

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday & 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:**

**Until further notice,
worship services can
be found by going to
either**

www.zionlcc.org

Or

**Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church
on Facebook**



The Focus

A Publication of

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY

2021

A Message from Pastor Sarah

In this month of Valentine's day love, I am reminded of my favorite prayer in the wedding service:

Strengthen and bless friends and family gathered here,
even as we call to mind those who are absent from us.
Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones,
and be present with those for whom love is a stranger.
Gracious and faithful God,
hear our prayer. (ELW, Marriage)

This can be a painful month for those who have broken hearts, those who long for love and those who feel forgotten. Loneliness is a difficult side-effect of the pandemic. Three out of five Americans consider themselves lonely. We can make a difference. We can reach out to the people around us. We can send Valentine's cards to our neighbors and the care centers. We can keep checking one another. I challenge you to send a valentine or two to someone in our church directory that you have not met. (Make sure you let them know who you are, we don't want anyone to be accused of stalking!) If you would like to make Valentines for some of our shut-ins, drop them at church and we will have them delivered. We can also provide names of folks who would appreciate being remembered with love.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Sarah

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:7-12

****If you are not receiving the "Daily Dose" devotions, please send an e-mail to pastor@zionlcc.org and Pastor will add you to the list.**

Dates to Remember

Monday, Feb. 1	Book Club via Zoom	6:00 pm
Thursday, Feb. 11	Finance Committee	6:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 16	Council	6:00 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday (Facebook)	6:30 pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Service* (Facebook & YouTube)	6:30 pm
Wednesdays	Confirmation via Zoom	4 & 5:15
Sundays	Worship on Facebook (communion 1st & 3rd)	8:30 am
Sundays (2nd & 4th)	Zoom Coffee Hour	10:00 am

**Feb. 3 & 10 will be the Star Witnesses service, Feb 17 is Ash Wednesday, and the following Wednesdays during Lent we will be doing the Holden Evening Prayer service.*



Ash Wednesday will occur on February 17. Before that day we will have small packets of ashes and devotional books for you to pick up outside the front door of the church. If you need them delivered, please let us know. Watch the weekly Zion Zone for more details as that date draws near.

NOTICE!

All services are listed as the time they first appear on Facebook. You can join us at that time, and even converse with others online, or watch it anytime after it is done airing the first time.

Our Facebook page is
www.facebook.com/zionlcc/

Or you can connect to it through our website at <http://www.zionlcc.org/>

You do NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the services.



Confirmation classes continue over Zoom. We are learning about the Prophets and then will move into learning more about Lutheran worship. Thank you for your support of this program.



Pastor Sarah will be on staycation from February 2-9. Pastor Taryn Montgomery will be on call for all pastoral needs. Her number is 651-508-0277



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.

Thank You!

Zion Friends -

Thank you for the Christmas gift basket delivered by Nancy B. I appreciate the thoughtfulness during the holiday season.

Sincerely,
William Douglas

Dear Pastor Sarah and members of Zion -

Thank you all so very much for the bag of surprises! We love and miss Zion and all its members more than words can say.

Love,
Carol & Del

Pastor Sarah-

Thank you for baptizing Lydia and being available today to do so. Also, please extend our thank you to the ladies who make the blankets. It is very thoughtful and something Lydia will hold onto forever.

Thank you,
Eric, Katie, Lydia Sargeant

Zion Family -

Thank you very much for remembering me with a gift bag at Christmas time. I enjoyed all the items. Very thoughtful. God bless all of you.

Onne Mae Fisher

~ to the **Contemporary Worship Team** for putting together another wonderful worship opportunity with "Star Witnesses" on Wednesday evenings.

~ **Chet Garness** for ringing the bell on Sunday mornings, once for every 100 Minnesotans who have died of Covid.

Zion's Financial Statement 2020

2020 was a year that presented Zion with unanticipated challenges. Financial performance remained remarkably solid. Pledged and unpledged giving and special offerings were 5% lower than 2019, but considering that there were few services and “plate” collections this is remarkable. The Finance team and Council want to thank all the faithful givers that made this year a time when we could support our members and the community at large.

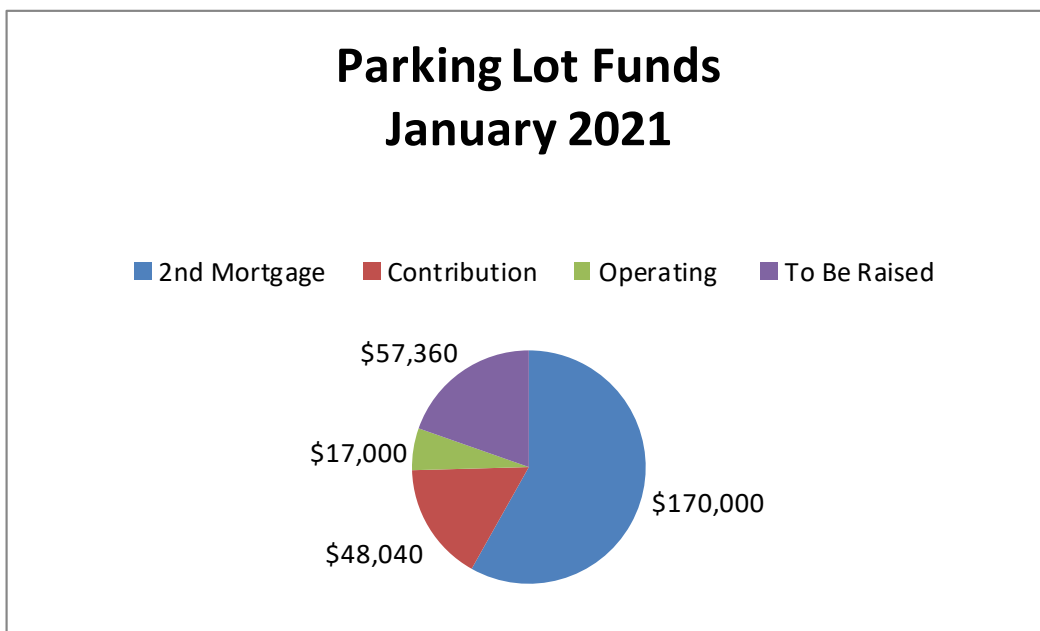
In addition, we have taken on the challenge of raising capital funds for Pave the Way – the parking lot. Again, Zion’s faithful givers are rising to that challenge.

Just a note: Miscellaneous income in 2020 reflects the \$41,000 in PPP funds which we used according to the guidelines, hence this loan was forgiven. We also sent money to the Food Shelf, the Refuge and CLACA, supporting local agencies.

As you look at 2020 expenses the lower costs we have associated with normal business are reduced. Overall, there was a 33% reduction in operating costs, most in payroll, office, utilities and all the many of the costs we incur simply by using our building. (see chart on next page)

In summary, thank you all for your faithful giving. We are looking forward to when we can use our resources to greet each other, feed the hungry, and encourage our youth in person. Until then.....thank you!

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|                                 | <b>Jan - Dec<br/>2020</b> | <b>Jan - Dec<br/>2019</b> | <b>Change</b>      |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                   |                           |                           |                    |
| 41110 · Receipts                | 342,816.91                | 355,812.83                | -12,995.92         |
| 41210 · Special Offerings       | 5,190.52                  | 12,403.00                 | -7,212.48          |
| 41310 · Miscellaneous Income    | 68,366.30                 | 31,540.74                 | 36,825.56          |
| 41400 · Memorials               | 17,005.48                 | 75,393.10                 | -58,387.62         |
| 41500 · Missions                | 0.00                      | 52.00                     | -52.00             |
| 41600 · Temp Retriected Contri- | 0.00                      | 0.00                      | 0.00               |
| 41700 · Groups                  | 0.00                      | 3,155.00                  | -3,155.00          |
| <b>Total Income</b>             | <b>433,379.21</b>         | <b>478,356.67</b>         | <b>-44,977.46</b>  |
| <b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>       |                           |                           | 0.00               |
| 50000 · Cost of Goods Sold      | 0.00                      | 0.00                      | 0.00               |
| <b>Total COGS</b>               | <b>0.00</b>               | <b>0.00</b>               | <b>0.00</b>        |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>             | <b>433,379.21</b>         | <b>478,356.67</b>         | <b>-44,977.46</b>  |
| <b>Expense</b>                  |                           |                           |                    |
| 61100 · Christian Education     | 2,734.88                  | 10,830.53                 | -8,095.65          |
| 61200 · Worship                 | 1,971.14                  | 2,925.24                  | -954.10            |
| 61300 · Music                   | 593.00                    | 4,252.14                  | -3,659.14          |
| 61400 · Youth Ministry          | 94.66                     | 3,969.54                  | -3,874.88          |
| 61500 · Stewardship             | 421.30                    | 374.98                    | 46.32              |
| 61600 · Evangelism              | 70.67                     | 0.00                      | 70.67              |
| 61700 · Benevolence             | 26,510.64                 | 18,194.76                 | 8,315.88           |
| 61800 · Hospitality             | 0.00                      | 326.67                    | -326.67            |
| 61900 · Pastoral Expense        | 590.10                    | 3,234.80                  | -2,644.70          |
| 62100 · Office & Finance        | 21,960.92                 | 13,317.26                 | 8,643.66           |
| 62200 · Maintenance & Proper-   | 16,983.53                 | 75,293.53                 | -58,310.00         |
| 62300 · Van Expense             | 0.00                      | 338.28                    | -338.28            |
| 62400 · Kitchen                 | 1,806.15                  | 5,555.99                  | -3,749.84          |
| 62500 · Utilities               | 18,975.82                 | 23,653.18                 | -4,677.36          |
| 62600 · Fees & Assessments      | 359.25                    | 250.00                    | 109.25             |
| 63100 · Payroll & Benefits      | 187,478.48                | 201,894.15                | -14,415.67         |
| 63200 · Subs/Pastor/Organist    | 0.00                      | 590.51                    | -590.51            |
| 64100 · Mortgage                | 68,980.00                 | 63,980.00                 | 5,000.00           |
| 64200 · Insurance Expense       | 14,567.77                 | 15,053.50                 | -485.73            |
| 65100 · Shepherding             | 920.13                    | 2,011.20                  | -1,091.07          |
| 65200 · Groups Expense          | 555.00                    | 13,875.69                 | -13,320.69         |
| 65300 · Undesignated Memori-    | -70.00                    | 30,000.00                 | -30,070.00         |
| 65400 · Memorials-Directed      | 22,738.63                 | 116,365.50                | -93,626.87         |
| 65500 · Benevolence Expense     | 0.00                      | 0.00                      | 0.00               |
| 66100 · Technology              | 0.00                      | 1,102.48                  | -1,102.48          |
| 66900 · Reconciliation Dis-     | 0.00                      | -24,091.31                | 24,091.31          |
| <b>Total Expense</b>            | <b>388,242.07</b>         | <b>583,298.62</b>         | <b>-195,056.55</b> |
|                                 | <b>45,137.14</b>          | <b>-104,941.95</b>        | <b>150,079.09</b>  |

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes**  
December 15, 2020

**Devotions:** Jim Green (*January – Danny Eby*)

**Members Present:** Corrine Mix, Mary Redgrave, Trudy Marten, Danny Eby, Glade Sietsema, Jim Green, Laura Freeman, Carl Thomsen, Karen Pavel, Barb Garness, Kris Skoog, Pastor Sarah. Meeting was held via Zoom or present by speaker phone.

**Member Absent:** None

**Guests:** None

Motion made by Karen Pavel to approve the November council minutes and financial report. Second by Trudy Marten. Motion passed.

**Staff and Committee Reports:**

1. Finance – PPP loan was forgiven - \$57,000 checking, about \$120,000 savings
- Children & Family Ministry – Sunday School – packets sent out to 18 families/30 kids for Advent.  
NOIZ – mailing packages every 3-4 weeks crafts. Youth group – no update

**Update from Pastor:**

Funeral for Alan Colberg  
Continue Daily Dose and emailing sermons  
Facebook worship –  
Virtual coffee hour successful – non-communion Sundays  
Wednesday evening Advent services started – favorable response  
Confirmation classes - only about half attending. Sending Christmas gifts to all  
Sending jigsaw puzzles/gift bags going to Pt. Pleasant  
Working on online Christmas Concert program spearheaded by Julie Lauritzen  
Attended State meeting for Citizen's Review Board  
Received a grant from Fairview Parish Nurses - \$500. Money will go towards purchasing the viewing rights for Angst. Angst is a documentary to help people identify and understand the symptoms of anxiety and encourage them to reach out for help.  
Upcoming –  
    Christmas Concert 12/20  
    Blue Christmas 12/21  
    Christmas Eve Services 6:30 pm  
    Christmas Day Service – St. Paul Area Synod podcast

Motion to approve Pastor's report & Children and Family Ministry by Corrine Mix and second by Jim Green. Motion passed.

**Ongoing Business:**

Spending list: Kitchen, roof, parking lot, sanctuary reconfiguration, new van, outdoor stage, musical upgrades, larger elevator, balcony railing, projector - keep on agenda as a reminder.

**New Business:**

Hallways painted and the alcove around the stained glass window.

**Next meeting date: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, January 19, 2021 via Zoom(exec. council by email)**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Skoog

**Gee Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire****“Your Day is Coming”**

Some of us have never won a prize in our lives. Oh, maybe we were a quartermaster in our scout group or in charge of soda sales at the homeroom Christmas party, but that’s about it. We’ve never won much. We have watched others of the world carry home the trophies and walk away with the ribbons. At best, some of us have been the “almosts” and “what ifs”.

If this hits home, then you’ll cherish this promise: “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, YOU will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away” (1 Peter 5:4 NIV).

Our day is coming. What the world has overlooked, our Father has remembered, and sooner than we can imagine, we will be blessed by Him.

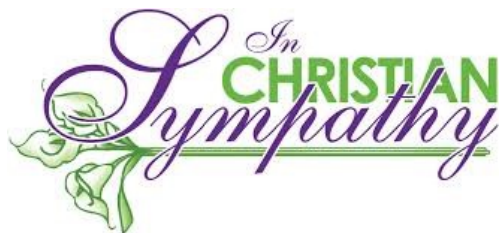
Max Lucado from *When Christ Comes*

A few months ago I asked a favor that you Google Paul Harvey’s 1965 “A Letter from God”. I hope you were able to locate it. Now another favor...Google his “If I Were the Devil”...also from 1965 but this also could have been recorded yesterday.



And a funny.....A little boy and his grandmother were walking on the beach when a large wave swept the boy out to sea. The grandmother fell to her knees and prayed “God, please return him safely”. And just like that another wave came up and deposited the youngster back on the beach. She picked him up, looked at him, and then looking up toward heaven said “Hey, he had a hat on”.





We offer our deepest sympathy to the family of **Larry Lofgren** who passed away on January 18. If you would like to view his memorial service, please contact the church office for a link to the video.



## *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

If you would like to work on a prayer shawl this winter, please contact the office for our updated guidelines. We would like to have some consistency in the size of our shawls, - about 2' x 6', Lap robes should be about 30" x 40". We have pattern options for both crocheting and knitting.

If you would like to make a shawl but don't have the yarn or needles required,, please contact the office as we do have a supply of materials on hand.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to this ministry!

office@zionlcc.org or 257-2713



## **TOOL KIT** for congregational leaders

Saturday, February 27, 2021 | Online

Registration is now open for **Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders**, happening on Zoom Saturday, Feb. 27. This free event is geared toward council and committee members, staff, volunteers or others who are interested in topics related to congregational life.

The morning will begin with a keynote by Dr. Michael Osterholm who will assess where we're at with the pandemic and what the future might hold for churches. After his keynote, we'll break off into seven workshop offerings. Go to <https://spas-elca.org/event/2021-tool-kit-for-congregational-leaders/> to learn more and to register.







If you are not receiving phone calls from one of our volunteers, please let us know. If you would like to be one of the callers to check in on others, please let us know.



Zoom coffee hour will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings at 10:00.

Watch your e-mail for log-in information. If you do not have Zoom on your device, it will ask you to load it the first time you log-in.



We will be having communion via Facebook on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of every month as long as we continue our online services.

You will need to provide your own bread/cracker and wine/juice. God will provide the rest. This is another way we can stay con-

## FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

From November 25 - December 25 we collected the following for our local food shelf:

191 pounds of food

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

The church bell is rung on Sunday mornings. It rings once for every deaths in the state of Minnesota to Chet for his dedication to



Sermons are being mailed out to people who do not have internet access. If you have not been receiving a copy but would like one, please call the church office so we can add you to mailing list. 651-257-2713

We have a number of people who have volunteered to assist folks. If you need help getting groceries or running errands, please call the office and we will send you a volunteer. 651-257-2713



## Book Club

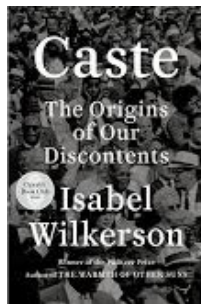
For the present time, book club will be held virtually on the first Monday of each month **at 6:00 pm** . Please contact Sue Frame to find out more. Susan.k.frame@gmail.com

Our **February** book will be *The Guest List* by Lucey Foley.



On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one .... Every detail has been expertly planned. But perfection is for plans and people are all too human. Then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the couple well, and perhaps, more importantly, why?

Our **March** book is *Caste - The Origins of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson.



In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and through its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarch of human rankings.

## 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)



## Offering Labels

If you are need of more labels with your name and envelope number on them, please let us know and we will get them to you.

## Altar Care for January

Susan Schneider - Coordinator



## Bible Word Search:

### NAMES AND TITLES OF JESUS

U Q O K A I S N S M T K R P M  
V L F Z J T Y O A E E O A O R  
O M G Y V O N T N Z I C B X K  
Y D N Y M O E N U V A N B O A  
D L O V F H T C A S I R I X R  
E R I G W A R S P D S H E W E  
N T O G B M A L I D O V Z N D  
F D J L H Q Y V K R T T R Z E  
I G Q R R T A E G T H V E P E  
P B Y I H D S E K E U C T X M  
T S W K F T Y A J I O Q S L E  
L I I O N A M F O N O S A H R  
V N N Q Z Y K V A D E J M V R  
G O J E S U S E M M A N U E L  
S V B G G W T Z T P B Q J F E

|                  |             |                    |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| CHRIST           | EMMANUEL    | JESUS              |
| KING of the Jews | LAMB of God | LIGHT of the World |
| LORD             | MASTER      | NAZARENE           |
| RABBI            | REDEEMER    | SAVIOR             |
| SON OF DAVID     | SON OF GOD  | SON OF MAN         |

Ref: Wikipedia

**Instructions:** Find and circle the words shown in all capital letters.  
Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

© [Memory-Improvement-Tips.com](http://Memory-Improvement-Tips.com)

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## FEBRUARY 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)

Interim Office Secretary: Joy Sietsema 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

Youth Director: Todd Freeman, ext. 104

Organist & Bell Choir Director: Joy Sietsema

Choir Director: Michael Savold

Accompanist: Julie Lauritzen

Custodian: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery Grounds: John Hawkinson

Zion Groundskeeper: T. Gary Schroeder

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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                                 |
| Trudy Marten   | Christian Education                         |
| Glade Sietsema | Technology                                  |