If you or someone you know should be added to this group please notify one of the pastors.)

Having visited such people in their homes or in nursing homes for the last 13 years there is one thing I have heard more than any other, "Pastor, I wish I could come to church." "I know," I say, "But God loves you so much that he brings the church to you." "Yes, but I still wish I could come to church."

Our shut-ins long to gather together with God's people around his gifts. I pray that you long to do the same, and take the opportunities you have to do so. Many of you already are, and I thank God for that. For those of you who are not? Come back to Zion and gather together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. It's not about the building, it's about the people gathered together in that building (or just outside it on Saturdays), encouraging one another as they hear Gods' word and receive his body and blood together for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

In His Service, Pastor Menz

Pastor Andrew Menz
Pastor Seth R. Hemme

989-513-0197 989-600-5343 e-mail: andrewmenz@gmail.com

e-mail: pastorhemme@yahoo.com

School News

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After completing a successful school year under the stress and pressure of Covid-19, I am beyond thankful to serve with such an amazing staff at Zion. In a world of cancelations, quarantines, exposures, and unprecedented mandates, the staff at Zion worked together to shine and accomplish our mission "To better know and show Christ's love". We weren't going to let a pandemic stop us from sharing Christ's word and love to all the students enrolled at Zion. We pushed through and used the pandemic as an opportunity to create new ways to have events, learn, and serve instead of joining the cancel culture that so quickly took over. My staff and I want to thank all of you for your understanding, dedication, prayers, and support. We couldn't have done it without you.

I want to highlight some of the great things that came from a difficult year. With the precautions we took, we were able to have school in person with face-to face instruction for the entire school year, this is a tremendous success. This means students didn't miss out on precious educational learning and opportunities. With the help of TEAM, we had our first Fall Harvest party during school and the students loved it. The 7th and 8th graders went on a new and different version of their outdoor education trip. We made the WNEM news when we held our first parade for Veterans to continue to honor them. Our school Christmas drive-thru nativity reached hundreds of people, way more than we could have ever imagined. We had the most successful Lutheran's School week with our Penny War, which morphed into a huge campaign to "love thy neighbor" and support local businesses. Teachers went above and beyond to continue to enrich students' education by scheduling amazing virtual field trips, creating student websites, embracing google classrooms, and pushing their own growth with learning new educational tools and platforms.

I am absolutely thrilled we are projected to start our school year in a normal and traditional fashion on August 23rd. We look forward to classrooms being able to collaborate, using the cafeteria for lunch, sporting events, apple pies, smorgasbord, and seeing you all again. We currently have 81 students enrolled for the 2021/2022 school year which is an increase from the 74 students we had from last year. Preschool is full with 20 enrolled students, half of them being full day students.

We were able to offer a Summer Care program this year. Ms. Lacie and Ms. Olivia has been providing care Monday through Thursday 7:30am-5:30pm for those enrolled in the program. They are having lots of fun with water days, crafts, playing outside, making treats, making flower pots, playing games, and so much more.

The staff and myself are starting to prep, plan, and prepare as we get ready to endure the Accreditation process. This process is rather detailed and precise in showing evidence of the high quality education we provide in a well kept and maintained environment. We will be asking some congregation members to help us during this process too. It is a collaborative effort to continue to hold the title of a "Nationally Accredited" school.

I want to thank the Harold Endline fund and TEAM for the funds to redo the gym floor this summer. It has been seven or more years since it was done and it was in need of being redone. It looks amazing and we can't wait to use it for sporting events and gym class. We also want to thank the Endowment Committee and Santa Store for the funding to purchase a new warming oven and milk cooler for the kitchen, a new water bottle filling/fountain station, classroom material needs, and new pads and batteries for the church and school AED machines. All of these committees are such a blessing to our school, thank you.

We look forward to another successful school year in 2021/2022. We are even more excited to reunite with our congregation members to have unforgettable events and fellowship. Blessings on the remain-

der of your summer, it's my prayer that it is fun, safe, refreshing, and memorable.

In His Service,

Colett Dominowski

RETURNING TO REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Regular Office Hours
will resume
Monday, August 23, 2021
7:30 AM—3:30 PM



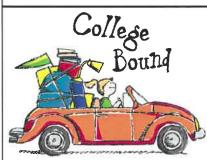


Confirmation instruction is a time for baptized Christians to identify with the life and mission of the Christian community. At Zion, Confirmation instruction generally involves a two year period of instruction in the basics of the Christian faith which is designed to assist students in learning and embracing the foundational truths of the Christian faith and Lutheran Doctrine. Generally, students who are in 7th and 8th grade participate in Junior Confirmation. Classes will begin again with the start of the school

year for Zion Lutheran School students and on Sunday, September 12th from 6-8 PM for students in public school. Contact Pastor Hemme with any questions you might have.

Baptismal sponsors are especially encouraged to remind their godchildren of this important part of their Christian education and ensure their enrollment in a confirmation program.

Those not confirmed as a part of a junior confirmation program are encouraged to be a part of an adult instruction class. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for information about upcoming adult instruction classes which will begin this fall.



College Contact Information

With some of our young adults going off to college, we would like to keep them

abreast of what is going on here at Zion by sending "The Messenger" either by regular mail or email. Please call the church office and provide us with the information on their college mailing address. Lutheran Campus Ministries also appreciates this information so they can reach out to our students.



Sunday School Begins

SUNDAY On Sunday, September 12th, we kick off a new year of Sunday school and we want you to be a

part of it. Classes for children 3 years through 6th grade will feature exciting Bible lessons and music along with opportunities to plant the life giving Word of God in our hearts. Sunday school will be held each week during the Family Bible Hour beginning at 10:15 a.m. We will start in the cafeteria with a unified opening led by Pastor Hemme or Pastor Menz. After the opening, the Sunday school students will break off to their classrooms. Pre-registration is not required and new students as well as guests and friends are always welcome. Make Sunday school a part of your Sunday morning routine.



Connecting College Students to LCMS U

It's back-to-school time! Do you know a student heading off to college, perhaps for the very first time? College can be tough on our young adults. They will be challenged by friends, professors, and choices that are contrary to their

Christian worldview. Please help your college students start the year off right by connecting them with an LCMS U chapter at their college or university. Visit lcms.org/lcmsu/findcampus for a list of LCMS U chapters, or you may ask for help in making a connection where a chapter doesn't yet exist. Of course, you also are encouraged to contact campus ministries and congregations near colleges and universities directly. They would love to hear from you! The LCMS U website features connections to ministry partners, information on a weekly radio show for college students and other resources.



Stewardship Weekend!

Zion has been chosen by the Michigan District of the LCMS to participate in

a pilot stewardship program. Why is the "ship" part of stewardship crossed out? Because the program is not simply about stewardship it's about growing as stewards. The weekend of September 11th and 12th Michigan District representative Rev. Dr. Rick Wolfram and Rev. Dr. Wayne Knolhoff will be with us for some seminars and also for worship. Look for more information about this weekend in upcoming bulletins. For now, leave room in your calendar for the evening of Friday, September 10th as well as Saturday morning, September 11th, as we plan to grow as stewards and disciples of Christ Jesus.

Ladies of Zion

Ladies of Zion will resume their Bible Study and quilting at a later date after Smorgasbord. Please watch for future communication.

Smorgasbord

Attention Crafters, Bakers, and Gardeners

Donations of handcrafted, homemade, and homegrown items are needed to sell at the Annual Smorgasbord/Country Store on October 3rd. Your donations for the Smorgasbord may be dropped off Saturday, October 2nd. If you have any questions please contact Deb Shufelt at 662-2496 or Gail Wegener at 415-8170. Donation request postcards will be mailed the first part of September. Thank you very much for your support- The Ladies of Zion

Zion Lutheran Church Smorgasbord & Country Store SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021

Serving 11:00am until 2:00pm in Zion's gym across from the church 1557 West Seidlers Road, Auburn

Pork Sausage, Sauerkraut, Chicken, Dressing, Potatoes, Gravy, Pie, German Potato Salad, Squash, Baked Beans, Bread/Sweet Breads

Adults—\$10.00
Ages 5 through 12—\$5.00
Ages 4 and under—FREE
Takeout—\$10.00
COUNTRY STORE OPENS AT 10:00 AM
Call 989-662-6426 for additional information.

Zion Lutheran School-2021/22 Calendar

Aug. 19 Orientation 6:00pm

Aug. 23 First Day of School K-8th

Sept. 3-6 No School- Labor Day

Sept. 7 First Day of Preschool

Oct. 22 **1/2 Day of School**- dismissal 11:30am -No lunch (end of 1st quarter: 43 days & 8 worship opportunities)

Nov. 4 1/2 Day of School- Teacher Conferences

Nov. 5 **No School**- Teacher Conferences

Nov. 22-26 No School- Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 17 1/2 Day of School- dismissal 11:30am no lunch

Dec. 18-Jan. 2 No School- Christmas Break

Jan. 14 1/2 Day of School- dismissal 11:30am no lunch (end of 2nd quarter: 47 days & 12 worship opportunities)

Jan. 17 No School- Professional Development

Feb. 4 1/2 Day of School- dismissal 11:30am no lunch

Feb. 7 **No School-** Professional Development

March 17-18 **No School-** Professional Development (end of 3rd quarter: 45 days & 9 worship opportunities)

March 28-April 1 No School- Spring Break

April 15 No School- Good Friday

May 27 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** -DISMISS at 11:00am (end of 4th quarter: 45 days & 10 worship opportunities)

Updated: 7/12/21

Church Council Meeting Minutes June 7th, 2021

Pastor Menz opened the meeting with Prayer.

<u>Secretary Report</u> – Megan Keyser

6.7.21.A A motion was made, supported, and carried to approve the meeting minutes from May 10th, 2021.

<u>Treasurer Report</u> – Cindy Pajot

6.7.21.B A motion was made, supported, and carried to approve the treasurer's report from May 2021.

Board of Elders -Bill Kohn

Membership Changes- New accessions:

By Baptism: Gavin George Gillmore, Aiden Hunter Boyat 5/22/2021 (Sons of Amanda Boyat)

By Confirmation: Alyssa Jo Crain 5-2-21, Breanna Lynn Gouan 5-2-21, Virginia Lynn List 5-2-21, Blake Jacob Murphy 5-2-21, and Molly Kehr Riker 5-2-21

By Affirmation of Faith: Amanda Boyat

6.7.21.CA motion was made, supported, and carried to approve the membership changes.

In light of the Governor's mask mandate changes, the Elders have removed Zion's mask policy. Please see last bulletin if unfamiliar. We are still social distancing inside the church and with regards to our communion policy!

Saturday worship has successfully been outside thus far and will continue through fall, weather permitting.

Board of Trustees - Allan Brandt

Top Ten List

Repair and restore deteriorating limestone, cracked mortar joints & brick, steeple repair and maintenance per MIHM Enterprise's recommendation. Starting Summer 2021

Reseal/waterproof the bell tower on the church June 2021.

Repair plaster and wallpaper in steeple archway after #1 and #2 are completed 2021.

Classroom exterior wall and windows and utility room window Fall 2021.

Epoxy paint kitchen floor in pavilion June/July 2021.

Install fence in front of pavilion and to protect a/c units - westside of school 2021.

Resurface tennis court and repaint the fence 2021.

Church exterior cleaning 2022.

Replace church parking lot 2025/\$100,000.

Security cameras for church grounds.

Future Items to complete:

Replace weather stripping on south school doors.

Continue LED light replacements, as needed. 50 Bulbs needed in cafeteria - June 2021.

Install risers on the school septic tanks.

Patch concrete at front entrance at church – looking into options.

Monitoring system for water & security at church and school with the insurance company

Board of Christian Day School: Jerry Diener

Board met with Samantha Schnell and Emily Menz (we meet with at least one staff member a month), both had good things to say about this school year, the school, and the staff. They also shared with the board some of what they have been doing with their classes throughout the year.

Reviewed registration numbers and summer care. Most up to date information will be shared by Colett for Council.

Discussed a "before school starts" tuition increase to assist with increases of salaries. The majority felt another increase to tuition after the tuition cost had been communicated (which increased from \$900 to \$945), and parents registered was not something we should pursue. However, early planning and understanding of church/school salaries should be considered prior to sending out tuition costs next year.

Discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of a closed campus (similar to this year, pick up and drop off no parents in the school) for 21/22 school year. Discussed the possibility of having a pickup Friday at some interval where parents could come into the school.

Board of Parish Education: Emily McMenemy

Nothing to report at this time.

Board of Youth - Jen Trevillian

We had our first in-person meeting this year on Sunday, May 23rd in the pavilion. The incoming 6th graders were invited. 16 youth attended, playing games, and discussing some summeractivities.

School Staff Report - Colett Dominowski.

We have 81 paid registrations for day school. This is up from our 74 this previous school year. Preschool is full with 20 students and ten of them are there all day. We look forward to preparing for a new school year and getting back to having sports and events as long as regulations allow. There are no teacher staff changes for this year.

We had our last day of school closing chapel and awards on May 27th. The weather was cold, but we were glad to welcome families and members to celebrate with us outside. Thank you to TEAM for sponsoring the Kona Ice Truck for a sweet treat, the students loved it.

The staff will be attending an NWEA testing workshop on June 7-8 for professional development. NWEA is our standardized testing used at school to assess student achievement.

We are open for Summer Care this year. Ms. Lacie and Ms. Olivia will be taking care of students Mon-Thursday from 730a-530p. We have an average of five students a day.

We will kick off the 2021-2022 school year on August 19th for orientation and the first day of school will be August 23rd.

We want to thank everyone for their support and understanding this last school year. None of us would have ever thought or even thought to have planned for something like educating students during a worldwide pandemic. But we did it, all school year face-to-face.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Hemme/Pastor Menz

The pastors are grateful for a year of face-to-face education at Zion. Both enjoyed some -Ultimate Frisbee with the 7/8 class at the end of school and also after the year end chapel and awards.

Join the pastors for Bible Study on Sunday mornings after service. They are going through a study called Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation.

Morning Prayers as well as Daily Prayers and Devotion at 11 continue Monday through Friday. -Shut-in visits for those in their own homes or apartments continue to go well. The pastors have now been able to visit all of our shut-ins in nursing homes.

Pastor Menz is teaching a one-on-one new member class that will be completed next week.

Both Pastors are thankful for Leroy Engelhardt's many years of service to Zion as organist and are grateful to those who helped put together and attended his appreciation event on Sunday, June 6th.

Both pastors are excited to have a bit more normalcy at Zion with the change in our mask policy.

Old Business

Nominations and Boards - A preliminary ballot was reviewed.

<u>Budget</u> – A preliminary budget was presented. The two proposed budgets will be presented to voters and voted on at the June 13thvoters meeting.

Rentals—The state restrictions have been lifted. Zion will resume pavilion rentals.

<u>Cemetery Easement</u> – Representatives from Zion and Beaver Township met and discussed the cemetery easement proposed by Beaver Township.

6.7.21.DA motion was made, supported and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Pastor Hemme closed the meeting with prayer.

In His service,

Megan Keyser



Valley Vision

July 2021

Stewards of Grace

Excerpt from former VL Executive Director, Dr. John Brandt's commencement address to the Class of 2021 on Sunday, June 13th:

Two years ago I stood before you at our final chapel of the year. I looked at you and wondered out loud where you would go and the impact you would make on people I will never know. I think of Valley Lutheran alumni who I can hold up as examples - men and women with all sorts of life experiences who actively steward God's varied grace. Men and women who share blessings like:

- John, a respiratory therapist who went to an Indian reservation and and in his words "saved as many as he could" last spring during the pandemic
- Anta whose speciality is counseling teenagers in trouble
- Todd who, along with many others, gives a lot of time to make this school succesful
- Lisa, who keeps a city's finances in order with her accounting skills
- Jacob, who manages an auto parts store and went out of his way to tell me that he was bringing his kids up as Christians
- Rachel who lives in a country where Christianity is greatly restricted, and still finds ways to share her faith
- Joel who once each week missed my soccer practices for piano lessons and is now preparing the next generation of pastors

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Congratulations VL Class of 2021!



Class of 2021 Honors & Awards

Valedictorians: Brendan Mc Donald, Ian Schoenmeyer Salutatorian: David Jahnke Honors Diplomas: Allison Lemanski, Chae Kelsey, Mitchell Neumann

VL Faculty Academic Awards Art: Isabel Warren, Brianna Dankert

English: Luke Wollenweber, David Jahnke

French: Amber Olguin, Valerie White

Math: Brendan McDonald, Chae Kelsey

Music: Miriam Cmeyla (choral), Ashley Hoffman (instrumental) PE: Kaitlyn Hale, Josh Samsell Religion: Anna Katenhus Science: Allison Lemanski (life science), Brendan McDonald (physical science) Social Studies: David Jahnke

Spanish: Kristofer Nisidis, Ashley Hoffman

Activities Awards

Senior Officers: Ian Schoenmeyer (P), Chae Kelsey(VP), Elliott Urbytes (Sec), David Jahnke (Treas)

Music: Mitchell Neumann (instrumental), Elijah Feinauer(choral) Student Council: Quinn Stefanski (P), Scott Smith (VP), Braxton Flood (Sec), Maggie Walk (Social Media Manager)

Drama: Brianna Dankert

MHSAA Scholar Athlete Award: **David Jahnke**

Brandt Christian Leadership Award: Ian Schoenmeyer

Roekle Scholar-Athlete Award: **David Jahnke, Anna Katenhus**

Zill Service-Character Award: Chae Kelsey

Feldkamp Pro Merito Award: **Maggie Walk**

Tri-Valley All Academic Awards: Brendan McDonald, Kris Nisidis, Luke Wollenweber

Key Club Medallions: David Jahnke, Valerie White, Danielle Browning, Anna Katenhus, Ashley Hoffman

Seal of Biliteracy: Autumn Eischer, Ashley Hoffman, Chae Kelsey, Genesis Escobedo, Kris Nisidis

Grace

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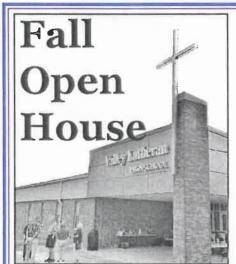
- Stacy who advocates for health care for Native Americans on a national scale
- Julian, I guess I should say Dr. Petzold, who came home to lead this school.

With over 3000 alumni this list could go on and on, and you will shortly be part of it. But this message is not just for the graduates. It is a message for all God's people - "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

And you can be a good steward by bringing the blessings of Grace and Peace through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and you will find plenty of cake!



At one of the last chapel services of the school year, the Valley Lutheran family prayed over **Peggy Herbolsheimer** (l) and **Tracy Bauer**, faithful servants in the kitchen who have spent a collective 50 years preparing lunches for Valley Lutheran students. Thank you Mrs. Herbolsheimer and Mrs. Bauer!

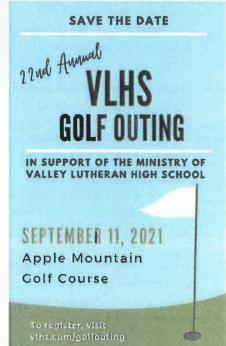


Join us Thursday, August 26th, for a look at the new spaces and renovated places at Valley Lutheran High School:

- 4-6pm
- Tours at the top and bottom of the hour
- Brats and hot dogs served
- Rain or Shine!

The VL Drama Department recorded and produced "A Digital Shakespeare Experience" this spring and would like to share it with you! Head to https://sites.google.com/vlhs.com/shakespearedrama/home to enjoy this unique compilation of Shakesperean monologues delivered by Valley students and faculty.





September 2021 Zion Lutheran Church Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 2021 8 M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Oci 2021 8 M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2	3 No School	5:30 PM Worship Outside (weather permitting)	
5 9:00 AM Worship Bible Study after worship	6 Labor Day -No School	7	7:00 PM Ladies of Zion Meeting	9 6:30 PM TEAM Meeting	10 Stewardship event in the evening	5:30 PM Worship w/communion Outside (weather permitting) Stewardship event in the morning
9:00 AM Worship w/communion (guest Preacher) 10:15 AM Family Bible Hour 10:15 AM Special Presentation Bible Study 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Jr. Confirmation Class	6:30 PM Council Meeting	6:00 PM BCDS meeting	15	16	17	18 5:30 PM Worship Outside (weather permitting)
9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Voter's Meeting 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Jr. Confirmation Class	20	21	22	23	24	5:30 PM Worship w/communion Outside (weather permitting)
9:00 AM Worship w/communion 10:15 AM Family Bible Hour 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Jr. Confirmation Class	27 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	28	29	30		

August 2021 Zion Lutheran Church Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 AM Worship Bible Study after worship	2	3	4	5	6 Office Closed	5:30 PM Worship w/communion Outside (weather permitting)
9:00 AM Worship w/communion Bible Study after worship	9 6:30 PM Church Council meeting	6:00 PM BCDS meeting	11	12	13 Office Closed	1 4 5:30 PM Worship Outside (weather permitting)
9:00 AM Worship Bible Study after worship	16	17	18	6:00 PM School Orientation Night	20 Office Closed	2 1 5:30 PM Worship w/communion Outside (weather permitting)
9:00 AM Worship w/communion Bible Study after worship	23 Normal Office Hours Resume 7:30AM-3:30PM School Begins	24	25	26 4:00 PM -6:00 PM VLHS Open House 7:00 PM Apple Pie Committee Meeting	27	28 5:30 PM Worship w/communion Outside (weather permitting)
9:00 AM Worship w/communion Bible Study after worship	30 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	31	4 11 18	Jul 2021 M T W T F S 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 13 14 65 66 17 19 25 21 22 23 24 26 25 28 29 36 31	Sep 2021 S M T W 1 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 14 19 20 21 22 2 26 27 28 29 30	F F S 1 3 4 1 46 EL 5 67 EB 3 24 25