

The Focus



2022

A Publication of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Sarah

One of the few places where the generations mingle is church. Most other groups are age based but church is a place where all ages can be together and learn from each other. In our mobile world, many families no longer live near grandparents/grandchildren. It is vital that we connect across all age ranges and provide a diverse community experience for all. We need each other from the wisdom of our seniors to the laughter of our children. We are hoping that our new Sunday night program can be a place of intergenerational interaction. Senior volunteers will be invited to hang out in the parents room, listening to the concerns and cares of today's parents. We will also have opportunities for folks to read stories, help with crafts, and hold babies. Love middle schoolers? I always welcome folks to confirmation classes, just to interact with our tweens. High schoolers? Talk to Todd and find a way to interact with that age group. The more we interact with one another, the more we will understand the pressures of today's families and children. The more they will feel our support and care. The more we can build caring relationships across the ages, the healthier our entire community will be. Watch for more information and sign-up sheets to appear as our new program year gets underway.

I am very excited for this coming school year, I hope you are too! Please keep those who are planning in your prayers and pray for ways you can be a part of the ministry at Zion.

Pastor Sarah



Psalms 145

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

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"*

Summer Worship Schedule:

In Person Worship Sundays

9:00 Traditional
10:45 Contemporary

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

www.zionlcc.org





A “heart” felt thank you for the well wishes, prayers, and visits. The surgery went well because of miraculous surgeons. The recovery is lengthy but your thoughts and prayers are helping me along.

~Larry Lundberg

Thank you to all who donated, sorted, worked, helped feed the crew, and did so much to help support the garage sale. We made a total of \$7757.00 from this years sale and are proud to have donated a lifetime total of over \$135,000 to the American Cancer Society to help fight cancer.

~Zion’s Unhampered Walkers

A big thank you to the congregation for taking such pride in our church and ground to keep it looking beautiful! Thank you to office staff for their direction and support as I have been working at Zion.

~Dexter Bylander

Thank you to all who helped with the recent funeral, You are appreciated!

Thank you for your prayers. We are both recovering from COVID and still struggling with the fatigue that seems to linger on. Special thanks to the people who brought us groceries, emergency cat food and COVID tests! Your prayers and concern are appreciated.

~Pastor Sarah and Chris



Senior & Friends **Worship & Luncheon**

We are planning to have our Senior and Friends worship and luncheon event on Thursday, September 29th at 11:00 am! We will gather for worship together and then enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship! Won't you join us? Call the church office at 651-257-2713 to RSVP by Friday, September 23 and let them know if you need a ride or not. Hope to see you there! Bring a friend!

We also need volunteers to help with the event and to make food. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex near the drinking fountain if you are willing to help,

9:00 Service Assistants

September 4

Ushers: Gary & Shirley Kerkow

Greeters: Gloria Stephens

Reader: Corrine Mix

Cantor: Rod Sietsema

Coffee Server: Sandy & Denny Patrias

September 11

Ushers:

Greeter:

Reader: Joy Sietsema

Cantor:

Coffee Servers:

September 18

Ushers:

Greeter: Lois DeGonda

Reader: Shirley Kerkow

Cantor:

Coffee servers:

September 25

Ushers:

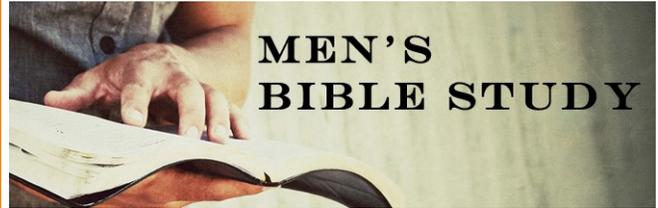
Greeter:

Reader: Richard Baumann

Cantor:

Coffee Servers:

Thank You!



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! Bring your coffee, etc. and use the back entrance. We encourage you to give this a try.



**Pastor's
Bible Study**

Pastor Sarah's Bible study is learning about other religions. Join us as we explore The faith of our brothers and sisters around the world. Thursdays at 10:00 am in the library.



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)

September 11

Pastor Sarah will once again be a speaker and say prayers at the community remembrance of 9/11 held at the veterans memorial in Moberg Park, Chisago City. This event begins at 6:00 pm. Earlier in the afternoon, at 2:00 pm, she will be participating in the veterans event at Point Pleasant Heights along with Julie Lauritzen, who will be playing special music.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
July 19th, 2022

Devotions: Carl Thomsen (August – Barb Garness)

Members Present: Mary Redgrave, Dave Tosteson, Jim Green, Danny Eby, Corrine Mix, Kelly Lachmiller, Glade Sietsema, Barb Garness, Sherri Baumann, Carl Thomsen and Pastor Sarah. Meeting was held in the fellowship hall.

Members Absent: Kris Skoog

Guests: None

Motion to approve the agenda and June Council minutes by Dave Tosteson, seconded by Jim Green.

Staff and Committee Reports:

Finance: \$30,281.23 checking, \$58, 577.80 savings

Discussion on Garage – doors have been ordered

Discussion on Giving, it is summer but giving levels are good and a lot of online donations. Additional \$7,000 rent per year starting in August from Head Start.

Properties:

Gutters installed on south side of the Sanctuary also on east and west sides of the building. Fire system compressor went out, parts are out at least 3 weeks – do not unplug the extension cord.

Garage Raising – letter to be sent out to the Congregation soon.

Education:

Looking for new intergenerational role for education – fingers crossed we have identified someone for the position.

Mission and Outreach:

No update

Hospitality:

Looking for volunteers for Ki Chisago days, will put notice in the Focus soon.

August 16th set up, 17-19 Garage Sale

Stewardship:

No update

Technology

Discussed internet outage and issues with batteries.

Worship and Music:

Search continues for organist

Shepherding

Written report provided

Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled for 10/14 from 10-4

Updates from Pastor:

Attendance is good on Sundays, Wed. not so much, 10-20 people on average per week.

Point Pleasant Heights

Parmly, Wed. morning worship more than 60 in attendance

Bible Study – world religions, current focus on Muslim, potentially taking a field trip to a Mosque

No Bible Study in August

Community Meals – interviewed and assistant cook – hired her. 175 attended last Monday
Blessed youth before Mission Trip
Graduation party for Hayden Trupe
Bookclub going well, ½ of the attendees are not members, so that is good.
Preparing for fall
8/8 to 8/12, Churchwide Assembly in Columbus
Pastor will be on vacation 8/13 to 8/22

Council meeting for August moved to 8/23 so Sarah can attend after she returns from vacation.
Motion by Barb Garness and second from Dave Tosteson to approve Committee/Staff report & Pastor's report. Motion passed.

Ongoing Business:

Spending Wish List: Kitchen, roof, sanctuary reconfiguration, new van, outdoor stage, musical upgrades, balcony railing, pickleball court, new garage – keep on agenda as a reminder.
Sanctuary Reconfiguration – discussion on need to take out the floor under the Piano, need to move the Piano. Motion to go ahead with the project by Corrine Mix, seconded by Barb Garness. Motion passed.
COVID Protocols – Beginning in August we will take Communion at the Alter each Sunday. All Communion Assistants should continue to wear masks, those distributing the Host and Wine should also continue to wear gloves. Need to create a sign-up sheet.
Add to Ongoing Business: We may need to rekey doors in the near future – issues at Trinity with Collection Plate – Sarah mentioned someone is coming into the Church at odd hours.
No Hamburger Stand for Ki-Chisago Days – we can't do both the Garage Sale and Hamburger stand

Respectfully submitted by Carl Thomsen

GEE HOWARD....Words to Challenge and Inspire...and Encourage

His followers went to Him and woke Him saying “Lord, save us! We will drown!”

Jesus answered, “Why are you afraid”? Matthew 8:25-26

Read this....”Then those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God’”.

Matthew 14:33

After the storm, the disciples worshiped Him. They had never, as a group, done that before. Never. Check it out. Open your Bible. Search for a time when the disciples corporately praised Him. You won't find it. You won't find them worshipping when he heals the leper. Forgives the adulteress. Preaches to the masses. They were willing to follow. Willing to leave family. Willing to cast out demons. Willing to be in His army. But only after the incident on the sea did they worship Him. Why? Simple....this time they were the ones who were saved.

From In The Eye of the Storm” by Max Lucado

Believe you can and you're half way there.....Teddy Roosevelt

And a church billboard blooper.....(hopefully was two different thoughts run together)!

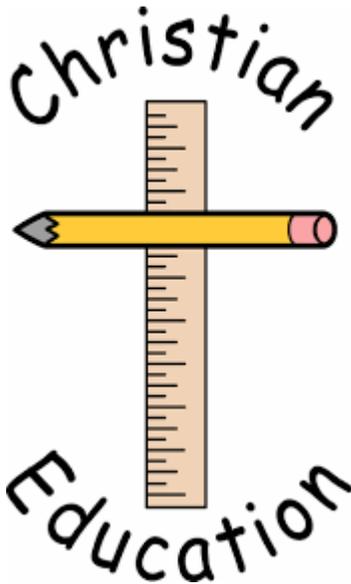
Do you know what hell is like? Come in and hear our choir.



We have a new staff member! Welcome Emmy Lundeen, our new Intergenerational Ministry Director. Some of you may know Emmy from her volunteer work with the Community Meals. Emmy will be in charge of our education programs.

A note from Emmy to “get to know” her; She is a mom of 3, a fur momma to one dog, 4 cats and 16 chickens. She loves coffee, kids of all ages, and sunshine! She is excited to grow and connect at Zion! P.S. she says “I’m always late and talk too much!”

Emmy brings a great deal of enthusiasm, a love for people of all ages, and creative ideas to our ministry at Zion. You can reach Emmy by email at: emmy@zionlcc.org



Sunday night is a time to connect! Starting September 18, we will be joining with Trinity and Chisago Lakes Lutheran to offer educational programming for preschool - 5th grade. “Lakes Connect” will be held at Zion. Classes will be from 4:30 - 5:30 pm. Parents will have a chance to connect and socialize during this time. A meal will be served at 5:30 pm followed by a brief worship service which will begin at 6:00 pm. Everyone from across the Chisago Lakes area is invited. Volunteers will be needed to help with meals and classes. Sunday night will also have a 4:30 pm confirmation class as well as a youth group gathering. An additional confirmation class will be on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm.

Confirmation classes for all 6th - 8th grade students will be held on Sundays at 4:30 pm and Wednesdays at 4:30 pm. Starting the week of September 18. Parents please come with your student the first night to fill out paperwork and for a brief parents meeting at the start of class.

9th grade confirmation students are required to be at a mini-retreat on September 25 at noon. (following the 10:45 am worship service.) Lunch will be served. The service of confirmation will be held on October 30th.



Sing-along!

Sing-along with
Dan Chouinard

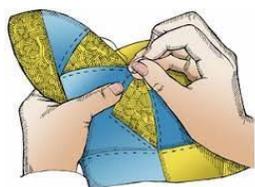
Monday, September 12 from 6-7pm. Join us for an enjoyable evening of music! There will be a freewill donation to benefit Zion’s Endowment Fund.

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.

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 651-257-2713



QUILTING GROUP

Quilting for August will be happening on Thursday, September 15 at 12:30 pm. If you are interested in quilting or learning more about our quilting group, feel free to join us!

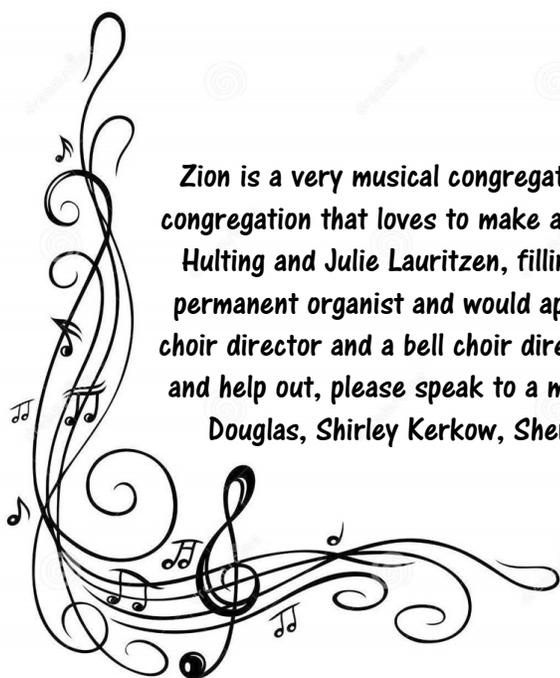


Looking for Mulch?

Headstart had mulch delivered to the playground behind the church and have loaded in as much as they need and there is extra mulch! If you would like some free mulch for your yard head to the outside of the playground and grab what you need or what is left. Thanks to Headstart for sharing their overabundance!

Music Notes

Zion is a very musical congregation. We have been blessed with wonderful musicians and a congregation that loves to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. We are very grateful for Wayne Hulting and Julie Lauritzen, filling in on the organ on Sundays. We are still searching for a permanent organist and would appreciate any leads you may have. We are also looking for a choir director and a bell choir director. If you have suggestions, ideas or would like to step up and help out, please speak to a member of the musician search committee: Pastor Sarah, KC Douglas, Shirley Kerkow, Sherri Baumann, Corrine Mix, or Julie Lauritzen. Thank you!





2022 ELCA
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY
August 8-12, 2022
Columbus, Ohio

Churchwide Assembly Report.

In July, I attended the triannual churchwide assembly held in Columbus, Ohio. All expenses were covered by the national church. It was a week of meetings, amazing worship, and a chance for me to see some old friends. We heard reports from the national church, witnessed and participated in public apologies for mistreating some of our brothers and sisters of different cultures. We elected a new churchwide vice-president Imran Siddiqui. Imran is from Atlanta and it turns out that a friend of mine from seminary is now a coworker of his and was instrumental in bringing him to church for the first time! We passed memorials directing the national church into a time of self-study and possible reorganization to better suit the needs of the 21st century. One of the surprising bits I learned about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is that worship is held in 35 different languages across the USA! As time goes on, I will be sharing other information about the work of our national church body. It was a remarkable opportunity to represent the Saint Paul Area Synod at this gathering. Pastor Sarah



Garage Update End of August 2022

First and most importantly, thank you to all Zion members (and Friends) who have financially supported fundraising. The end of the August balance in the Garage fund is \$16,000. In mid-July we purchased the garage doors. As with many things, they are on order and will arrive later in September. We need at least **\$50,000** to complete the project. The current estimate for the 'shell' is \$22,000 for materials. The additional cost is for insulating, electrical, heating, sheetrock and all the other materials and skilled services needed to finish the building. There is a tentative "start construction" date of October 15-16, 2022. Hopefully that weekend will be the "barn raising" where volunteers and skilled trades come together to get the garage done. We will share the additional information and plans as they become available. In the meantime, please continue to support us with your prayers and your contributions. This will be a busy fall!

Zion Finance and Property Teams



**RED CROSS
BLOOD
DRIVE**

Zion will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, October 14th, 2022 from 9am - 2 pm here in the Fellowship Hall.

There is a need for a few volunteers to help people sign in and fill our forms on that day. Please sign up to help with this in the church office.

Please sign up to donate blood online at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) with your zip code or using the sponsor code of **zelc**. If you have questions, call: 1-800-733-2767.

BOOK CLUB CHANGE FOR SEPT.

Labor day is the first Monday of September so we will be holding our Sept. book club on Monday, the 12th but at 5:15 pm. If you want, get food from the community meal and eat it in the library while discussing the book "The Sentence" by Louise Erdrich.

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

For the month of July we collected 43.5 pounds of donations for our local food shelf. The summer months can be difficult for families dependent on the Food Shelf because children are no longer receiving school breakfast and lunches. The cost of groceries has risen and makes it even more difficult for these families. If you can help with just one extra item on your grocery list it helps our local families.

Current needs are:

- Ramen noodles
- Graham crackers
- Salt
- Pepper
- Mayo
- Miracle whip
- Raisins
- Family Size chips
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Chocolate chips
- Brownie mixes

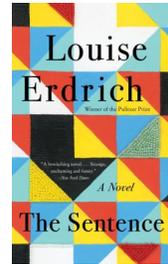
If you are donating money and want to make sure it goes directly to our local food shelf, put a note on the memo line saying:

Chisago Lakes Area Food Shelf Only

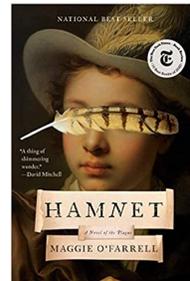
***Thank you for
your generosity!***

Book Club

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



Our September book is "The Sentence" by Louise Erdrich. A Mpls. Book store is haunted by the store's most annoying customer. She has died on All Saint's Day, but will not leave the bookstore. A new employee must solve the mystery of this haunting during a year of grief and reckoning in Mpls. This is described as funny, passionate, and a tale of complex marriage and a woman's relentless errors.



Our October book choice is "Hamnet", by Maggie O'Farrell. In 1580's England, during the Black Plague, a young Latin tutor falls in love with an eccentric young woman. This is a portrait of a marriage and a family ravaged by grief and loss. It is a re-imagining of a boy whose life has been all but forgotten and whose name was given to one of the most celebrated plays of all time, Hamlet.



Reminder: Committee Reports for the Annual Meeting are due to KC no later than October 31st, 2022.

If you have a notice or information to include in the newsletter, please have it submitted to KC by September 22! Thank you!

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

We are continuing with our LWR ongoing projects and are asking for supplies to include in our Personal Care Kits. These kits help people all over the world maintain good hygiene and personal grooming, something we often take for granted. The items listed below are just what we need to include in our kits, Although it is sometimes in our nature to include “an extra luxury”, but for package and shipping guidelines we must adhere to the list below. Thank you for your generosity in donating to our Lutheran World Relief Mission Projects!

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:



x1

One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"×40" & 52"×27"), dark color recommended



x2

Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping



x1

One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*



x1

One sturdy comb, remove packaging



x1

One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief Children's Project ~ UPDATE

Now is the time for packing those back packs that have been made ... Using the materials you have given to this project.

BACKPACK PACKING PARTY

Thursday - September 22nd - 1:00p.m.

We'll need those to gather the items and filling the packs and several strong men to pack the boxes and prepare them for shipping. Hope you will give us an hour or so of your time for this. See you on that day!

... and Your Mission Committee says **THANKS!**

There is still time to purchase and donate supplies. A monetary support of this project has been received from **Thrivent's Action Team** project and backpacks have been made in which the school items will be placed.

A box will be placed by the Welcome Desk for your donations. If you prefer to give a monetary donation for this cause, please put in the note "**LWF Backpack Project**". Donations will not only go to buy more supplies, but also help cover the cost of shipping.

Items needed are:

- 4 - 70 Sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2", no loose leaf paper.
- 1 - 30 centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- 1 - Pencil sharpener
- 1 - pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well.)
- 5 - Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- 5 - Black or blue ballpoint pens (**no gel ink**)
- 1 - box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 - 2 1/2" eraser

Thank you for helping give a child a chance in their education!



UNEXPECTED COMPANY CHORALE

Attention all singers! If you love to sing, come sing with Unexpected Company Chorale! Fall Session rehearsals are starting on Monday, September 12, at 7PM. The chorale rehearses Monday evenings at Trinity Lutheran Church, 13025 Newell Ave, Lindstrom. For the first rehearsal, please arrive at 6:30 PM. If you have any questions, check out the website at ucchorale.org. For your safety and for the safety of your fellow singers, Unexpected Company Chorale will require singers to be vaccinated and boosted for the coming season.

Stewardship is caring for all the gifts God has given us. Our stewardship team leads the congregation in their discernment of gifts, both time, talent and financial. We are looking for people to join this team. If you are interested or have questions about the team, please speak to Pastor Sarah or Mary Redgrave.

SEPTEMBER 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: KC Douglas, ext. 101
office@zionlcc.org

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

Intergenerational Ministry: Emmy Lundeen, ext. 105
emmy@zionlcc.org

Financial Secretary: Nicole Battles
finance@zionlcc.org

Youth Director: Todd Freeman

Organist & Bell Choir Director: *Needed*

Choir Director: *Needed*

Custodian & Groundskeeper: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery: John Hawkinson, Chet Garness

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