

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday

9:00-2:00

Office email:

office@zionlcc.org

Pastor's email:

pastor@zionlcc.org

Mission Statement:

***"To make the love of
Christ known to all"***

Vision Statement:

***"Where the Hungry
are Fed"***

**In Person Worship
Sundays**

9:00 Traditional
10:45 Contemplative
6:00 pm Family
Worship

**Traditional service
premiers live on
Facebook and
YouTube at 9:00 am**

www.zionlcc.org



The Focus

A Publication of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church



2023

A Message from Pastor Sarah

Happy New Year! We are already turning the page from 2022 to 2023. Here at church we are still in the Christmas season. The twelve days of Christmas start on Christmas Day and end on January 6, with the Feast of the Epiphany. On the 6th we remember the visit of the magi. In many cultures, gifts are exchanged on this day in honor of the gifts the wise men gave to the baby Jesus.

What are the best gifts you have received in 2022? What gifts can we share with others in this New Year? We have plenty of opportunities for sharing our gifts through the church. Financial gifts fund the ministry of Zion. Gifts of time and talent fill both our worship service and our community outreach. Baked goods feed our neighbors at the community meal and at funerals. Repair skills help keep the building in good shape and, at times, are brought into homes to help others. The gift of hospitality is seen in the ways we greet others and help them feel at home. The gift of compassion is always welcome. No gift, given in the name of Christ is too small.

Thank you for being a gift from God!

Peace,
Pastor Sarah



When they [the wise men] saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:10-11

For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has — not according to what one does not have. 2 Corinthians 8:12

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

For the month of October we collected 17 pounds of donations for our local food shelf!. The cost of groceries has risen and makes it even more difficult for families already struggling with feeding their families. If you can help with just one extra item on your grocery list it helps our local families.

Current needs are:

Ramen noodles
Cookie mixes
Graham crackers
Kids cereal cups (travel size mini boxes of cereal)
Family Size chips
Shampoo
Deodorant
Potato buds
Brownie mixes

If you are donating money and want to make sure it goes directly to our local food shelf, put a note on the memo line saying:

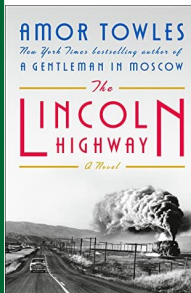
Chisago Lakes Area Food Shelf Only

***Thank you for
your generosity!***

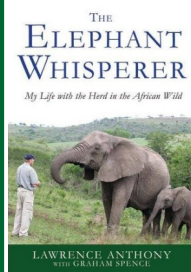
REMINDER: If you or someone you know is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please let Pastor Sarah know. She would rather have 6 people tell her than no one! We are also looking to add a few people to our Shepherding group. This group goes to visit and bring communion to our shut-ins. We could also use your help in keeping our shut-in list up to date, so that no one is neglected. Please speak to Sherri Baumann about the shepherding group if you would like to be a visitor. We will provide training early this year.

Book Club

Book club is meeting in the church library on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Our meeting for January will be Jan. 9 at 6 pm. Please contact Marilyn Rue if you need more information: mrue.rue@gmail.com



Our January Book is "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles. In June of 1954, 18 yr. old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm. His mother is long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his 8 yr. old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future..



When South African Lawrence Anthony was asked to accept a herd of "rogue" wild elephants on his Thula Trula game reserve in Zululand, his common sense told him to refuse. But he was the herd's last chance of survival: they would be killed if he wouldn't take them. In order to save their lives, Anthony took them in. In the years that followed, he became a part of their family. And as he battled to create a bond with the elephants, he came to realize that they had a great deal to teach him about life, loyalty, and freedom.

Volunteers needed!

Please sign up to help with worship as a greeter, usher or reader. We are also in need of coffee hour hosts. If you have questions, please talk to Pastor or one of our folks who already does these tasks. We would be happy to help you out, work with you or teach you how the coffee pots work! The sign-up sheet is on the table at the rear of the church or available on our website.

9:00 Service Assistants

January 1

Ushers: Gary & Shirley Kerkow
Greeters: George & Vicki Mickelsen
Reader: George Mickelsen
Coffee Servers: Pat Pojanowski
Communion Assistants: Danny Eby &
Barb Garness

January 8

Ushers:
Greeter:
Reader:
Coffee Servers:
Communion Assistants: Carl Thomsen &
Jim Green

January 18

Ushers:
Greeter:
Reader:
Coffee servers:
Communion Assistants: Dave Tosteson &
Sherri Baumann

January 22

Ushers:
Greeter:
Reader:
Communion Assistants: Carl Thomsen &
Jim Green

January 29

Ushers:
Greeter:
Reader:
Communion Assistants: Danny Eby

Thank You!



If we have weather related cancellations, the information will be posted via email, our website, our facebook page, and the sign outside the church. If we do not have your email address, let the office know at office@zionlcc.org



Our Men's group meets Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. for one hour in the fellowship hall. Our primary intent is a Bible study but we seem to digress often and cover a wide range of interesting subjects. Join us any time!



Pastor Sarah's Bible study is on Thursdays at 10:00 am in the library. Our upcoming study will be looking into the stories of Jesus at the table. Who does Jesus eat with? What does this say about God? What does it mean for us?

Grief Support Group

The **Grief Support Group**, facilitated by Pastor Sarah, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 10:00 am. This is also open to people in the larger community. If you know someone who has lost a loved one and could use a caring group that understands the pain, please let them know about this group. For more information, contact Pastor Sarah at: pastor@zionlcc.org 651-257-2713

Caregivers Courage Group

Our caregivers support group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 am. - 11:00 am. Meetings are held in the Library. Masks are not required but please feel free to wear one if you are comfortable. If you wish to bring a beverage for yourself please feel free to do so. All caregivers are welcome!



Engaging with Emmy

I love to read month is coming in February. Let's celebrate (like they do in school) with gathering on Sunday afternoons for some friendly reading. Would you like to share a favorite children's book with a child? Children, would

you like to read to an elder friend, or listen to a story? Join us on Sundays during Lakes Connect at 5:00 for some light reading. And stay for dinner at 5:30 and a fun family worship at 6:00. All are welcome. Children will still come at 4:30 for lesson time.

Our goal is to connect generations.

special thank you to...

- Linda for helping with crafts
- Calin for leading yoga
- Chelsea for the spaghetti dinner
- Mary for your participation
- the gift cards for brinks
- Thrivent cards
- snacks
- craft supplies
- Prayers
- all of it. We cannot thank you enough. ***We could not do it without you.***

If you want to help...let me know!

If you have an idea or feedback... let me know! ~Emmy



Friday Night Family Game Night

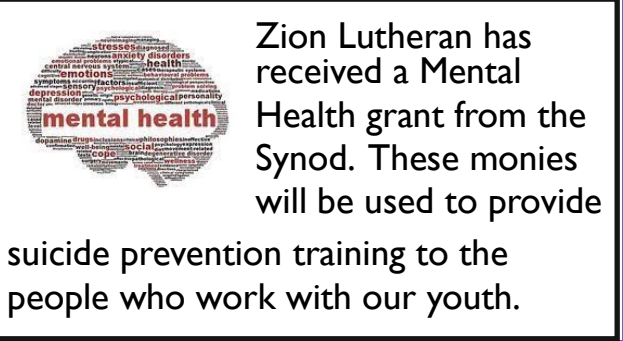
6:00pm- 8:00pm

Bring a snack to share
Bring a game to play

January 27
February 24
March 24
April 28



Our puzzle exchange is available in our library for you to trade in a puzzle or simply grab a different puzzle to work on during the cold winter months!



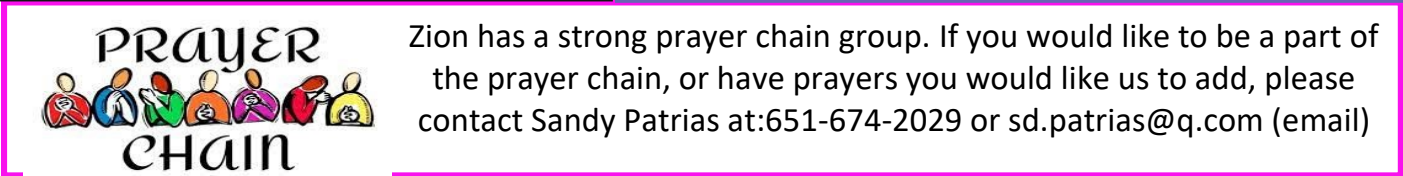
suicide prevention training to the people who work with our youth.

Connect Sunday Night Schedule

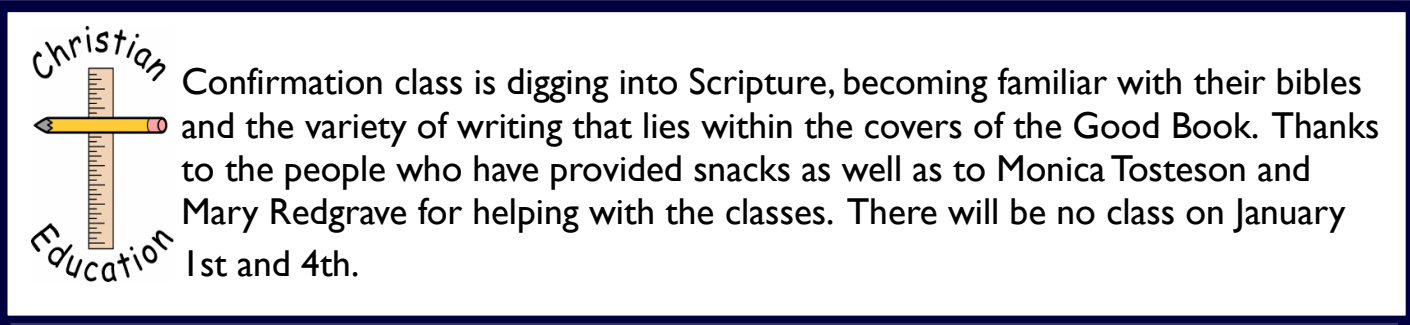
4:30-6:30 pm
lesson, dinner, worship
all ages welcome

January 8- Solomon builds a temple
15- Solomon builds a temple
22- Jonah (Come early for basement church lady bingo 2:00)
29- Jonah

February 5- The Disciples
12- The Disciples
19- Wedding at Cana
26- Wedding at Cana



Zion has a strong prayer chain group. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, or have prayers you would like us to add, please contact Sandy Patrias at: 651-674-2029 or sd.patrias@q.com (email)



Confirmation class is digging into Scripture, becoming familiar with their bibles and the variety of writing that lies within the covers of the Good Book. Thanks to the people who have provided snacks as well as to Monica Tosteson and Mary Redgrave for helping with the classes. There will be no class on January 1st and 4th.

GEE HOWARD.....Words to Challenge and Inspire

ASK IN MY NAME “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” John 14:14

This verse has caused confusion throughout the ages of Christianity. Some have claimed it to ask all kinds of things, from personal riches to salvation for a loved one, or for others success. Then they turned away when God did not give them what they wanted.

It is well to consider the text of this verse before taking sides concerning its message.

Jesus was speaking to an elite group. He had gathered about Him those disciples who had left all to follow. Judas had already left the room. This was a promise Jesus gave to the little band of men who would be responsible for carrying on once He was gone.

Jesus followed up on His promise. He gave them the Holy Spirit to fill them and give them strength. Jesus still promises to do things we ask in His name. As His disciples, we need to ask according to His will.

From “In Search of the Blessing” by G. Smalley & John Trent

When you reach for the stars, you may not quite get one, but you won't get a handful of mud either. L. Burnett

Try this in your coffee.....The wild and edible plant, Hernandulcin, is 1000 times sweeter than sugar.



Thank you to the altar guild, musicians and worship assistants who worked extra hard to make sure our Advent and Christmas services went well. You are appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who remembered the office staff at Christmastime with cards, gifts and food. Your thoughtfulness makes this a wonderful place to work!

Thank you to the crew, led by Vicki Mickelsen, who decorated the church for the season. It is beautiful!

Thank you to Linda Letourneau for making the new Christmas banner for the sanctuary.

Thank you for all the prayers from the prayer chain and cards while I was in the hospital for surgery and recuperating.

~Faye Hansen

Thank you to Sue Swanson for her years assisting Zion with their tech needs. Your expertise was appreciated.

Thank you for letting us have our meetings in the library on Sunday nights. ~Joe W., NarAnon

Thank you for the generosity of Zion and the love they share with our neighbors around the world. ~In Gratitude, Emma Wagner (Lutheran World Relief)

Thank you to our Zion family for your prayers, cards, messages and get well wishes. I'd like to especially thank Pastor Sarah for the hospital visit and communion, Gary & Shirley Kerkow for errands, chores, and visits, and George Mickelsen for the visit. We feel your love and support.

~Gary Lauritzen

Thank you to the amazing group of Zion family who came and helped decorate our beautiful building for Advent and Christmas. I especially thank one younger man's help as he can still safely climb a ladder, You Rock! All of your willing hands are GREATLY APPRECIATED!!

~Vicki Mickelsen

Thank you to Eric Douglas for installing the new door closer on the sanctuary door.



Our sympathies, thoughts, and prayers go to the family of Chad Brommer, son of Stan & Mary Brommer, who passed away Dec. 19.



Please Mark you Calendars...

We will be taking down our Christmas decorations on Sat. Jan. 14, at 9 am. Please consider coming to help with this task. This usually takes a little more than an hour. The fellowship, coffee and treats help make this a fun time together. Thank You and see you then!

Bingo With the Church Basement Ladies!



B-I-N-G-O!
Sunday, January 22, 2023
2:00 - 4:00 pm @ Zion

All are invited to join us for a fun afternoon playing Bingo!
(No money is required)

FUN!

FREE bingo cards!
FREE snacks & beverages!
FREE entertainment provided by the
"Church Basement Ladies"!!!

FREE!

What you should plan to bring:

*An optional wrapped "white elephant" gift to be used for prizes.

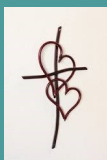
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Chisago City, MN 55013
Phone: 651-257-2713
Website: www.zionlcc.org

DECEMBER 2022

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Staff Members:

Pastor Sarah Kerkes, ext. 102

pastor@zionlcc.org

Office Administrator: KC Douglas, ext. 101

office@zionlcc.org

Bookkeeper: Deb Hoffmeister, ext. 103

bookkeeper@zionlcc.org

Intergenerational Ministry: Emmy Lundeen, ext. 105

emmy@zionlcc.org

Financial Secretary: Nicole Battles

finance@zionlcc.org

Youth Director: Todd Freeman

Organist & Bell Choir Director: *Needed*

Choir Director: Selah Brooks-Powell

Accompanist: Julie Lauritzen

Custodian & Groundskeeper: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery: John Hawkinson, Chet Garness

2023 Church Council Members: (positions TBD during January council meeting)

Eric Douglas

Jim Green

Rick Saf

Carl Thomsen

Kelly Lachmiller

Corrine Mix

Danny Eby

Mary Redgrave

Barb Garness

Sherri Baumann

Glade Sietsema

Dave Tosteson