

**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"***

**Sunday Worship  
Schedule:**

**In Person Worship**

8:30 Traditional  
10:45 Contemporary

**Online service  
premiers live on  
Facebook and  
YouTube at 8:30 am**

**www.zionlcc.org**



# The Focus

A Publication of

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church



2022

## A Message from Pastor Sarah

Change is in the air. Even though the weather has been exceptionally cold this spring, the grass is still turning green and the trees are budding out. Even though our news feeds show discontent and accusations, there are still leaders who speak with integrity and compassion. Even though the world is engaged in conflict and wars, Easter still brings hope. It is easy to complain about the negative changes around us but it is possible to seek out and lift up the positive changes. Growing older? Yes, our bodies start to betray us but we become wiser. Moving to a smaller home? Yes, we have to get rid of possessions but we learn what is really important.

This month brings changes to our church. After much deliberate discussion, the council has decided to change our communion practices. The first and third Sundays of the month you will be invited forward to receive a wafer, step to the side to receive a cup of wine/juice, and then return to your seats (servers will be gloved and masked, the camera will be off while the communion song lyrics will be seen on the screens at home). The 2nd and 4th Sundays we will commune in our seats until we run out of the individually packaged cups.

This month the Community Meal Board will be meeting and making plans to resume the Monday night meals in June. Again, there will be changes in protocol but we are all excited for the opportunity to gather around the table again. The Senior Luncheon will also resume in May.

This month, confirmation class will wrap up. NOIZ is done for another school, the bells will ring out for a final time before their summer break. The music search committee continues to look for an organist/pianist/choir and bell director.

These past few years have not only changed us as individuals but the makeup of our congregation has changed as we have grieved the loss of some of our members while rejoicing in the new folks that have joined us. Change is in the air. The programs that are returning will be different than before and that is not a bad thing, just different. This is also a time to reevaluate "what we have always done" and look at doing some creative new things. All that we do, is done in the name of Christ and helps us live out our mission statement: "To make the love of Christ known to all."

Change is in the air. May we rejoice in the opportunities we have to do new things in the name of our risen Lord, who has come to change the world.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Sarah

I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19





Thank you to Julie Lauritzen and Anna Hulzabos for providing music and accompaniment for our 8:30 service for the month of May! We appreciate your talents!

No words can fully express the gratitude I feel toward my Zion family. All your beautiful cards, notes and generous gifts have touched me deeply. I have truly enjoyed serving as your organist and bell choir director for over 20 years. But it is now time for me to serve and worship in other ways. Thank you all so very much! ~Joy Sietsema

Thank you to Kelly Lachmiller for taking over directing the Bell Choir as they finish out their season in May. We are blessed to have beautiful music for our worship services!

April 27th was the last day of NOIZ for the school year as well as the last Wednesday night meal. Thank you to Megan Dreckman for her enthusiastic leadership of the NOIZ program. Thanks also to the women who worked in the kitchen serving meals.

Dear Pastor Kerkes & Congregants,  
Thank you for your donation of \$317.44 to Family Pathways. For over 42 years, family Pathways has been a focal point for those seeking help with basic needs such as food, personal care items, refuge from domestic abuse, and senior services. In 2021 alone, over 1,900,000 meals were distributed to families throughout the community!

Thank you for your partnership!  
~Sonia Palmer, Director of Advancement

Thank you to all who helped with our Holy Week and Easter services. Your participation made our worship services very special.

Thank you to those who helped set up our Easter altar and the display in the Narthex. Special thanks to Vicki Mickelsen, who organized the work.

I want to thank everyone very much for all your prayers and concerns for my husband George as he continues to recover from two serious surgeries. God heard your prayers and has answered them. He continues to recover and learn to walk again. God sends miracles everyday. We just need to train our eyes to be aware of them.

Thank you, George & Pat Martin



I would like to shower our volunteers with enormous appreciation for supporting this essential community Meals on Wheels service for over the past 45 years! Their individual involvement and commitment shows tremendous compassion towards others,. Each Monday-Friday, thru rain, sleet and even snow, volunteer drivers report to Parmly on the Lake, our host location in Chisago City where four routes distribute over 1,000 nutritious meals monthly.  
~Jackie Law, Coordinator, Parmly on the Lake.

If you have ever volunteered as a driver for meals on wheels, please notify Marilyn Rue at [mrue.rue@gmail.com](mailto:mrue.rue@gmail.com) Thank you for your kindness!



## Easter Flower Garden Memorials

Given by: Phil & Pam Deimel  
In memory of: Leonard & Ruth Noreen,  
Luella Noreen Angel, & Frank &  
Brooks Deimel.

Given by: Judy Lifgren  
In memory of: loved ones, and in honor of her  
great grandchildren.

Given by: Breanna, Rusten, & Kellen Glader &  
Lauren Kowarsch.  
In memory of: Brooke Kowarsch and Kurt  
Kowarsch.

Given by: John & Cheryl Jelinek  
In Memory of: Kurt Kowarsch  
In Memory of: Brooke Kowarsch, loving  
Granddaughter

Given by: Shirley Lofgren  
In Memory of: All of the loved ones in  
our family

Given by: Linda Letourneau and Family  
(Kae, Mike, Paul, Cate, Austin,  
Becky, Emily, Elissa, Kaiden, &  
Carmynn)  
In Memory of: Herb Letourneau

Given by: Dave & Monica Tosteson  
In Memory of: Loved ones.

Given by: Carol Stromgren  
In Memory of: Loved ones.



Sunday, May 8 is Mother's  
Day. The Hospitality  
Committee will be serving  
strawberry shortcake  
between services in honor  
of all mothers.

## Pushers Needed!



Parmly is still in need of wheelchair  
pushers on Sunday mornings. Volun-  
teers must be vaccinated, and also wear  
both masks and protective eyewear.  
(eyewear will be provided) We are also  
in need of someone to organize our vol-  
unteers. If you are willing to volunteer or  
organize our volunteers, please let the  
office know.



QUILTING GROUP

Quilting for May will have to be  
rescheduled due to the Senior  
Luncheon. Watch the Zone or  
a call from Corrine as to when  
it will be rescheduled for.



The members of Zion  
have raised \$8,000 to sup-  
port Ukraine! The en-  
dowment committee is  
adding an additional  
\$2,000 for a total of  
\$10,000! This money will be sent to Lutheran  
World Relief to help both inside Ukraine and the  
refugees in the countries surrounding Ukraine.  
Thank you for your generosity and support of  
this project.

## Prayer Chain

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)



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Council Minutes**  
March 15, 2022

**Devotions:** Dave Tosteson (*April – Sherri Baumann*)

**Members Present:** Corrine Mix, Mary Redgrave, Glade Sietsema, Carl Thomsen, Kris Skoog, Sherri Baumann, Kelly Lachmiller, Jim Green, Dave Tosteson and Pastor Sarah. Meeting was held in the fellowship hall.

**Member Absent:** None

**Guests:** Deb Hoffmeister

Motion to approve February council minutes by Dave Tosteson and second by Jim Green. Motion passed.

**Staff and Committee Reports:**

1. Finance: \$25,131 checking, about \$53,988 savings
  - o Our costs have gone up (utilities, snow plowing, etc). Prepaid offering has been helpful with cash flow
  - o NOIZY offering at Easter – split between Feed My Starving Children & local Food Shelf
2. Property:
  - o Security issues – key pads are on order.
  - o Cheryl Peterson is donating picnic tables in memory of Dale.
3. Technology – Hand held microphone is not working
4. Music & Worship – looking for an organist
5. Mutual Ministry – program has started.
6. Education –
  - o Adult Forum will start up again
7. Mission & Outreach – continuing personal care kits & quilts
8. Hospitality – name is being changed to Service Teams
9. Shepherding Ministry – written report

**Update from Pastor:**

Worship in person and live streaming –  
Ash Wednesday  
Mid-week Worship – Confirmation kids will be doing skits  
Point Pleasant weekly visits  
Care Giver Support Group – led group while leader was out  
Bible Study on Thursdays  
North Conference – in person!  
Weekly text study  
Member visits  
Altar Guild is quilting new paraments  
Community Meal Meeting  
Head Start will no longer need office space  
Upcoming –

- 1<sup>st</sup> Communion – 4/3
- Ethel Dahl – 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Party – 4/3
- Thomsen Wedding – 4/8
- Funeral – Jerry Long on April 23
- Vacation – 5/7 & 5/8

Motion to approve Committee/Staff report and Pastor's report by Barb Garness. Second by Corrine Mix. Motion passed.

### **Ongoing Business:**

1. Spending Wish List: Kitchen, roof, sanctuary reconfiguration, new van, outdoor stage, musical upgrades, balcony railing, pickleball courts, new garage - keep on agenda as a reminder.
  2. COVID Protocol Updates –
    - o Community Meal – looking to resume 5/9
    - o Worship – masks optional but keep the division of pews. But will monitor COVID rates and will adjust protocols accordingly
- Planting Hope Campaign – review literature and fundraiser timeline

### **New Business:**

1. Spiritual Gifts Assessment – Tool Kit Meeting was attended by Dave Tosteson. Discuss having a workshop for council.
- Farewell for Joy – her final Sunday will be on Easter

Motion to adjourn by Jim Green. Second by Dave Tosteson. Motion passed.

**Next meeting date: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at the Fellowship Hall (exec. council by email)**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Skoog

## **Gee Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire . . . And Encourage**

### **God Knows Us by Name**

Sheep aren't smart. They tend to wander into running creeks for water, then their wool grows heavy and they drown. They need a shepherd to lead them to "calm waters". They have no natural defense-no claws, no horns, no fangs. They are helpless and need a shepherd to protect them. They have no sense of direction; they need someone to lead them "on paths that are right". So do we. We, too, tend to be swept away by waters we should have avoided. We have no defense against the evil lion who prowls about seeking whom he might devour. We too, get lost.

We need a shepherd. We need a shepherd to care for us and to guide us. And we have one! One who knows us by name.

Max Lucado from *a Gentle Thunder*

The church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians but a school for the education of imperfect ones, a nursery for the care of the weak ones, a hospital for the healing of those who need special care.

And a funny.....a pastor purposely unbuttoned his suit vest before his sermon to help illustrate how difficult it is to fix things when you've started off on the wrong foot. As he stood before the congregation he asked, "Does anyone notice anything unusual about me"? A six year old boy shouted out, "Yes your shoes are dirty."



## Confirmation

Confirmation class is continuing their study of the New Testament. Class will meet on Wednesdays through May 18. The class greatly appreciates the treats the members of the congregation have provided them with during the year.

## Baptized in Christ

We welcome into the family of Christ on May 1, Nora Noelle Sapp, daughter of Adam & Samantha Sapp. Her sponsors are Jessica Bistram and Grace Sapp. She is the granddaughter of Carl & Anne Thomsen.

We welcome into the family of Christ on May 15, Lettie Lynn Schmitz, daughter of Melissa & Jason Schmitz. Her sponsors are Derrik Thomas & Hailey Maxine Brazel.

## **Creative Giving Ideas to Zion (aka - You may also save on your taxes)**

### **I – Annual Gifts**

There are a number of ways to give to Zion as part of your annual giving, but are you aware of some of the more creative ways? With the new tax laws in place for 2022, it's important to be aware of some strategies that can save on your income taxes. Because the Standard Deductions have gone up, your contributions may not be deductible.

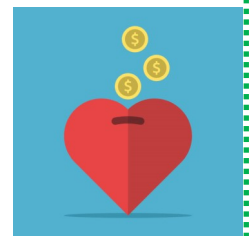
If you have an IRA and are over 72, you have to do a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). If you've attained age 70 ½, you can do a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. At age 72, the QCD counts as part of your Required Minimum Distribution. The check is payable directly to Zion. That way, it's not included as part of your income. This means that it may save taxes on your Social Security as well.

Another idea would be to donate shares of appreciated stock. This will avoid paying Capital Gains or concerns about Cost Basis. If you have some Government Bonds that have tax deferred gain or may not even be paying interest at this time, you could change the ownership to Zion. They're then cashed in with no tax consequences.

Consult your financial advisor or your tax preparer for specifics.

### **II – Planned Giving – as part of your estate planning**

1. Name Zion as a beneficiary in your will or trust. Name a specific bequest, e.g., Endowment Fund, Capital Improvements, General Fund, if you prefer.
2. Add, or change, the beneficiary on an account: brokerage, CD's, IRA, Life Insurance, Tax Deferred Annuity, real estate (works best if named in a trust). Percentages work well in most cases.
1. Use pre-tax accounts, if possible.





## 8:30 Service Assistants

### May 1

Ushers: Bob & Nancy Butte  
Greeters: LouAnn Freeman  
Reader: Shirley Kerkow  
Coffee Server: Denny & Sandy Patrias  
Sound Tech - (needed)

### May 8 - Mother's Day

Ushers: Jim & Susan Schneider  
Greeter: Pat Pojanowski  
Reader: Deb Hoffmeister  
Coffee served by Hospitality Committee

### May 15

Ushers: Barb & Larry Lundberg  
Greeter:  
Reader:  
Coffee servers: Betty H. & Pat P.  
Sound Tech - (needed)

### May 22

Ushers:  
Greeter: Jim & Susan Schneider  
Reader:  
Coffee Servers:

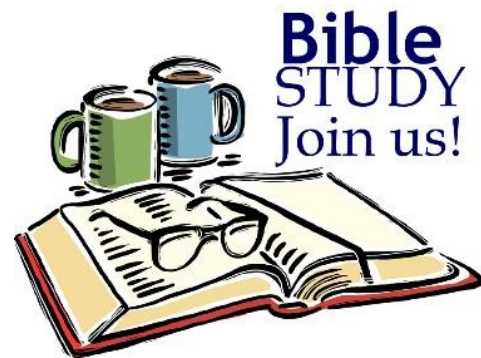
### May 29

Ushers:  
Greeters:  
Reader:  
Coffee Servers:

*Thank You!*

## **Caregivers Courage Group**

Our caregivers support group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 am. Meetings will be held in the church Fellowship Hall, with all COVID protocols being followed. Everyone will be sitting at their own table. If you wish to bring a beverage for yourself, please feel free to do so.



Pastor's May Bible Study continues to focus on how to read the Bible. There are many approaches we can take when studying Scripture. What questions can we ask the text? What do we need to know about the Biblical worldview? How can we dig more deeply into the Word? Join us in the church library at 10:00 am on Thursdays. Beginning Bible readers welcome!

## *Men's* **Bible Study**

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. We are fortunate to have Pastor Richard Baumann with us who is able to offer his clerical knowledge, perspective, and insight; he also tries to keep us on task! Bring your coffee, etc. and use the back entrance. We encourage you to give this a try.

## **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](mailto:pastor@zionlcc.org) 651-257-2713

### CHISAGO LAKES



### COMMUNITY MEAL

Community Meals are scheduled to resume on **JUNE 6** from 4-6 pm. The board is meeting to make plans to keep people as safe as possible. Pat Pojanowski has volunteered to be in charge of

organizing our church volunteers and dessert providers. There is a donation button on our Vanco website for financial donations to the Community meal. Sue Frame, Pat Pojanowski, and Pastor Sarah are our Zion members on the community meal board. Thank you for your contribution!



**Personal Care Kits** are needed worldwide and the items are readily available for us to purchase. Each kit needs the following items:

- 1 lightweight bath towel  
20 x 40 to 27 x 52  
Dark color recommended
- 2-3 bath sized bars of soap
- 1 adult toothbrush in original wrapping
- 1 sturdy comb (no picks or finetooth)
- 1 metal nail clipper

Please buy what you can and we will make the kits. It is suggested that you buy in bulk. Please do **NOT** add other items. Personal Care Kits are a year-round project.

## FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

For the month of April we collected **80 pounds** of donations for our local food shelf.

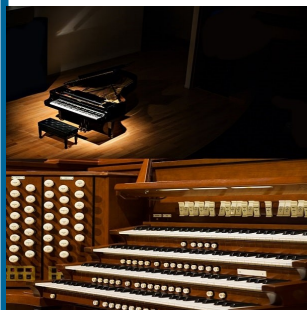
Current needs are:

- Baked Beans
- Pickles
- Ramen
- Pop-Tarts
- S'more makings
- Fruit Snacks
- Individual cereals (hot or cold)
- Kleenex
- Toilet Paper
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Ravioli
- Spaghetti-O's
- Dish Soap
- Salsa
- Specialty Diet Foods
  - Gluten free
  - Low sodium
  - Sugar free

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!***



Zion is looking for a new organist/pianist to play for Sunday morning worship. Do you know anyone or have any ideas on where to search? If so, contact one of the members of the musician search committee: Sherri Baumann, KC Douglas, Shirley Kerkow, Kelly Lachmiller, Corrine Mix, or Pastor Sarah. Over the summer we will also be looking for a new choir director and a bell choir director.



# Birthday Bags!



Our local food shelf needs items for the Birthday Bag Project. The project has been modified recently to include children of all ages (older children), so a few details have been changed.

## Items this program accepts

- \$10 Gift cards (Target, Walmart, McDonald's, DQ, etc...)
- Cake Mixes: Funfetti, Chocolate or Vanilla
- Frosting: Funfetti, Chocolate or Vanilla
- Cupcake Liners
- Birthday Candles (no number candles)
- Packages of Balloons
- Birthday Plates
- Birthday Napkins

## Items this program will NOT be accepting:

- Opened packages of plates or napkins
- Toys, books, coloring books, clothing, etc....
- Gift bags
- Non birthday related items (other Holidays/ Events)
- Plastic silverware, decorations, straws, cups or sprinkles

Donations may be dropped off in the designated box in the church Narthex.

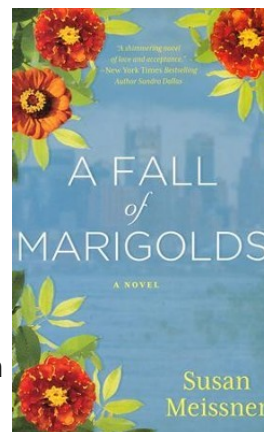
## Book Club

Book club is meeting in the church library on the first Monday of each month **at 6:00 pm**. Please contact Marilyn Rue if you need more information.

mrue.rue@gmail.com

Our **May** book is *A Fall of Marigolds* by Sarah Meissner.

Set in New York City, a scarf ties together the stories of 2 women as they struggle with personal journeys 100 years apart. Clara witnesses a devastating factory fire and Taryn is involved in 9/11. A historical novel of love and resilience.



Our **June** book is *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek*. Cussy Mary Carter is the last of her kind, but that doesn't mean she's got nothing to offer. As a member of the Pack Horse Library Project, she delivers books to the hill folk of Troublesome, hoping to spread learning in these desperate times. But not everyone is so keen on Cussy's family or the library project.



## You Can now give to Zion online!



We have added a "Vanco" online giving button to our webpage! Giving online is simple and secure! If you have never used Vanco before, it is fast, secure, and easy! Scan the QR code with your phone or portable device or head to our website at <https://zionlcc.org/> and click on the Vanco button on our website! If you already have an automatic donation using Vanco and would like to update, talk to Nikki on Tuesday.

Do you need some help with your smart phone or computer?  
Below are some of the technology drop in classes sponsored by Community Ed. You can call 651-213-2603 with any questions about the classes.

**TECHNOLOGY LABS: DROP INS**

<b>Taylor's Falls City Hall</b> Thursdays @ 2pm April 7th & 21st, May 5th & 19th	<b>MPower Wellness Center</b> Wednesday's @ 10am April 6th & May 4th
<b>Wildcat Community Center</b> Tuesday's @ 2:30 March 29th April 12th & 26th, May 10th & 24th	<b>Lindstrom Senior Living Community</b> Wednesday's @ 2pm March 23rd, April 27th & May 25th

**Look for more classes and tech labs in the Fall 2022**



### **The Relay for Life Garage Sale is ON!**

The sale will be held during Ki-Chi-Saga days, August 18-21. You can start bringing items for sale to the church **AFTER** June 10th. **NO electronics or exercise equipment will be accepted for the garage sale.** Thank you for supporting Relay for Life!



### **Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly**

May 13-14, 2022 | St. Andrew's, Mahtomedi

The St. Paul Synod Assembly will be held (in person) on May 13-14th. Our congregational representatives are Sherri Baumann and Karen Pavel, who will be attending with Pastor Sarah. In addition, George Mickelson is attending as he is a member of the Synod Council.



## **Senior & Friends Worship & Luncheon**

Seniors and Friends are back! We are planning to have our Senior and Friends worship and luncheon event on May 19, at 11:00! We will gather for worship together and then enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship! Won't you join us in May? Call the church office at 651-257-2713 to RSVP and let them know if you need a ride or not. Hope to see you there! Bring a friend!

We also need volunteers to help with the event and to make dessert for the meal. If you are willing to help, check out the sign up sheet above the drinking fountain in the Narthax.

## **Health Ministry Team is Reconvening**

A Health Ministry Team is a group of lay people and Parish Nurses who work together to focus on the overall health and wellness of the congregation. The primary focus of our Health Ministry Team would be to assess the congregation's health and wellness needs, and the congregations interest for further health education. Working together we would plan and provide for those needs and interests.

We are looking for people who work in the health care field, i.e. doctors, nurses, therapists, nurses, specialists, mental health workers, pharmacists, social workers, as well as lay people who are interested in promoting health in body, mind, and spirit.

If this sounds like a ministry where you would like to use your gifts, please join us for our meeting on **Sunday, May 15, at 9:30 am** in the Library. Grab your coffee and treat and join us. If you have questions before that, speak to Karen Pavel, Sherri Baumann, or Vicki Mickelsen.

## **Making a difference...**

Pastor Sarah received the following (paraphrased) letter from a former member:

Pastor Sarah,

You don't know me, I am a former member of Zion, moved in 2005. I still get emails from Zion. Just wanted to let you know how much they have meant to me the past 2 years. It has been like a life line. ...I feel having a woman pastor you can relate to me and other better. I belong to a church but because of covid I don't go out as often so your sermons and booster shot are really welcome. During Lent this year instead of giving something up I decided to make cards and send to 40 different people. I always say: "You can never do a kindness too soon - because you never know how soon it is too late." I am also including a check for your general fund.

Thank you,

Shirley Sanborn.

**MAY  
2022**

28005 Old Towne Road  
Chisago City, MN  
55013

Phone: 651-257-2713

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



### **Staff Members:**

Pastor Sarah Kerkes, ext. 102

[pastor@zionlcc.org](mailto:pastor@zionlcc.org)

Office Administrator: KC Douglas, ext. 101

[office@zionlcc.org](mailto:office@zionlcc.org)

Bookkeeper: Deb Hoffmeister, ext. 103

[bookkeeper@zionlcc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@zionlcc.org)

Shepherding Ministry: Karen Pavel ext. 106

[shepherd@zionlcc.org](mailto:shepherd@zionlcc.org)

NOIZ: Megan Dreckman

Sunday School: Anne Thomsen

Financial Secretary: Nicole Battles

[finance@zionlcc.org](mailto:finance@zionlcc.org)

Youth Director: Todd Freeman

Organist & Bell Choir Director: Joy Sietsema

Choir Director: Kelly Lachmiller

Custodian & Groundskeeper: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery Grounds: John Hawkinson

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### **2022 Church Council Members:**

Danny Eby	President
Jim Green	Vice President, Outreach, Human Resources
Kris Skoog	Council Secretary, Finance, Human Resources
Carl Thomsen	Property
Kelly Lachmiller	Worship & Music
Corrine Mix	Missions
Danny Eby	Mutual Ministry
Mary Redgrave	Stewardship
Barb Garness	Hospitality
Sherri Baumann	Shepherding
Glade Sietsema	Technology
Dave Tosteson	Education