

**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"***

**In Person Worship  
Sundays**

9:00 Traditional  
10:45 Contemporary  
6:00 pm Family  
Worship

**Traditional service  
premiers live on  
Facebook and  
YouTube at 9:00 am**

**www.zionlcc.org**



# The Focus

A Publication of

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church



2023

The sweet smell of lilacs drift down the lane. All around the trees are showing off their many shades of green. Gardens are being planted. Greenhouses are full of shoppers. We can now throw open our windows and air out our homes. This time of year, where spring turns into summer, is welcomed with great joy. This past, long, snowy, cold winter is quickly becoming a distant memory. I hope you have some good plans in the works for this summer: vacations, cabins, family reunions and time to just sit outside and soak in some sunshine.

At church, worship services continue along with coffee hour and some special Sunday forums. Emmy is planning vacation bible school and some intergenerational summer events. The community meal continues, the ball field is being used by a local team of children and neighborhood kids come by to shoot hoops. Soon summer Head Start will begin and the baby/toddler program will finally start.

Zion is a busy place all year round. That is how a church should be, alive and open to the community. It is a place for gathering, for being fed and a launch pad for going back out into the world with hope and love. Thank you for being part of the church!

Have a blessed summer!

Pastor Sarah

**Psalm 122:1**

I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"



## **GEE HOWARD....Words to Challenge and Inspire**

### **“Brotherly Kindness”**

During the Civil War one of the greatest fears was that of meeting a relative in combat. It wasn't uncommon for one brother to fight for the Union and another for the Confederacy. When the devastation and destruction ended and the soldiers who survived came home, hatred and resentment still raged in many hearts. In other cases the families were wise enough to bury the past and face a new era. A pleasant sight is to see two brothers who haven't seen each other in a long time. They slap each other on the back and some joke around to hide their emotion, but in their eyes you can see brotherly kindness. This brotherly kindness can be evidenced in all our lives...not only toward family and friends, but also toward strangers and those in need.

Smalley & Trent from *“In Search of the Blessing”*

And a funny....A man entered a pun contest. He sent in 10 different puns in the hope that 1 of them would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.



### **HELP WANTED:**

A caretaker/groundskeeper for South Green Lake Cemetery. Starting August 1, 2023 and working with current caretaker to learn the duties and taking over permanently on October 1, 2023. **Duties:**

- \*\*Mowing the grounds and weed trimming around monuments (Using cemetery equipment);
- \*\*Being available to sell plots, mark plots for burials and be present at funerals;
- \*\*Maintain graves after burial and plant grass seed;
- \*\*Keep cemetery ground clean and looking great.

Call the office at 651-257-2713 to set up an interview and discuss duties and salary.



### **Congratulations to our 2023 High School Graduates:**

Joshua Bryne, Olivia Bryne, Clare Colberg, Ruby Dircks, Cameron Glenna, Nick Green, Traeson Griffin, Jack Keeney, and Marissa Peterson!



Dear Zion Family,

Thank you for your kind and caring words in the loss of my cousin, Sue. It's a wonderful blessing to belong to Zion church and family.

Blessings, Denny & Sandy Patrias

Thank you for letting us use the library for our NARANON meetings. It is greatly appreciated!  
Joe-Sunday Night Serenity

Thank you to the women who made the lovely prayer shawl and to Pastor Sarah who brought it to me. Gratefully, Carol Johnson

Thank you to the "family" of Zion Church. Our family's recent funeral of our Dad was in the best of hands-yours. Everyone that was involved made is such a stress free, seamless, uplifting experience. Our family had some "family healing" that was long overdue, and thanks to the Zion family, I believe our family will heal. My sadness is great, but I know Dad is with Mom and his original family. All together, thank you so very much. ~Linda Parker, (Daughter of Jimmy Parker)

On behalf of Chisago Lakes Community Meal, we would like to acknowledge your online donations of \$90, Churches like yours make our community a great place to live. ~Bonnie Anderson

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help with the church building and grounds in Dexter's absence. You are greatly appreciated!

Thank you to the folks who volunteered to make desserts or serve at the Community Meal on Memorial Day. We are blessed to have so many willing people who want to serve their neighbors.

Thank you to Kelly Lachmiller who stepped in to direct our church choir. Thank you to Joy Sietsema who filled in at the piano. And thank you to our choir members. Their last anthem will be sung on June 4. Sounding good!

Thank you to all of our Sunday volunteers: readers, ushers, greeters, Altar Guild members, & coffee hour hosts. You are appreciated! If you would like to help out, sign up on our website [www.zionlcc.org](http://www.zionlcc.org) or on the clipboard kept on the table at the rear of the sanctuary.

Thank you to Gary Lauritzen and his grandson Ian who freshened up the landscape by the main entrance. Looking great!



The Chisago Center Head Start would like to send a big "Thank you" to the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church. Many members of the congregation have spent hours crocheting and knitting hats and gloves. Each child has been able to receive a few pairs of gloves and a hat. Even siblings received some! It is truly appreciated how the community at Zion has cared for the program.



## Pastoral Care

**REMINDER:** If you or someone you know is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please let Pastor Sarah know. She would rather have 6 people tell her than no one! We could also use your help in keeping our shut-in list up to date, so that no one is neglected.



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)

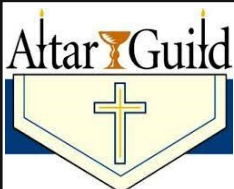


We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Diane Johnson, who passed away on May 20. Her funeral will be on June 10 at Zion at 11 am.

Christian sympathies to the friends, family and caregivers of Dennis Erickson, who passed away on May 28. There will be a graveside service only on June 6 at 10am at Memorial Cemetery.



We welcome Joanne Read, and Lance & Cristy Finklea to our church family! We look forward to getting to know them!

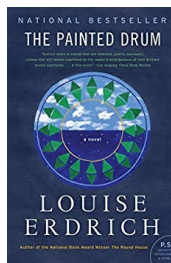


### July Altar Guild duty:

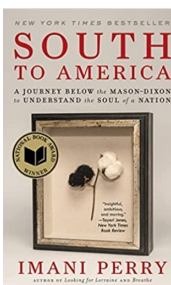
Pat Pojanowski  
Jonelle Glubke  
Carol Bisek

## Book Club

Book club is meeting in the church library on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Our meeting for January will be Jan. 9 at 6 pm. Please contact Marilyn Rue if you need more information: mrue.rue@gmail.com



Our June book is "The Painted Drum" by Louise Erdrich. A novel of a priceless Ojibwe artifact and the effect it has had on those who have come into contact with it over the years.



Our July book is "South to America" by Imani Perry. Since the Civil War, the US has had a complicated relationship to the South. But, scholar Imani Perry argues, understanding this region of the country is crucial to understanding the nation as whole. Perry, who hails from Alabama, delves into her own history as a Black woman, but the people, places, and customs that make the South unique-some of which may surprise you.

## Food Shelf



For the month of March we collected 227 pounds of donations for our local food shelf!

### Current needs are :

Toilet paper  
Paper towels  
One can meals  
Bushes baked beans  
Ramen noodles  
Oatmeal packets  
Noodles  
Bottled water  
Snacks  
Shampoo  
Laundry soap  
Dish soap

*Thank you  
for your  
generosity!*

9:00 Service Assistants

**June 4**

Ushers: Gary Kerkow & Carl Thomsen  
Greeters: Lois DeGonda & Virgi Johnson  
Reader: Anne Thomsen  
Coffee Servers: Carol S. & LouAnn F.  
Communion Assistants: Emmy, Sherri Baumann  
Altar Care: Sue S.  
Cantor: Kelly L.

**June 11:**

Ushers: George & Vicki M.  
Greeter: Arild & Betty H.  
Communion Assistants: Jim G. & Carl T.  
Reader: Shirley Kerkow  
Altar Care: Sue S.  
Coffee Servers: Lauritzens  
Cantor:

**June 18:**

Ushers: Carl & Anne Thomsen  
Greeter:  
Reader: Corrine Mix  
Altar Care: Sue S.  
Communion Assistants: barb G. & Eric D.  
Coffee: Hospitality  
Cantor: KC Douglas

**June 25:**

Ushers:  
Greeter:  
Reader:  
Communion Assistants: Carl T. & Emmy  
Altar Care: Sue S.  
Coffee Servers: Rick Saf  
Cantor:

*Thank You!*

*Sign up on our website or at the  
read of the sanctuary.*



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. Join us any time! Park in the back of the church.



Pastor Sarah's Bible study is on Thursdays at 10:00 am in the library. "Living the Questions" is the new study. Come and join our lively discussion, coffee is always provided.

**Grief Support Group**

The **Grief Support Group**, facilitated by Pastor Sarah, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 10:00 am. This is also open to people in the larger community. If you know someone who has lost a loved one and could use a caring group that understands the pain, please let them know about this group. For more information, contact Pastor Sarah at: [pastor@zionlcc.org](mailto:pastor@zionlcc.org) 651-257-2713

**Caregivers Courage Group**

Our caregivers support group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9:30 am. - 11:00 am. Meetings are held in the Library. Masks are not required but please feel free to wear one if you are comfortable. If you wish to bring a beverage for yourself please feel free to do so. All caregivers are welcome! Contact Vicki Mickelsen at [gandvmick@frontiernet.net](mailto:gandvmick@frontiernet.net) for more details.



**Church Cleanup Day, Saturday, June 3 at 9:00 am!!**

Come and join us for a morning of work and fellowship as we tackle cleaning jobs around the church. There will be tasks for all ages and abilities. Many hands make light work! The Lauritzens will provide coffee and treats to enjoy throughout the morning! Thank you, Julie and Gary!  
See page 11 for more details.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
April 25, 2023

**Devotions:** Corrine Mix

**All members present EXCEPT:** Eric Douglas and Kelly Lachmiller

**Guests:** None

Motion made by Corrine and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carl to accept by minutes from last meeting March 28

**Committee Reports: Finance** – Things are looking better

**Property:** Lock box for Fire Dept to be installed by a retired fireman; linoleum damage in rooms needs to be taken care of; Mess in back parking lot left by snow pile needs cleaning up (Boy Scouts will be asked for help) Pew was moved for handicap and very much appreciated; Large hunk of stucco has fallen off north wall; Front windows of church need work; LARGE problem roof will need to be taken care of in near future. **CLEAN UP DAY JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Education:** 4 Forums coming up: Sunday April 30 Gary Noren, River Assoc., Nature Photos  
May 7 Gi and Lisu for Burma "Immigration in 21<sup>st</sup> Century"  
June 4<sup>th</sup> Steve Hoover on Aging Well  
June 18<sup>th</sup> Arlen Strehlo continue on Martin Luther

**Mission and Outreach:** Quilting- 6 people present-made 3 1/2 quilts: Still making Personal Kits and picking up items using Thrivent card: Will start asking for items for school bags soon; could use another **THRIVENT card**

**Hospitality:** Had meeting earlier in month. Several attendees. We will be doing strawberry shortcake for Mother's Day. Used Thrivent card for berries and cool whip. Dodges making the cakes

**Stewardship:** Will meet during summer sometime

**Technology:** Nothing new

**Worship and Music:** Kelly Lachmiller taking over choir Julie L needs to be off for awhile. Other musicians will help out. **REMINDER** for offering collection to wait until congregation is out to deposit offering.

**COMMUNION:** motion made after some discussion on continuation masks and gloves for communion servers. Motion not used made by Sherri and seconded by Dave. Be sure to use **HAND SANITIZER** sitting on table

**Shepherding Ministry:** Have been visiting lots of people. Need people to let them know if someone needs to be visited. Health Ministry team to meet and organize to see how they can help within the Church. Health forums coming up

**MUTUAL MINISTRY:** No meeting yet but will meet soon. Need more members

**INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY:** Zion members to work Comm Meal Monday Memorial Day (need 14 helpers). FRIDAY GAME nite will be put on hold over summer. Parents first and third Monday; SUNDAY CONNECT will go through summer.

**INTERGENERATIONAL** con't: **YOGA** canceled due to instructor moving out of area.  
Senior and Friends Lucheon will be held June 22<sup>nd</sup> **NEED THRIVENT CARD**  
Community Meal going well: lots of new people. Zion to serve Memorial Day  
**FUND RAISER FOR COMMUNITY MEAL** to be held September 18<sup>th</sup> (OUTSIDE)  
**BIBLE SCHOOL** July 17 to 25

**PASTORS REPORT:** Lenten Services went well. Youth did great job. Good attendance for Holy Week and Easter. Spring Ministerium will be in St Paul. Enjoys going to Point Pleasant for Services. 3 Weddings coming up. First Communion Classes: Elin Jorgenson; Addy Ellison Clara and Eve Grosskoepf. Served new member from Lakeview apt. Funeral on 29<sup>th</sup> for Jimmy Parker  
Several Baptism coming up. Wedding May 6 Amanda Shoquist and Tyler Massey  
**SYNOD ASSEMBLY MAY 12-13** Corrine Mix ad Vicki Mickelsen will attend. Pastor checking on Youth and Mental Health

**Motion made by Carl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corrine to accept REPORTS**

**ONGOING BUSINESS:**

- 1, Spending List: Kitchen, roof, sanctuary reconfig; new van, musical upgrades, balcony railing; long range maintenance plan
2. COVID protocol UPDATE; Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to stop using masks and gloves for serving. If scheduled servers not feeling well GET SUB
3. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is next year. Committee is being formed and NEEDS HELP

**NEW BUSINESS:** Cemetary: John Hawkinson long time caretaker of cemeteries (especially South Green Lake) will be leaving in October. Ad to be in Focus asking for help with this.  
Anyone interested can contact the Office, Chet Garness or Dave Tosteson

**ONNE MAE FISHER is celebration her 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday**

**NEXT MEETING MAY 16<sup>th</sup> then June 20th**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN by Corrine Mix 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Garness**

Devotions: May – Dave  
June – Barb  
July – Rik

Respectfully submitted by Barb (sub sec)

**The Finance Committee and Property meetings have been changed to June 15.**



**Did you know???**

When you buy treats, supplies and other items for Zion, we do not typically add those donations to your giving record. If you want to contribute those items as a tax deduction, keep the receipt, note what it was for, and include it with your charitable deduction when you file your taxes.

If you are gifting an item of substantial value, (greater than \$500) we can provide a form letter for you to use as documentation.

We are truly grateful for every donation, treat and item you contribute.



Our VBS will be having "Compassion Camp" the week of July 17-22st. Ask Emmy for details and plan on having your child or grandchild attend this fun and exciting week of activities! A THRIVENT CARD would be appreciated for this event.



Our Intergenerational Ministry is hosting a Parenting group the first and third Monday's of the month. This is an opportunity for Mom's, Dad's, or caregiver's to connect with others for support and compassion. The first Monday will focus on devotions, have a speaker, and various topics pertaining to our needs. The third Monday will be a group service project to get us out in the community and make a difference. There will be activities and a snack provided in a separate space for the children. Join us! If you would like to help out, please see Emmy! June 5 & 19.

### **Backpack Project**

Just a reminder to all...This special project is still being supported by Zion. During the winter months, sewing of the backpacks has continued with well over 100 now ready for packing. More will be made throughout the spring and summer. Once made they will need the supplies for filling. Though yet in the planning come late June and July those special priced items will be available, and it is our request that our Zion family will support this project. It may be given by actually purchasing the needed supplies, (A list will be posted on the Mission Board at a later date) monetary donations via gifts to this project, or, **for those who are affiliated with Thrivent Financial, obtaining a \$250.00 Action Team Gift Card. (With these cards the team can purchase the needed items to complete the list).** For more information, please contact Corrine Mix or Virgi Johnson.

As well, we ask for your prayers for this endeavor. We Thank You for your support in advance!



Thrivent Friends: If you are ordering shirts along with your Thrivent Cards, we are looking for shirts in larger sizes 2X up to 5X as well as child sizes XS-XL . Thank you!



**Sunday Sumer Intergenerational Connect!** We will continue throughout the summer months, all ages are welcome! We will be playing and working on various service projects for the community. If you are interested in helping with dinner on a Sunday evening, talk to Emmy!

June 4: Class

June 11: Class

June 18: Father's Day– NO CLASS

June 25: Class

**Friday, June 20**

Intergenerational outing! Join us for a field trip to the Fawn Doe Rosa park in St. Croix Falls. Look for details on Emmy's board.

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Invites you to come and enjoy our:

**Seniors & Friends**

**Service and Luncheon**

If you are a senior citizen or are a friend of a senior, you are invited to attend this mid-week service and lunch on:

**Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 11:00 am**

Please RSVP to the church by calling

**651-257-2713**

No later than Thursday, June 15th.

**Let us know if you need a ride to the church.**

**Sign up on Emmy's board  
to volunteer to help.**

Merriam-Webster defines stewardship as “the conducting, supervising, or managing of something especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” As a church we see stewardship as a belief that humans are responsible for the world, humanity, and the gifts and resources that have been entrusted to us. We take this God-given responsibility seriously. Your church council and committees strive to take good care of the resources entrusted to us. Our Stewardship committee is tasked with encouraging all of our members to understand their own stewardship of resources including time, talent, and finances. If you would like to know more or would like to join our Stewardship team, please speak to or e-mail Pastor Sarah.

## Funerals

More and more families are choosing to use cremations services instead of funeral homes. Although this seems like an economical option, it creates a lot more work and stress for both families and churches. In most cases, the crematory will hand you the ashes and their work is done. The details end up being done by families and church staff. The following services are part of the funeral home package:

- ☐ Filing of certificates
- ☐ Assisting with legal issues
- ☐ Placement of obituary notices in newspapers
- ☐ Providing brochures/guest books/thank you cards.
- ☐ Coordination the service with the cemetery, including Fort Snelling
- ☐ Scheduling the services of the local Honor Guard
- ☐ Supervising the visitation/funeral service
- ☐ Caring for and arranging flowers
- ☐ Lighting sanctuary candles
- ☐ Handing out bulletins
- ☐ Directing indoor traffic
- ☐ Answering questions
- ☐ Assuring the safety of cards and monies during the visitation and service
- ☐ Assisting at the cemetery
- ☐ Writing out and distributing all checks to church staff/newspapers/family florist/musicians/cemetery staff

In the absence of funeral home staff, the pastor is responsible for many of the above services. She makes arrangements with the cemetery and honor guard, makes sure musicians are paid, arranges the meal with the serving team, answers questions and with the help of our Altar Guild, assists in the set-up and clean-up of the visitation and service and attends to many other details in addition to the planning of the service and writing the sermon. The honorariums for these services are as follows:  
(approved by council in 2020)

Clergy—Cost is \$500 if not using a funeral home, if using a funeral home, this cost is \$200.

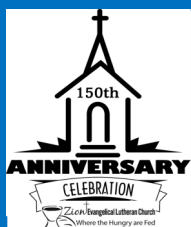
Organist - \$125

Soloist - \$100

Church Custodian - \$75

Sound/Video Technician - \$75

Altar Guild - \$50 if not using a funeral home



Next year is the 150 th anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church. The first meeting of the anniversary committee will be held in the library on June 12 at 3:00 pm. If you would like to be on the committee, please attend this meeting or let Pastor Sarah or Emmy know. If you have ideas for our celebratory year, please pass those along to the committee.

Steve Hoover, PhD, the Healthy Aging Coordinator for the Central Minnesota Council on Aging will be speaking on “Flourishing in the Second Half of Life” Sunday, June 4 at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall of Zion Lutheran Church. Dr. Hoover is a professor Emeritus at St. Cloud State University. He has developed and taught courses on Boys, Men and Masculinities as well as working to engage senior men in social engagement. Dr. Hoover also works with seniors living with depression. The public is invited to attend this special forum. Zion Lutheran Church is located at 28005 Old Towne Road, Chisago City. For more information call 651-257-2713

## **For church clean-up day:**

### **Outside work:**

Wash outside of windows on East side education wing  
Weed around and in playground  
Prune trees  
Move more plants away from building on east side  
Scrape paint, re-caulk and seal window over front sanctuary door then paint  
Cut of conduit and cap off pipe attached to wall by east door  
Rake out gravel between drive and pond  
Sweep parking lot residue left from snowpile  
Weed edges of parking lot  
Stack wood near firepit

### **Indoor tasks:**

Bring treats/make coffee (Lauritzens)  
Clean coffee cup stains with baking soda  
Dust interior window sills..a few lintels needs some glue to reattach  
Polish floors under pews (Murphy's) A good job for kids!  
Dust inside and out of historical item cabinet in library  
Clean tables in library (check drawers)  
Dust library shelves

### **Tools needed:**

Brooms and flat shovels for "dustpans" in the parking lot  
5 Gallon buckets  
Weed whippers  
pruning tools  
shovel for moving plants  
rakes  
dust clothes and other indoor cleaning supplies

## JUNE 2023

28005 Old Towne Road  
Chisago City, MN  
55013

Phone: 651-257-2713

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



**Staff Members:** Pastor Sarah Kerkes, ext. 102  
[pastor@zionlcc.org](mailto:pastor@zionlcc.org)

Office Administrator: KC Douglas, ext. 101  
[office@zionlcc.org](mailto:office@zionlcc.org)

Bookkeeper: Deb Hoffmeister, ext. 103  
[bookkeeper@zionlcc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@zionlcc.org)

Intergenerational Ministry: Emmy Lundeen, ext. 105  
[emmy@zionlcc.org](mailto:emmy@zionlcc.org)

Financial Secretary: Nicole Battles  
[finance@zionlcc.org](mailto:finance@zionlcc.org)

Youth Director: Todd Freeman

Organist & Bell Choir Director: *Needed*

Choir Director: Kelly Lachmiller

Accompanist: Joy Sietsema

Custodian & Groundskeeper: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery: John Hawkinson, Chet Garness

## 2023 Church Council Members:

Eric Douglas	Council Secretary/Finance
Jim Green	Mutual Ministry
Rick Saf	Vice President/Stewardship
Carl Thomsen	Property
Kelly Lachmiller	Worship & Music
Corrine Mix	Missions and outreach
Dave Tosteson	President/Education
Mary Redgrave	Stewardship
Barb Garness	Hospitality
Sherri Baumann	Shepherding
Glade Sietsema	Technology