

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"***

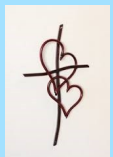
**Sunday Worship
Schedule:**

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

JANUARY

2022

A Message from Pastor Sarah

Here is my top ten list of things I never thought I would say or hear as a pastor in 2021:

10. Go ahead and stay home from church. It's safer there.
9. Let's add a service so we don't get a crowd.
8. If I add two more books under my laptop my double chin won't show on Zoom.
7. Pastor, we just put you on the big screen TV on Sunday mornings.
6. What happens if I, the Pastor, get Covid? What's the plan then?
5. I'm sorry, I can't do hospital/nursing home visits right now. They won't let me in.
4. Who decided to redo the stained glass windows and fuse them shut?
3. Air flow, hepa filters, masks, endemic pandemic.
2. Have you had your booster shot?
1. Did we get that recorded?

We don't know what unexpected events and challenges 2022 will bring. We know the road ahead will have bumps, curves and potholes. But we have the promise that Christ will be walking with us every step, every detour and every mile along the way. Together, we will step into the New Year with faith, compassion and hope.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Sarah

*It is the LORD who goes before you.
He will be with you; he will not fail you
or forsake you. Do not fear or be dis-
mayed." Deuteronomy 31:8*



Thank You!

What a blessing that we were able to decorate our beautiful church building for Christmas this year. A big Thank You to all who joined in the fun to make this possible. Thank you also to everyone who donated funds to buy the new tree in the sanctuary, new garland across the balcony, table decorations in the fellowship hall, and the beautiful poinsettias (purchased from the Chisago Lakes Senior Class fundraiser). May all be blessed who enter our doors.

Vicki Mickelsen

The pie fundraiser was a success! Thanks to all of you for your generous donations and participation in the project. Participants chose to donate to either the Zion parking lot/garage fund or the Chisago Lakes Area Food Shelf. The total raised was \$1633. Again, thanks so much for making this project a success.

God Bless You!

Pat Pojanowski

Thank you to all who brought in goodies/presents for our office staff. We have enjoyed them all, and so appreciate your thinking of us during this busy season.

Pastor Sarah, Deb Hoffmeister
KC Douglas, Joy Sietsema

Thank you to Sean Drury for his donation of time and talent. He took photos of the interior of the church and a drone video of the outside, including all three cemeteries. These can be seen on our website: www.zionlcc.org. These are amazing views of our church.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas services, including Blue Christmas; decorators, musicians, readers, greeter, ushers, altar guild, sound and video tech, coffee makers and cookie bakers.



Welcome to our new members:

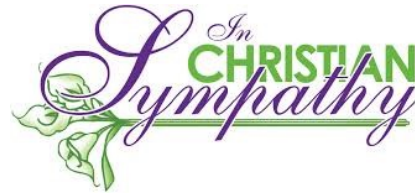
Gloria Stephens

Richard Strand

Jonelle Glubke

Jenny Green

We are thrilled to have you as part of our Zion community!



Our prayers go out to Sharon Dontje-Yell at the death of her daughter, Tena Yell. A funeral service will be held at Zion on Saturday, January 8 at 1:30.



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)

Council for 2022

Our church council for 2022 has met and divided up their duties. Thank you to each of you for being willing to serve!

Danny Eby - President/Mutual Ministry

Jim Green - Vice President/Outreach/
Human Resources

Kris Skoog - Council Secretary/Human Resources/Finance

Carl Thomsen - Property

Kelly Lachmiller - Worship & Music

Corrine Mix - Missions

Mary Redgrave - Stewardship

Barb Garness - Hospitality

Sherri Baumann - Shepherding

Glade Sietsema - Technology

Dave Tosteson - Education

We will be installing our council members on Sunday, January 9.



Karen Pavel, RN has completed Parish Nurse training. She will be joining the staff of Zion as our new, part-time, Parish Nurse. We are very excited to

have her skill and enthusiasm. She will begin work in mid January. Watch for information on her installation date.



Don't forget to return your Stewardship Gift Boxes on Sunday, January 9. We are collecting them on Epiphany, which was the day the magi brought gifts to Baby Jesus. These gifts will be used to help the projects that were formerly supported by our Noisy Offerings.



Bible Study resumes January 6 at 10:00 am. Join us for a time of learning, laughter and fellowship. We will be either in the fellowship hall or the library (sign will be posted inside the front door).



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!

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.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
November 9, 2021

Devotions: Kris Skoog (*December – Danny Eby*)

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

Member Absent: None

Guests: Deb Hoffmeister

Motion to approve October council minutes Karen Pavel and second by Jim Green. Motion passed.

Staff and Committee Reports:

1. Finance: \$37,933 checking, about \$45,422 savings
2. Hospitality:
 - a. Funeral for Stuart Johnson was hosted
 - b. Pies for Thanksgiving Eve – the Hospitality committee has been very busy with several funerals this fall. The committee can decide if they are up to the task.
3. Education –
 - a. NOIZ has started. Groups are small
 - b. First communion class will start November 14th
4. Mission & Outreach –
 - a. Quilt Silent Auction – will be on display starting the Sunday of the financial meeting through the annual meeting. The auction will close the day of the annual meeting. Proceeds will go to the garage fund.
 - b. Angel Tree for Head Start – watch for announcements

Update from Pastor:

Worship in person and live streaming

Funerals

Linda Strand

Stuart Johnson

Wedding for Kristen Benhardus

Gift bags made for our congregation nurses

Applied for Fairview Community Health Grant – funds for the Caregiver support group

Sending out birthday cards for those folks over 80

Met with Sean Drury regarding drone footage for the website. He is providing his service as a gift to Zion

Meeting with many potential new members

Need to reinstitute rides for folks from Point Pleasant

Upcoming –

Scouts Badge Day – 11/13

Motion to approve Committee reports and Pastor's report by Laura Freeman. Second by Carl Thomsen. Motion passed.

Ongoing Business:

1. Spending Wish List: Kitchen, roof, sanctuary reconfiguration, new van, outdoor stage, musical upgrades, balcony railing, pickleball courts, new garage, drainage - keep on agenda as a reminder.
2. COVID Protocol Updates – concerns about coffee hour. People huddle closer together in the Narthex than they would be if they are sitting at a table. Discussion about bringing the coffee hour back into the fellowship hall. We will run the HEPA filters in the fellowship hall.
3. Nominating Committee – the following people have agreed to be on council starting in 2022 - Dave Toseson, Sherri Baumann, Kelly Lachmiller
4. Finance Meeting 11/14 – meet between services
Annual Meeting 11/21 – meet between services. Need council members to sign people in (Karen Pavel/Corrine Mix), count (Barb Garness) and microphone running (Laura Freeman)

New Business:

1. 2022 Budget presented by Deb Hoffmeister. Barb Garness made a motion to accept the 2022 budget. Second by Laura Freeman. Motion passed.
2. Head Start Building Needs – Head Start is adding a baby program. Zion has been approached about utilizing additional space. Rent will be negotiated. Motion made by Barb Garness to allow Head Start to utilize additional space. Second by Corrine Mix. Motion passed.

Next meeting date: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at the Fellowship Hall (exec. council by email)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Skoog

Gee Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire

I find it a good time to offer a very personal reflection/admittance/confession.

I begin each day with my devotionals and Bible reading (and 2 cups of coffee). I try to spend time in prayer as well...to varying degrees of success. All too often I wonder if God sighs at my seemingly robotic and repetitive prayers so I do my best to incorporate some "newness" and include different things...(there is so much to pray about)! Typically, many times throughout the day, I find I'm disappointed with myself for not thinking of God, thanking God, and praying to God more often....and this is all before noon.

But, He has a way of recapturing me and all believers with His reassurance that we haven't wandered too far off His path. Imagine my joy when I read Sarah Young's offering for Nov 1. I hope that you too will enjoy the words our Lord gave to her for that day.



Do not be discouraged by the difficulty of keeping your focus on Me. I know that your heart's desire is to be aware of My Presence continually. This is a lofty goal; you aim toward it but never fully achieve it in this life. Don't let feelings of failure weigh you down. Instead, try to see yourself as I see you. First of all, I am delighted by your deep desire to walk closely with Me through your life. I am pleased each time you initiate communication with Me. In addition, I notice the progress you have made since you first resolved to live in My Presence. When you realize that your mind has wandered away from Me, don't be alarmed or surprised. You live in a world that has been rigged to distract you. Each time you plow your way through the massive distractions to communicate with Me, you achieve a victory. Rejoice in these tiny triumphs, and they will increasingly light up your days.

Sarah Young in *JESUS CALLING*



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.



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.



Used eyeglasses may be dropped off in the collection pail in the church office. Please do not drop off the cases - just the glasses.



FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

For the month of November we collected **192 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

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

8:30 Service Assistants

Jan. 2

Ushers:

Greeters: Virgi Johnson

Reader: Corrine Mix

Coffee Servers: Pat Pojanowski

Jan. 9

Ushers:

Greeters:

Reader: Becky Haven

Coffee Servers:

Jan. 16

Ushers:

Greeters: Lois DeGonda

Reader: Becky Haven

Coffee Servers: Kerkows & Lauritzens

Jan. 23

Ushers:

Greeters:

Reader: Corrine Mix

Coffee Servers:

Jan. 30

Ushers:

Greeters:

Reader: Corrine Mix

Coffee Servers:

Thank You!

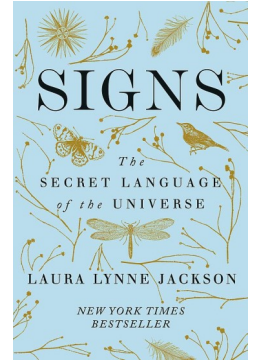
Caregivers Courage Group

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.

Book Club

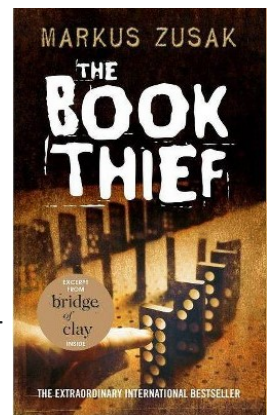
Book club is excited to return to meeting in person on the first Monday of each month **at 6:00 pm**. Please contact Sue Frame if you need more information. . Susan.k.frame@gmail.com

Our **January** book is *Signs* by Laura Lynn Jackson.



A renowned psychic medium teaches us how to recognize and interpret the life-changing messages that loved ones and spirit guides on the Other Side.

Our **February** book is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.



Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Grief Support Group

The **Grief Support Group**, facilitated by Pastor Sarah, meet s 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

JANUARY 2022

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

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