

The Focus

November

A Publication of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2021

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



A Message from Pastor Sarah

This fall the Stewardship Team is asking all of us to think of the ways that Zion has been a gift. The responses have brought tears to my eyes. More than one person has shared that Zion has saved their life. Others tell of the ways Zion has become family. This church has made a deep difference in the lives of many people and it will continue to have an impact as we move into the future. What does Zion mean to you?

The other question we are asking is: What gifts do you share in return? How do we live out our gratitude for all that God has done for us? Again, there is a wide variety of answers which will be shared in this newsletter and in the Zion Zone. We encourage you to think of the ways you live your life in response to all the love God has shown. Your many and various gifts keep this ministry alive, keep God's love flowing in this corner of the world, and make an impact on the next generation.

Every fall I start singing the hymn I learned as a child "We give thee but thine own/whate'er the gifts may be./ All that we have is thine alone/ a trust, O Lord, from thee." These words were written by William How in 1858. How was an English priest and later Bishop who became known as "The Poor Man's Bishop" due to his work with the poor. (He also is a character in the famous play "The Elephant Man".) Throughout the centuries the church has made a difference in the world because the people of God have continued to share their gifts and abilities with their churches.

Thank you for being a part of Zion, for sharing your gifts with the church and with the community. We are richly blessed.

In Christ,
Pastor Sarah L. Kerkes

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

Corinthians 9:10-12



Thank You!

To Our Zion Family -

Thank you so much for all the prayers and support during the last few months. It was so nice to have the funeral here and the lunch was great!

Charlene & Gerry Richter
& the family of Delores Melquist

~~~~~  
On behalf of those children who will use the backpacks we have prepared - Thank You! Eleven volunteers had a good assembly line, Packing 209 handmade backpacks, and filling 29 boxes in an hour. The boxes will be taken to the **Lutheran World Relief** Warehouse in St. Paul for later shipment to children around the world.

Thanks to those with sewing talents for the backpacks, to all who donated supplies needed, and to **Thrivent Financial** for the \$250.00 grant, which was used to purchase the needed school supplies.

God has a plan, we are simply His tools in getting it done.

Thank you , Zion Members and friends.

~~~~~  
Thank you to our **Stewardship Team, skit volunteers and to you** for your ongoing support.

Thank you to **Rod Sietsema** for adjusting the thermostats throughout the building.

Thank you to **Brad Doble** for dealing with the mice who found their way into a sump pump control panel.

Thank you to the **funeral teams** who have been very busy this past month.

Thank you to **everyone who has supplied wood** for the fire pit. We have enjoyed using it and may be lighting fires throughout the winter months.



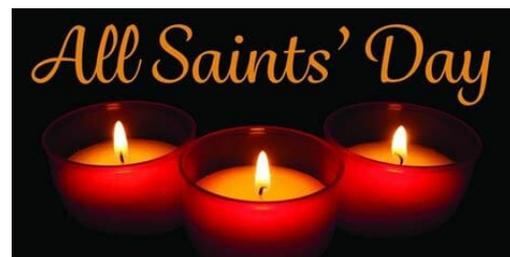
Welcome to our new/returning members!

Doug & Shelly Rensink
Michelle Rivard

We're thrilled to have you back at Zion!



We will be having our annual meeting on Sunday, November 21st between services. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall.



November 7th is All Saints Sunday. We will be lighting candles (at both services) for the members of the congregation that have died in the past year as well as lighting candles for those who have been baptized. Please join us for this special service.



Sunday School has started! All children are welcome! We are meeting on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 – 6:15. This is after the meal which is from 5:15 – 5:45. Both groups will meet in the classrooms across from the Fellowship Hall. Preschoolers meet in one room and kindergarten through 2nd grade will meet in another room. I am looking for more volunteers to help out teaching some of the lessons. The curriculum is well laid out and there is a handout with stickers to go with each lesson. I will gather other materials as needed. Please let me know if you would like to spend some time with our wonderful children of Zion!

In love and thanks,
Anne Thomsen



First Communion class will be held on Sunday, November 14th at 1:30 pm for children in grades 3 and above. Please let the church office know if your child will be attending.



Youth group for grades 9-12 meets on Wednesdays at 6:15, following the Family Worship service. Contact Todd Freeman with any questions.

Letter from Council President

Dear friends in Christ,

Winter is on the way, which always causes trepidation with the colder weather on the way, but also causes some excitement within the Church because the holidays are also on the way. Zion has a lot to be thankful for this year.

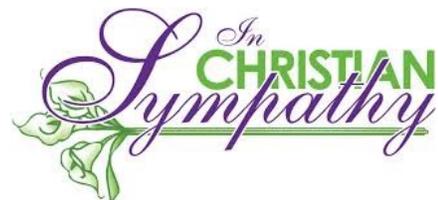
Surprisingly after such a large project like the parking lot, we are still in good shape financially. We are also doing some needed repairs to the exterior of the building. Updating our church and grounds is a sure sign of investment in our future and a definite reason to be grateful.

Pastor has said that the Wednesday night service and youth gatherings are going very well, as well as confirmation. First communion class will also be held in November.

Mission and outreach was able to pack over 200 backpacks to be sent out...Amazing!! Also, there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for the "Circle of Welcome". This is a program through Lutheran Social Services to aid refugees in Saint Paul. Quilts this year will be going out for silent auction the week before the annual meeting, which will be held on November 21.

As I said, there is much to be grateful for, and the council is grateful to all of you for allowing us to serve.

Thanks and God bless,
-Danny Eby



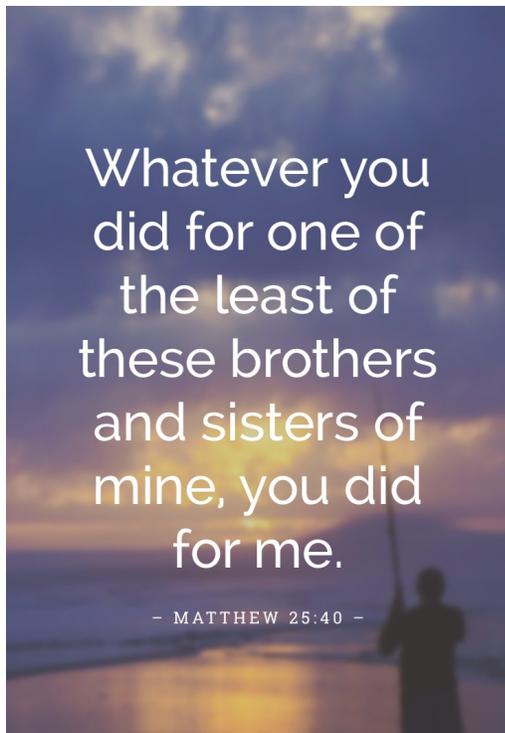
Our prayers go out to the family of Linda Strand who passed away October 17. Her memorial service was held on Oct. 23.



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.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your wonderful and generous help in the area of missions! Your love for others shows! Yes, we packed 209 School Kits, and George Mickelsen and Virgi Johnson brought 29 boxes to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse.

The first set of Personal Care Kits will be packed in November by the NOIZ kids. Remember, we will continue to collect towels, toothbrushes, and bars of soap. (I have a way of getting nail clippers and combs) Thanks! They will also go to Lutheran World Relief.

Our quilting group continues to work. Lots of materials and sheets have been given to us. Another thank you.

Pastor Sarah told us about Camp Noah, sponsored by the Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. They serve disaster-impacted children by building resiliency, restoring hope and changing lives. We will give them quilts.

We will also have a Silent Auction for a few of our quilts Nov. 14-21 (Annual Meeting Day). They will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for bids. This money will go to the fund for building Zion's new garage.

And yet other kits! We received a letter from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota requesting help for refugees through the Circle of Welcome in our Saint Paul Area Synod. (ELCA). The list of items is quite extensive but easily accessible at a reasonable cost. (see next page for the list) I have made four different sign up sheets. You can sign up for just one item or several. Please bring these items to church by Thanksgiving.

In December there will also be a focus on ELCA Good Gifts - popular gifts of animals and help for others. Once again we will have an Angel Tree for gifts for our Head Start families.

Thanks again for all your donations!

Corrine Mix



Refugee Services Donation Kits - Help a Family!

Highest priority items

Stew pot / saucepans with lid
Mop with bucket
Broom and dust pan
Garbage can and bags
Toilet paper
Electric alarm clock
Car seats
Rice cooker

Cleaning kit

Broom/dust pan
Mop/bucket
Sponges (2-4)
Scrub brushes (1)
Multi-purpose cleaner (1 bottle)
Dish soap (1 large bottle)
Laundry soap (1 large bottle)
Dish towel and rag
Toilet brush and plunger
Multi purpose cleaner

Toiletry kit

Put items inside a small reusable box or bag.

1 large bottle shampoo *
1 large bottle conditioner *
1 large bottle lotion *
2 Deodorants (women's or men's)
1 Bar of soap *
If adult:
1 large package of feminine pads OR
1 package of razors and large can shaving cream
1 regular or children's tube of toothpaste
Combs

*****Please – Full-size, not hotel or travel size***

School supply kit

Backpack (place all supplies inside!)

3 Folders with pockets
3 Wide ruled notebooks
#2 Pencils
1 Eraser
1 Scissors
1 Glue stick
1 Pencil/crayon sharpener (We always needs lots of these!)
1 Box of crayons
1 Pencil bag

Other a la carte items

Frying pan / skillet
Wok with lid
Dish soap
Sponges
Stovetop teapots
Toilet brush
Small wastebaskets
Bath towels
Bar Soap – for hands
Laundry detergent
Vacuum
Toys (gender neutral)
Pressure cooker
Hand sanitizer
Face masks https://www.lssmn.org/sites/default/files/styles/featured_image_376x209/



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
September 21, 2021

Devotions: Corrine Mix (*October – Glade Sietsema*)

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

Member Absent: None

Guests: Deb Hoffmeister

Staff and Committee Reports:

1. Finance: \$46,913 checking, about \$38,788 savings
 - a. Parking lot - Deb Hoffmeister reviewed the cost details of the parking lot. Total cost was \$358,925
 - b. Stucco issue – water has permeated the east side of the building (Christian Education wing) and the stucco is falling off. The quote is \$8,000 - \$10,000. Motion by Barb Garness to fix the stucco issue with funds coming Christian Educa-
tion Memorial funds (\$5000) and 2030 Memorial funds (\$5,000). Second from Corrine Mix. Motion passed.
 - c. Hospitality:
 - d. Several funerals have been serviced
 - e. Working on new funeral team directory.
 - f. Education –
 - g. Sunday School will be held on Wednesday night
 - h. Motion by Jim Green to approve list of youth eligible for confirmation. Secon by Corrine Mix. Class of 2021 Con-
firmands are Reid Benhardus, Danner Campbell, William Douglas, Connor Frederixon, Charlie Gilmen, Dylan Klecker, Lily
Lachmiller, Ava Ohmann, Paige Peterson, Kaleb Orton and Connor Overgaard.
 - i. Mission & Outreach – discussing silent auction for quilts
 - j. Worship & Music –
 - k. Technology – getting a new variable height desk for the computer/sound board in the balcony.
- Property – last meeting discussed exterminator, carpet cleaners & stucco. T. Gary Schroeder is retiring

Update from Pastor:

Worship in person and live streaming

Funerals were held for:

Gary Hoffmeister

Charlie Block

Dale Peterson

Larry Johnson

Jim Fairbanks

VBS – last VBS session – attendance was low

Church garage sale – over \$7000 raised for Relay for Life

Spoke at a 911 Memorial

Confirmation started – all kids returned!

New member visits

Text studies

Point Pleasant visits twice a month

Bible Study –

CLACA meeting/

Community Memorial Service on 8/29

Upcoming –

- Grief Support group starts 9/22
- Confirmation retreat
- Noiz begins with Wednesday Night Family Worship
- Blessing of the Animals – October 3rd at 1:00 pm
- Bishops Fall Conference – October 10-12

Motion to approve August council minutes by Carl Thomsen and second by Karen Pavel. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the August committee reports and Pastor's report by Jim Green. Second by Carl Thomsen. Motion passed.

Ongoing Business:

1. Spending Wish 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.
- Covid Protocol Updates – we are the only congregation in the community that requires masks. Feedback from community is that they appreciate our diligence.

New Business:

1. Funeral fees – when a funeral home is not utilized, the burden of all of those details/tasks falls upon the church/Pastor. Motion by Corrine Mix to increase Pastor's fee to \$500 and a \$50 donation to Altar Guild when a funeral home is not involved. Second by Barb Garness. Motion passed.
 2. Wednesday Night Worship – dinner at 5:15, worship at 5:45. Service will be child friendly
 3. Community Meal Update – postponed until next Spring
 4. Nominating Committee – reviewed current council membership status and terms. Laura Freeman will be the council liaison to the nominating committee.
- Annual Meeting scheduled for November 21st

Next meeting date: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at the Fellowship Hall (exec. council by email)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Skoog

Gee Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire

DAYS FASHIONED

Alan knew he could play baseball. But he had come from a small high school that had gotten him little attention and had no scholarship offers. Now he was walking on to a major college team. "You can try out, but I'm not promising anything" the college coach told him. Alan played his heart out during the pre-season, two-a-day practices, scrimmages, and hours shagging balls for the scholarship players. The day arrived for the names of those who had made the team to be posted. He rushed to look for his name. There it was! He had made the team! And eventually he won a starting position on the team he didn't have a chance to make.

Alan's baseball future rested on his name being on a list. Before we were born, our names were written on a special list - in God's Book. God knows just how we'll fit on His team: He knows how many days we'll live and what we will be doing. Our comfort is that God, who loves us more deeply than we will ever know, doesn't require that we try to make the list.

God of all understanding, help me today to make my day count.

From "In Search of the Blessing"



Did ya know? **Survival of the Fittest** Of all life forms that have ever existed on earth, 90% are now extinct.

And a church blooper.... Not ours! Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Volunteer Opportunities

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.



Thrivent Cards

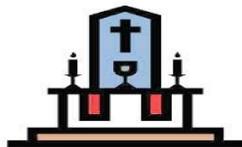
If you have an account with Thrivent but have not yet taken the opportunity for their funding help, please talk to Pastor Sarah. Each person with an account can apply for \$250 to put toward a project, and Pastor has several in mind for Zion.



Thank you for having the **Heart** of a Servant

Altar Care for November

Susan Schneider -
Coordinator



8:30 Service Assistants

Nov. 7

Ushers: Carl & Anne Thomsen
Greeters: Lois DeGonda
Reader: Becky Haven
Coffee Servers:

Nov. 14

Ushers: Carl & Anne Thomsen
Greeters: Larry Marek & Marilyn Rue
Reader: Anne Thomsen
Coffee Servers:

Nov. 21

Ushers: Jim & Susan Schneider
Greeters:
Reader: Corrine Mix
Coffee Servers: Chet & Barb Garness

Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving Eve)

Ushers:
Greeters:
Reader:
Coffee Servers:

Nov. 28

Ushers:
Greeters:
Reader: Deb Hoffmeister
Coffee Servers:

Thank You!

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:

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. 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. Suggested donation is \$10 per pie.



Pies that are ordered will be available for pick up on the November 7, 14 and 21..

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:

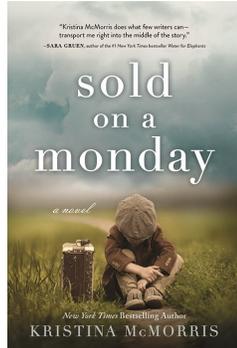
Toilet Paper
Laundry detergent
Dish Soap
Sugar
Brownie Mixes
Shampoo
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes

***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 **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.

We do not have a book for **December** . Instead, we will be holding our annual **Book Selection/ Christmas Party**. Please bring suggestions for books you would like to see us include for 2022.

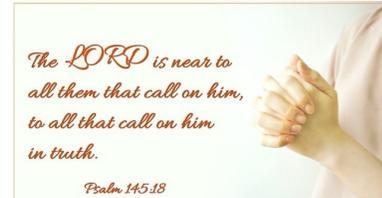


Happy Thanksgiving

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 and will be studying Jesus’ parables.

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 en-



For the past few weeks, we have been asking people to answer two questions:

How has Zion been a gift to you?
What gifts do you share in return?

Here are some of the answers we have received so far.

How has Zion been a gift to you?

Wonderful fellowship with friends and neighbors

It has saved my life. Its people and Pastors have been here when Jesus said “go to church.”

Zion has been my family.

Provides an opportunity to keep me connected

For 33 years Zion has been our family. It has given our children guidance, love and support.

It’s a place where we have found the love of God, the promise of Christ and forever friends.

A family-sense of belonging

A place to share my gifts

A place to grow my musical abilities – BELLS

This church is one of the reasons I am still alive. It has saved me from suicide by helping me realize that I am loved.

What gifts do you give in return?

Participating in services with reading scripture and singing in choir

Shepherding Volunteer. Church service participation. Prayers.

Giving money

We have taught Sunday School, Confirmation and Wednesday night groups. We have served on several committees, numerous mission trips and countless skits and services.

I share my faith in God, that He will be there for everyone in the church.



NOVEMBER 2021

28005 Old Towne Road
Chisago City, MN
55013

Phone: 651-257-2713

www.zionlcc.org

Staff Members:

Pastor Sarah Kerkes, ext. 102
pastor@zionlcc.org

Office Administrator: Joy Sietsema/ KC Douglas, ext. 101
office@zionlcc.org

Bookkeeper: Deb Hoffmeister, ext. 103
bookkeeper@zionlcc.org

NOIZ: Megan Dreckman

Sunday School: Anne Thomsen

Financial Secretary: Nicole Battles
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

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
Danny Eby	Mutual Ministry
Mary Redgrave	Stewardship
Barb Garness	Hospitality
Karen Pavel	Shepherding
Glade Sietsema	Technology