

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"***

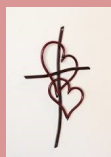
**Sunday Worship
Schedule:**

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

2021

A Message from Pastor Sarah

The trees are in their autumnal glory. It is as if the woods are on fire with reds, golds, purples and browns. Leaves are making one last reach for the sky before drifting down to the earth where they will slowly decompose to nurture the earth. It is a beautiful time of year which reminds us that God's creativity is endless and colorful. Every fall is different, depending on the weather, the sunshine and the first frost.

This fall is different at church also. We are still taking safety precautions (if you have questions about that, we have a few ICU nurses that would be happy to have a conversation with you). We are making holy space outside in the south yard with a fire pit and soon to be heated tents for holding classes and meetings. We are adding an informal Wednesday evening worship service as part of our NOIZ and Confirmation night. In addition, we will be having Sunday School on Wednesday nights starting this month. It is not the way we use to do things, but we are being creative and flexible. Perhaps some old attitudes and ways need to fall to earth so we can provide nurture and support for the next generation.

Thank you for your ongoing support, generosity and enthusiasm for the ministry of Zion. We continue to be blessed with colorful and creative people seeking "to make the love of Christ known to all."

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Daniel said:

*"Blessed be the name of God from age to age,
for wisdom and power are his.
He changes times and seasons,
deposes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding.
He reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and light dwells with him. Daniel 2:20-22*



Thank You!

Dear **Kitchen Crew**.

Thank you so much for helping with food and serving at Dale's Memorial Service. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Cheryl Peterson

Dear **Zion Family**,

Thank you so much for all the support, prayers, cards, visits, etc. for Barb Johnson and our family throughout these difficult times. The funeral service and luncheon were wonderful. We appreciate and want to thank each and every one of you.

Love,

Stuart Johnson

Sue and Tom Swanson Family

Sandy and Jon Nickelson Family

~ Thank you to **Jonathan and Kari Dodge** for installing the new fire pit on the south lawn. We will enjoy it for many years to come!

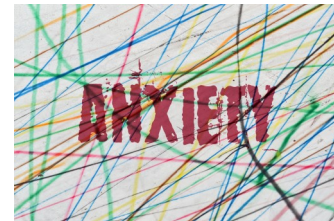
~ Thank you to **Herb Letourneau** for his ongoing work/supervision of property issues. We recently replaced two windows in the education unit that had been broken. We are also repairing stucco on the north side of the building. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing generosity that allows us to keep our building and grounds in good repair.

~ Thank you to **T Gary Schneider** for all the years of lawn mowing and snow removal. He has retired from this duty. Please thank him when you see him. Dexter Blander will be adding the outdoor work to his job duties.

~ Thank you to **Richard Strand** for making a beautiful long table to go with the one we already have. This table will be used for funerals, for holding plates and bulletins at the rear of the church, and for other needs as they arrive. Richard also made the new plant stands.

~ Thank you to **Rod Sietsema** for his work around the church from thermostat settings, filter changing, sound tech work etc.

~ Thank you to **Rod Sietsema, Todd Freeman and Carl Thomsen** for putting up our outdoor canopy. Thank you to the **9th grade confirmation class** (and some helpful parents) for putting up the second one! Thanks to **Todd** for installing lights so that we can continue with outdoor classes as long as possible.



We know that this past year and a half has been hard on all of us. It has been really hard on our children/grandchildren. The rate of anxiety and depression among children and teens is growing. Perhaps you see the signs in your own family. Has your child become irritable and easily angered? Have their eating patterns changed? Do they try to avoid activities that they used to enjoy? Have sleep patterns changed? Do they worry about everything? Do you worry about them?

Zion has received a grant from Fairview Interfaith Health Collaborative. This grant has allowed me to buy online resources that can help families understand and deal with anxiety and depression. This online workshop has one track for children and another for parents/grandparents. If you are interested in this, please let me know and I will send you the passwords you need to participate. You can preview the program at

<https://www.copingcatparents.com/>.

Again, if you would like to participate send me a note and I will send you the codes. We can have 4 families at a time participate. This program will be available for an entire year so when one family has made it through the program, they can let me know and another family can use the code.



We have decided to have Sunday School on Wednesday evenings this year. There will be a meal at 5:15, worship service at 5:45, then Sunday School from 6:15 to 6:45. We have curriculum and leader guides that lay out everything! We will need volunteers to make this happen.

Please consider helping out in getting our kids back to Sunday School. If each family just took one or two times to lead, we would have it covered. I can help get materials and anything else one might need for the lesson. If you know of another family who might be interested, please let them know. Thank you!

Please let me know if you can help. We would like to start the first week of October.

In love and thanks,
Anne Thomsen

~~~~~



Introducing Wednesday Worship. We have added a Wednesday evening outdoor worship service at 5:45 pm. We will meet by the fire pit. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on. The service is will be a half hour long and is very child friendly. It will consist of simply hymns, a children's sermon/story time, a litany and prayers. Let Pastor know if you are able to help with music.

## Confirmation News

Congratulations to this year's Confirmands:

Reid Benhardus  
Danner Campbell  
William Douglas  
Connor Frederixon  
Charlie Gilmen  
Dylan Klecker  
Lily Lachmiller  
Ava Ohmann  
Kaleb Orton  
Paige Peterson  
Connor Overgaard

They will be confirmed in small groups throughout the month of October. We rejoice with them as they confess their faith and become adult members of our congregation.

Confirmation Class continues in October with two sessions on Wednesday evening. Students can come at 4:00 or 6:15 pm. We are learning about the New Testament. We are also providing a **meal** on Wednesdays at 5:15 pm followed by **worship** at 5:45 pm. Both of these events are open to all members of the congregation and community.



Youth group starts this week. We will be doing the 3rd annual planting of the youth tree in the church yard. On Halloween night, we will be stationed in front of the church handing out treats to neighborhood trick-or-treaters. Bring your kids to get some treats! Thanks, Todd

## *New Funeral Policy*

We have been busy with funerals lately. There are a lot of details that go into each funeral service as we seek to honor our loved ones with dignity and lift up families in prayer.

It is important to know what a funeral home/director provides:

- filing of certificates and permits,
- assisting with legal issues,
- placement of obituary notices in papers,
- coordinating the service with the cemetery including Fort Snelling and the local Honor Guard (if requested),
- supervising the service including arranging the flowers,
- lighting candles,
- handing out bulletins,
- directing indoor traffic,
- answering questions,
- assuring the safety of the cards/monies etc,
- writing all the checks to church staff, newspapers, family florists, etc.,
- assisting at the cemetery,
- and being on hand to answer all sorts of questions.

More and more families are choosing to have their loved ones cremated and then bypass the use of funeral home services. If you do this, you receive the cremains and the rest of the details are up to you. Pastor assists with planning, has to make arrangements with the local cemetery, honor guard etc. She has to make sure staff is paid, answer questions and provide much of the support a funeral director would do. A member of the altar guild is also present at each funeral to help with service details (flower arrangements, ushering, set up and clean up).



Because a lot more work is involved in services that are not using a funeral home/director, the council has agreed to raise the amount paid to our staff for non-funeral home funerals. In addition, we will be requesting a donation to the altar guild for the extra help they provide.

Our current rates are shown in the table below.

|                        | With Funeral Home | Without Funeral Home |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Pastor                 | \$200             | \$500                |
| Organist/Pianist       | \$125             | \$125                |
| Soloist                | \$100             | \$100                |
| Custodian              | \$50              | \$50                 |
| Sound/Video Technician | \$75              | \$75                 |
| Altar Guild            |                   | \$50                 |



# ANNUAL MEETING

We will be having an annual meeting this year in November. If you are on a team or committee, please get your report to the office by November 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Letter from Council President

Dear friends in Christ,

It is that time of year when the weather starts changing and the church begins to get more active. Do I dare to say that snow is around the corner...? It is also that time when of the year when council begins to get ready for the annual meeting. We are all looking forward to the meeting this year, especially since there was no meeting last year due to the pandemic. We are planning the meeting for the end of November, and it will be great to see everyone.

I hope that everyone has had a chance to make it by the church to see the parking lot. I know it sounds strange, but it is a really nice parking lot. Many thanks go out to the congregation for making the new parking lot available. The generosity of our church is truly remarkable.

Speaking of generosity, the garage sale was a huge success. Zion was able to raise over \$7,000, all of which was donated to Relay for Life. If you had made it by the church for the garage sale, you know that there were more items available at the sale than ever before.

Again, the generosity at Zion is amazing. Council is truly honored to be able to serve Zion. Thank you all for the prayers and support that you all have for Zion. We are truly an amazing church.

God Bless,

-Danny Eby

The Community Meal Board has decided to postpone starting until next spring. The Board is always looking for new board members. Zion would also welcome volunteers and a volunteer coordinator for the evenings we are signed up to serve.



Our prayers go out to the families of the following people who recently passed away:

Gary Hoffmeister  
Charlie Block  
Dale Peterson  
Larry Johnson  
Delores Melquist

The funeral service for Delores Melquist (Charlene Richter's mother) will be on Saturday, October 9 at 11:00.

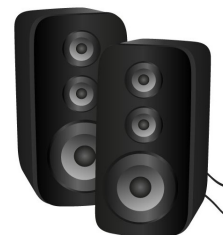


We are still in need of a few more drivers for Meals on Wheels. If you are able to help on any of the following dates, please contact the church office or Marilyn Rue.

- ◆ December 30, Thursday
- ◆ December 31, Friday



We are looking for a couple people who would be interested in learning how to run the sound system for our services. It's really much easier than it looks! If you are willing to help out, please contact the church office.



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes**  
August 17, 2021

**Devotions:** Jim Green (*September – Corrine Mix*)

**Members Present:** Corrine Mix, Mary Redgrave, Glade Sietsema, Jim Green, Karen Pavel, Kris Skoog, Barb Garness, Pastor Sarah. Meeting was held in the fellowship hall.

**Member Absent:** Laura Freeman, Carl Thomsen

**Guests:** Deb Hoffmeister

**Staff and Committee Reports:**

1. Finance: \$54,360 checking, about \$201,316 savings
    - a. Parking lot – is complete! There is a deficit of approximately \$60,000 between the amount due and designated parking lot memorials. But there is enough money overall in the savings account to cover the total bill from other memorial funds. The congregation's response to project has been generous.
    - b. Stucco issues on side of building – we are contacting insurance company because the damage is due to external water damage. Is any of this covered?
    - c. Hospitality:
    - d. Relay for Life Garage Sale – there is so much stuff! Cemetery is paying for the dumpster for the stuff that does not go and cannot be donated elsewhere
    - e. Funeral teams are going to be reworked
    - f. Education – looking for safe ways to reach out children. Meeting on 8/18/21 to discuss Sunday School and NOIZ
    - g. Mission & Outreach – working on personal care kits
- Technology – one projector has been installed and we are looking toward getting the other one installed. Glade is doing a great job with the live streaming.

**Update from Pastor:**

Trinity & Chisago Lakes Lutheran has cut back to 1 service

Pastor Terran has resigned at CL Lutheran & the Almelund pastor has also resigned

Worship in person: attendance is increasing

Funeral for Jeanne Pielow

VBS – about 25 people. Fun was had by all. All ages are welcome

Community Meal – hoping at start in mid-October. They are purchasing HEPA filters, taking out half the tables, all volunteers will have to be masked, as tables are filled those waiting will be given a number

Altar Guild – Sue Schneider will be reaching out to the committee. Looking for helpers when there is a funeral

Shut in visits

Bring communion to Point Pleasant

Meet with Head Start

Bible Study – about 10-12 people

Was on vacation 8/2 – 8/13

Upcoming –

Community Memorial Service – 8/29/21, 2:00 pm

Motion to approve June council minutes, committee reports and Pastor's report by Barb Garness and second by Corrine Mix. Motion passed.

### **Ongoing Business:**

Spending list: Kitchen, roof, sanctuary reconfiguration, new van, outdoor stage, musical upgrades, balcony railing, fire pit, pickleball courts, new garage - keep on agenda as a reminder.

### **New Business:**

1. Resignation by Mike Savold as choir director was received
  2. Assemble a new committee to discuss music staffing and music related needs. Corrine will be the council representative
- Open position for office secretary

**Next meeting date: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at the Fellowship Hall (exec. council by email)**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Skoog



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

Led By the Spirit

*The true children of God are those who let God's spirit lead them.*

*Romans 8:14*



To hear many of us talk, you'd think we didn't believe that verse. You'd think we didn't believe in the Trinity. We talk about the Father and study the Son - but when it comes to the Holy Spirit, we are possibly confused at best and frightened at worst. Confused because we've never been taught? Frightened because we've been taught to be afraid?

May I simplify things a bit? The Holy Spirit is the presence of God in our lives, carrying on the work of Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us in three directions—inwardly (by granting us the fruits of the Spirit, Gal. 5:22-24), upwardly (by praying for us, Romans 8:26), and outwardly (by pouring God's love into our hearts, Romans 5:5).

Max Lucado from *When God Whispers Your Name*

I have often regretted what I have said but rarely have I regretted my silence.

Author Unknown

Church bulletin bloopers....not ours! The church youth will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement this Wed at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.



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

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

### **School Back Pack Project**

Tis that time to start preparing for the completion of this ongoing project. Backpacks are being made and will need the necessary supplies. The supplies will be on sale in all stores shortly. We are applying for the **Thrivent Financial** funds to help in this project, but your help would also be appreciated. Each backpack needs:

- 4 70 sheet Spiral Note Books
- I Ruler
- 5 #2 Pencils
- 5 Ballpoint Pens [not gel]
- I Pencil Sharpener
- I Blunt Scissors
- I Box 6/24 Crayons

**OR** a monetary donation to help cover the costs involved.

We cannot go to other places to guide and teach children who receive these backpacks, but our support of this project may help a child find the incentive to strive for higher goals in life.

May the LORD bless this project, the children receiving them and us as we support it. Items may be left in box by Welcome Table in hall outside church office. Thank You!

## **8:30 Service Assistants**

### **Oct. 3**

Ushers: Carl & Anne Thomsen  
Greeters: Denny & Sandy Patrias  
Reader: Deb Hoffmeister  
Coffee Servers: Joan Johnson & Shirley Kerkow

### **Oct. 10**

Ushers: Gary & Julie Lauritzen  
Greeters: Arlen & Sheila Strehlo  
Reader: George Mickelsen  
Coffee Servers: Arlen & Sheila Strehlo

### **Oct. 17**

Ushers:  
Greeters:  
Reader: Corrine Mix  
Coffee Servers:

### **Oct. 24**

Ushers: Gary & Julie Lauritzen  
Greeters:  
Reader: Julie Lauritzen  
Coffee Servers:

### **Oct. 31**

Ushers:  
Greeters:  
Reader: Corrine Mix  
Coffee Servers: Gary & Julie Lauritzen

## ***Thank You!***

### **Altar Care for July**

Susan Schneider -  
Coordinator





## Grief Support Group

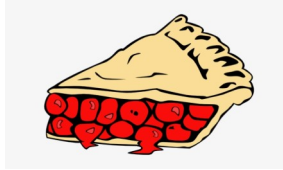
Starting on September 8, we will be adding a **Grief Support Group**. This group, facilitated by Pastor Sarah, will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 10:00 am. This is also open to people in the larger community. If you know someone who has lost a loved and could use a caring group that understands the pain, please let them know about this group. For more information, contact Pastor Sarah at:

## 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.

## PIE FUNDRAISER

Pat Pojanowski will once again be baking pies in November to raise funds for the Chisago Lakes Area Food Shelf and Zion's parking lot.



Pies that are ordered will be available for pick up on the following Sundays in November.

Flavors available are:

- Pumpkin
- Pecan
- Blueberry
- Apple
- Cherry

A sign up sheet will be available to order ahead of time, or can call Pat at 651-257-3863 to place an order.

***Thank you for your support!***

*Funds are provided by Thrivent Action Teams to help with this project.*

## FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

For the month of September we collected **174 pounds** of donations for our local food shelf.

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

Current needs are:

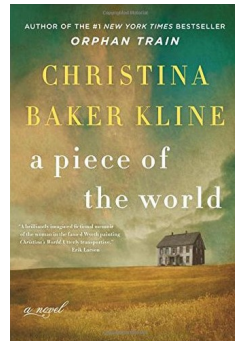
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry detergent
- Dish Soap
- Sugar
- Brownie Mixes
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes

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

## Book Club

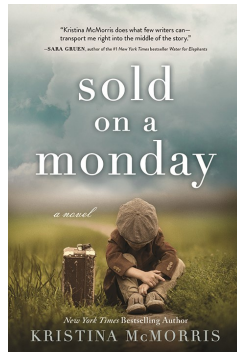
Book club is excited to return to meeting in person on the first Monday of each month **at 6:00 pm** . Please contact Sue Frame if you need more information. . Susan.k.frame@gmail.com

Our **October** book will be *A Piece of the World* by Christine Baker Kline.



Christina Olson is tied to her home by health and circumstance, and seems destined for a small life. Instead, she becomes Andrew Wyeth's first great inspiration and subject of one of the best-known paintings of the twentieth century. Christine's *A piece of the world* is fiction based on fact.

Our **November** book is *Sold on a Monday* by Kristina McMorris.

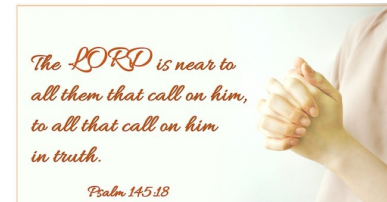


2 children for sale – The sign is a last resort, but could be found anywhere in an era of breadlines, bank runs, and broken dreams. It could have been written by any mother facing impossible choices. For struggling reporter Ellis Reid, the gut-wrenching scene evokes memories of his family's dark past. He snaps a photograph of the children, not mean for publication. This is a powerful novel of love, redemption, and the unexpected paths that bring us home.

## 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)



Join Pastor Sarah and others for Bible Study. We meet Thursday mornings at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Looking to safely get out of the house and have some interaction? We have a men's group that meets Saturday 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!

We are covid compliant and sit at separate tables in the fellowship hall. Bring your coffee, etc. and use the back entrance. We encourage you to give this a try.

| Sun                                                                          | Mon                                                  | Tue                           | Wed                                                                                                                       | Thu                                                                      | Fri                                                      | Sat                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 26<br>8:30am - Traditional<br>9am - Flu Clinic<br>10:45am - Contemporary     | 27<br>8pm - Book Club @ Zoom                         | 28<br>10am - Respite Care     | 29<br>4pm - Confirmation 1<br>4pm - NOIZ<br>8:15pm - Confirmation 2<br>8:15pm - Grace Notes                               | 30<br>10am - Bible Study                                                 | 1<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                          | 2<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                          |
| 3<br>8:30am - Traditional<br>10:45am - Contemporary<br>1pm - Blessing of the | 4<br>8pm - Book Club @ Zoom                          | 5<br>Head Start Dental Day @  | 8<br>9:30am - Caregiver<br>4pm - Confirmation 1<br>4pm - NOIZ<br>8:15pm - Confirmation 2<br>8:15pm - Grace Notes          | 7<br>10am - Bible Study                                                  | 8<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study<br>11am - Funeral (hold) | 9<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study<br>11am - Funeral (hold) |
| 10<br>8:30am - Traditional<br>10:45am - Contemporary                         | 11<br>Columbus Day<br>Indigenous Peoples' Day        | 12<br>10am - Respite Care @ L | 13<br>10am - Grief Support Group<br>4pm - Confirmation 1<br>4pm - NOIZ<br>8:15pm - Confirmation 2<br>8:15pm - Grace Notes | 14<br>10am - Bible Study<br>8pm - Finance Committee                      | 15<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                         | 16<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                         |
| 17<br>8:30am - Traditional<br>10:45am - Contemporary                         | 18<br>8pm - Council                                  | 19<br>8pm - Council           | 20<br>9:30am - Caregiver<br>4pm - Confirmation 1<br>4pm - NOIZ<br>8:15pm - Confirmation 2<br>8:15pm - Grace Notes         | 21<br>Focus Article Deadline<br>10am - Bible Study<br>12:30pm - Quilting | 22<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                         | 23<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                         |
| 24<br>8:30am - Traditional<br>10:45am - Contemporary                         | 25<br>8pm - Book Club @ Zoom                         | 26<br>10am - Respite Care     | 27<br>10am - Grief Support Group<br>4pm - Confirmation 1<br>4pm - NOIZ<br>8:15pm - Confirmation 2<br>8:15pm - Grace Notes | 28<br>Focus Printed<br>10am - Bible Study                                | 29<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                         | 30<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                         |
| 31<br>Halloween<br>8:30am - Traditional<br>10:45am - Contemporary            | 1<br>First Day of American<br>8pm - Book Club @ Zoom | 2<br>Election Day             | 3<br>9:30am - Caregiver<br>4pm - Confirmation 1<br>4pm - NOIZ<br>8:15pm - Confirmation 2<br>8:15pm - Grace Notes          | 4<br>10am - Bible Study                                                  | 5<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                          | 6<br>8:30am - Men's Bible Study                          |

## OCTOBER 2021

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: Joy Sietsema/ KC Douglas, ext. 101

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

Bookkeeper: Deb Hoffmeister, ext. 103

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

Accompanist: Julie Lauritzen

Custodian & Groundskeeper: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery Grounds: John Hawkinson

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### 2021 Church Council Members:

|                |                                             |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Danny Eby      | President                                   |
| Jim Green      | Vice President, Outreach, Human Resources   |
| Kris Skoog     | Council Secretary, Finance, Human Resources |
| Carl Thomsen   | Property                                    |
| Laura Freeman  | Worship & Music                             |
| Corrine Mix    | Missions                                    |
| Dan Eby        | Mutual Ministry                             |
| Mary Redgrave  | Stewardship                                 |
| Barb Garness   | Hospitality                                 |
| Karen Pavel    | Shepherding                                 |
| Glade Sietsema | Technology                                  |