

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 am Traditional
5:00 pm Contemporary
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

NOVEMBER
2023

The year goes by so quickly. We are already turning another calendar page over and switching the furnaces on. At Zion, the church is full of autumn activities. The choir is singing, and the bells are ringing (thanks to Kelly who has stepped up to director the bell choir!). Children come to Sunday night activities and Sunday evening worship.

Bible Studies find warmth and insight in the library. The women are tying quilts and putting together personal care packages so that people around the community and the world may be nurtured.

After the last few interesting years, we are fully staffed and fully engaged once again. This does come with a financial cost, and we are feeling that pinch. Our finance committee would be most grateful if you could help us end the year in the black. Gary Kerkow is our resident giving specialist who is happy to answer questions related to QCD's and other giving options.

We are grateful for the many gifts that God has given us. We are grateful for this congregation. We are grateful for the blessing of one another. As we head into November may we be filled with thanksgiving for all that we have, all that we are and all that we are privileged to share with others.

Blessings and thankfulness,

Pastor Sarah

1 Corinthians 9: 10=15

¹⁰*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.* ¹¹*You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;* ¹²*for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.* ¹³*Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,* ¹⁴*while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.* ¹⁵*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*



GEE HOWARD....Words to Challenge and Inspire
 Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right. God is always near and always available, just waiting for your touch. So let Him know. Demonstrate your devotion: Write a letter, Ask for forgiveness, Be baptized, Feed a hungry person, Pray, Teach, Go. Do something that demonstrates faith. For faith with no effort is no faith at all. God will respond! He has never rejected a genuine gesture of faith. Never. Max Lucado from "He Still Moves Stones"
 If you think you're too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a mosquito in the room!
 Plant a Seed...The redwood tree, which grows to heights of 350 feet, has seeds so tiny that it takes 123,000 to fill a 1 pound bag.



Pastor Sarah, Emmy, Vicki Mickelsen and Kelly Lachmiller were present at the recent Age Well Expo held at the High School. We had a display set up inviting people to our grief and caregiver support groups. It was a fun day of meeting new people, networking with other vendors and expanding our visibility. Thank you to Alexis Robole for making the tri-fold display for our table.



Stewardship: Please return your commitment cards on or before November 5. When you return your card, your name will be put on a block for our "building on the foundation" display. Pledges will be dedicated

The Hospitality Team is hosting a pie social after the Thanksgiving Eve Service. This year our service is on Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30 pm.



Thrivent members are eligible for one or two Action Team mini-grants every year. These come at \$250 debit cards that can be used for events in the church and community. If you have questions about getting a card, please speak to your Thrivent Representative or Pastor Sarah. Projects that can use Thrivent support include:



- Community meal expenses
- NOIZ children's program
- Sunday Connect Program
- Sunday Connect Meals
- Confirmation Class supplies and snacks
- School bags and personal wellness kit projects
- Items for our 150th Anniversary collections for charities
- 150th Anniversary projects and events
- Senior Luncheon
- Quilting supplies
- Feminine hygiene supplies for church restrooms
- Seed money for fundraisers benefitting the church and community

Feel free to call the office, talk to Emmy or Pastor Sarah if you have a project you would like to support.



The Garage now has insulation and lights. We will soon be able to park the van and winter snow removal equipment inside.



Our organist, Josh Miller, invited people to participate in a hymn sing 15 minutes before the first worship service on October 29. Let him or Pastor Sarah know if you would like to see this happen again.



Dear Zion Quilting Group,
Thank you so much for the beautiful quilts you made and provided to the Minneapolis VA health Care System's Community Resource & Referral Center. We are eager to get them to the veterans we serve as they move into their new homes. Every quilt is clearly made with love and care-each one unique and special. Thank you! ~Jonelle & VA Team

Thank you for the prayers and caring.
~John Linngren



Congratulations to confirmands Kia Frederixon and Felicity Griffin, who were confirmed in the Faith on Sunday, October 29.



All Saint's Sunday is November 5. We will be reading the names and lighting candles in memory of everyone whose funeral has been at the church this past year. We will also read names and light candles in celebration of those baptized at Zion since last November. We invite you to bring your own photos and/or special item of someone you have lost. We will have tables set out to display these pictures/items.



Zion's Health Ministry Team's "Healthy News Hour" for November will be held Sunday, November 5th at 10:00 am. The topic is "Advanced Care Planning-Taking control of your health care wishes and end of life decisions."

This brief presentation will include information and explanation of advanced care planning and Minnesota's Honoring Choices (Living Will) form and the POLST(Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) form.

This forum will be led by: M Health Fairview's Patient Services Coordinator at the Chisago Clinic, Liz Alldritt.

The Health Ministry Team has received a Thrivent Care to update the first aid kits. Kits are currently located in the kitchen, the usher cabinet at the back of the sanctuary and in the office.

Food Shelf



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

For the month of October we collected 171 pounds of donations for our local food shelf. The needs of families in our area have increased and the food shelf is looking to provide 150 Thanksgiving meal baskets for their clients. If you can donate any of the following items to help us reach our goal, we would appreciate it:

100 green bean casserole kits (2 green beans, 1 can cream of mushroom and 1 can fried onions)
150 cans of cranberries (whole or jellied)
150 jars of olives and/or pickles
Money to purchase turkeys*

**Money donated for turkeys should be noted on the check in the memo line and sent to the food shelf or donations can be made directly to the Food Shelf Account at Brinks Market.*

Other needs in general are:

Granulated sugar
Salt and pepper
Graham crackers
Ramen noodles
Bottled juice
Egg noodles
Canned chunky soups
Laundry and dish soap
Shampoo
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Kleenex

*Thank you
for your
generosity!*

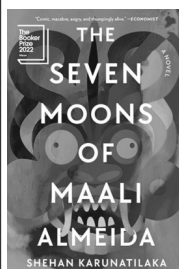
Pastoral Care

REMINDER

If you or someone you know is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please let Pastor Sarah know. She would rather have six 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.

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



The book choice for **November** is "The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida" by Sheehan Karunatilaka. War photographer and gambler wakes up dead in what seems like a celestial visa office. He has seven moons to try to contact friends to help find a hidden cache of photos.

December will be our Book Selection Party. Join us if you haven't had a chance to yet and help us choose books for 2024. Bring an appetizer to share.



We extend our sympathies to the families of Patti Parker, Matt Green, and George Johnson.

The funeral for George Johnson is tentatively scheduled for November 18.



We welcome through baptism Lillie Ann Schmitz, daughter of Jason and Melissa Schmitz. Her sponsors are Kelsie Monson and Kyle Monson.

Our Chisago Lakes Area Food Shelf is in need of paper bags. If you have any bags to donate for client's groceries please put them into the shopping cart next to the elevator near the West entry.

9:00 SERVICE ASSISTANTS

November 5:

Ushers:

Greeter: Virgi J.

Reader: Joy S.

Altar Care: Susan S. & Beth T.

Communion Assistants: Sherri B. & Dave T.

Coffee Servers:

November 12:

Ushers: Thomsens

Greeter:

Communion Assistants: Dave T.

Reader: Deb Hoffmeister

Altar Care: Susan S. & Beth T.

Coffee Servers:

November 19:

Ushers:

Greeter:

Reader: Richard B.

Altar Care: Susan S. & Beth T.

Communion Assistants: Rick S. & Barb G.

Coffee Servers:

November 22 (Thanksgiving Service):

Ushers:

Greeter:

Reader:

Communion Assistants:

Altar Care: Susan S. & Beth T.

Coffee Servers: Hospitality Pie Social

November 26:

Ushers:

Greeter:

Reader:

Communion Assistants: Sherri B.

Altar Care: Susan S. & Beth T.

Coffee Servers:

Thank You!

Sign up on our website or at the rear of the sanctuary.



at:651-674-2029 or sd.patrias@q.com (email)

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



November Altar Guild duty:

9:00: Susan S. & Beth T.

5:00 pm—



Our **Men's group** meets Saturday mornings at 8:30 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's Bible Study

Pastor Sarah's **Bible study** is on Thursday mornings at 10:00 in the library. "Luther's Small Catechism" is the current study. We have studied the Lord's Prayer and will be moving into the 10 commandments. Join us anytime!



The **Grief Support Group**, led 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 of grief, please let them know about this group. For more information, contact Pastor Sarah at: pastor@zionlcc.org 651-257-2713



Our **Caregivers Courage** support group meets the first and third Wednesday of the month from 9:30 to 11 in the library. If you or someone you know is a caregiver, please come and invite your fellow caregivers to be a part of this group. ALL caregivers are welcome. Bring a beverage if you wish. Contact Vicki Mickelsen at gandvmick@frontiernet.net for more details.



Our annual meeting is coming up Sunday, November 19th. If you are in charge of a committee or area that requires a report for the annual meeting, those reports are due to KC **no later than Monday October 30**. Thank you. There are still the majority of reports that need submitting.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting September 2023

Devotions: Kelly L

Meeting call to order: Dave T.

Absent: None

Present: Pastor Sarah, Jim G, Carl, Barb, Kelly, Eric D, Dave T., Glade, Emmy, Mary, Rick S, Sherri B, Emmy, Corrine

Approval of Agenda and minutes from last meeting:

Motion: Eric; 2nd: Sherri; Motion carried.

Finance:

Checking as of 8/31: \$22,171.32 As of 9/15: -\$20.29. Gary Kerkow will speak about giving at the Sunday Service.

Savings: \$61,407.61

Reserve Funds: \$37,778.56 (No Change)

Maintenance and Property running high in August. Utilities running high YTD.

Property: No meeting this month.

North wall stucco has been fixed.

Garage insulation done. Garage passed inspection except utility door needs to be properly attached. Bid out for security cameras.

Sound system coming into dining area (\$7k less than previous quote)

Education (Upcoming topics)

Suicide talk last Sunday.

Gary going to do financial planning next week.

Health ministry met prior to suicide talk. Pastor Sarah stepped in when speaker backed out. People want fellowship after presentations recommending alternate months for health presentations. Looking at other ideas for timing.

Mission and outreach:

Met again today and 318 school kits done. 34 more to do on Thursday. 352 total.

102 personal care kits packed, over 200 when done.

We will have our picture in the paper this week. (County Press)

Hospitality

Call from Jonathon Dodge, would like host party after Caroling 12/17. May conflict with Sunday school program. Looking at Pie social after service at Thanksgiving.

Stewardship:

Committee met and will be doing skits in October, meet again next week.

Theme based on anniversary. "Building on Foundation"

Technology:

New sound system to be installed in the dining room in next two weeks

Cameras going up for parking lot and garage.

Worship and Music:

Riley Abbott is new accompanist.

Contemporary worship leadership team meeting. All very excited with move to second service. Working on details on what needs to be updated.

1st 5pm service last week. 30 people at it. Meal was served after service.

Shepherding/Health ministry

Health ministry team. January mental wellness fair in the planning stage. One speaker lined up, maybe another, and working on vendors.

January 20th or 27th. Includes Lunch. Applied for Grant, but have not heard back.

We will not have anything in October, November will have something and then January.

Working on establishing a code to signal to nurses to go to back if someone is having trouble. Ushers have been amazing helping people.

No plans for flu shots at this time.

Care givers gave a \$1000 grant and were able to publicly accept it.

Mutual Ministry

Meeting this Thursday (1pm). Mission is to partner with Staff. Last meeting for season.

Intergenerational

Twins game/Water station for parade/2 fishing trips

Senior lunch. New faces/Next senior lunch 12/14

Anniversary meal for community meals 360 people attended. Good support for cleanup too

Sunday connect has started (5pm service). New people at dinner, good.

Blessing of backpacks, pets, and bible handouts coming.

Noise started.

Age Well, expo on 10/22

Pastor Report

Funeral at Scandia

Graveside for Venzel Lindholm

Wedding for Ashley and Steve Porter

Attended ordination of Carrie Stiles, new Pastor at Wyoming Lutheran

Senior Luncheon Worship

KiChiSaga Parade handed out water and freezes

Baptism meeting, baptizing teenager. Started watching during COVID.

Greif Support Group received \$1000 grant from Chisago community assoc.

Stewardship committee; Opioid committee

Meeting with members; Vacation 1.5 weeks

2 upcoming baptisms.

Deacon Krista Lind assistant to Bishop will be preaching on 10/8

At Pastors fall conference 10/15 to 10/17

Motion to accept Reports:

Motion: Corrine; 2nd Jim : Motion carried.

Ongoing business

Will be adding some items to adopt a project, but holding off until financial situation is more stable.

Repair and replacement plan needs to stay on radar.

New Business

Kelly is working toward Nurse certificate. She is working with health ministry team to get hours needed to get certificate. Targeting 96hrs in 6 weeks.

MiChiLu is meeting again. Doing beer and hymns on 10/29 at Uncommon Loon. Looking for support.

Unconcealed weapon was brought into the church a couple weeks ago. Reviewed with Synod, other churches and Police. By statute, people can come in unless we have signs up. You can't ask them to leave if there are no signs. Churches in area have range of policies, some have nothing some with full security. Will set up time to meet with Police (council and community meals). Willing to share ideas and options we have.

October 12th is next finance meeting.

Next meeting is October 17th 6pm. (Prep for annual meeting and committee reports should be available). R to approve budget and nominating committee.

Annual booklets need to be available November 5th.

Finance meeting is November 12th

Annual meeting is November 19th

Glade S. to do devotions at next meeting.

Motion to adjourn

Motion Carl; 2nd Barb; Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Douglas, Council Secretary



Engaging with Emmy:

There are many great things going on in Intergenerational Ministry at Zion! Looking forward to November:

Happy Fall! We are deep into fall and the color of the leaves the past week has been amazing! Where has the time gone? If you are interested in an afternoon outing, talk to Emmy to arrange one. On October 6th, Sherri & Richard Baumann and I volunteered at Trinity in Lindstrom for their New Pathways mission. New Pathways is a program (located in Cambridge) for people who have found themselves homeless and are in need of assistance. To Qualify for the program the family needs to follow the program steps. The families spend time in the day center, then evenings and overnights are at local churches. They host dinner and activities, sometimes even birthday parties! The next hosting opportunity is December 10-17. Check my board next to the main restrooms if you are interested in helping out.

Sunday Connect is going great! Newcomers are always welcome.

- **Parenting with Purpose:** Join us for some connection on Mondays at 10:00 to 11:30am with fun for the littles and a chance to get out of the house. Bring your kids and your coffee! Nov. 13, 20, 27 & Dec. 4, 11, and 18.
- **Community Meals** needs donations of Pink Lemonade.
- **Veterans dinner:** Friday November 10—4-6pm at Zion hosted by the VFW.
- Join me for a **Lutefisk Dinner** on Saturday, November 11 at West Immanuel in Osceola. I will make reservations for our group. Please sign up on the board by the main restrooms. Marine on St. Croix will host their dinner in January.
- At the end of November we will put up our Angel Tree to help support local families during the holiday season.
- Save the date: December 14th at 11:00 am will be our next Senior and Friends Luncheon.

Sunday Connect Schedule

4:00 pm: Sunday School (all ages)
4:00 pm: NOIZ
4:00 pm: Confirmation
5:00 pm: Contemporary Worship
6:00 pm—Dinner (See board to sign up and help.)

November 12 & 19—Play Practice

November 26—game night (intergenerational)

December 3—Advent Crafts (Intergenerational)

December 10—Play Practice

December 17—Skit performance at 9:00 am & 5:00 pm worship services



Pie Fundraiser for the Chisago Lakes Area Food Shelf:

Pies will be available for sale on the following Sundays:

11-5: 8:30—10:30 am and 4-5 pm

11-12: 8:30—10:30 am and 4-5 pm

11-19: 8:30—10:30 am and 4-5 pm

Wed. 11-22 by pre-order only (These will be available prior to the Thanksgiving Eve Service)

Suggested donation is \$12 per pie.

Choices are: Apple, Cherry, Pumpkin, Blueberry, Pecan, and Rhubarb (Limited number available)

Please call Pat Pojanowski with orders or questions (651)-257-3863.



The Zion choir is always looking for more singers (especially sopranos). If you know someone who enjoys singing and would like to participate, just send them to the choir room at 6:30pm on Wednesdays. (Use the back parking lot entrance.) Choir members do not need to be members of the congregation in order to sing with us. All are welcome.



Zion's Handbell Choir is once again up and running, now under the direction of Kelly Lachmiller. They will be meeting Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. If you are interested in joining the bell choir, talk to Kelly at church or email her at kjlachmiller@gmail.com



School Bag Project:

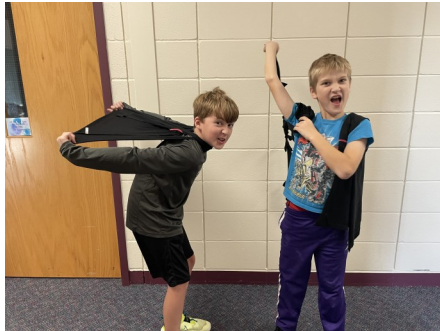
Though we just finished the project...It must be started again! The bags themselves must be made and it takes time. Would you be interested in sewing these bags? Material and thread are available, as well as the basic instructions. It is a simple pattern and sewing is not too demanding. If you are interested, please check the "Missions" board for the instruction form and see Corrine Mix or Virgi Johnson for the fabric and thread. Your help is greatly appreciated.



On September 26, Emmy, Mary R. & Nancy B. headed down to Mall of America to the Sequest Aquarium. It was a great trip followed by lunch on the way home. If you have a day trip in mind, talk to Emmy to make it happen.



October 18th, an Intergenerational field trip was taken to Lendt's Pumpkin Patch. We learned about bees, picked pumpkins and popcorn



NOIZ: Sundays at 4:00 pm and after school on Wednesdays. If you know a child in grades 3-5 who is looking for something to do on these days, this is a fun and relaxed hang-out time! The van will pick kids up from school on Wednesdays. Registration is free. Class is over at 5pm. Wednesday classes will be meeting on November 1, 15th, & 29th and Dec. 6th and 13th.



Sunday Connect is so much fun! Newcomers are always welcome any time, as well as cousins visiting from out of town.



Zion's library was started in 1985-86 and the first librarian was Shelly Rensink. No one tried to guess the correct answer.

November 150 items for collection are socks any size, (children to adult and for both genders.) and long underwear any size. Both items are acceptable in new or clean and slightly used condition. The items will be divided between the Alexandria House Shelter and the Homeless Vets Program.

Sunday, November 19th we will have an ugly sock contest for both services. After the first service prepare to show off your ugly socks at the Annual Meeting. At the 5:00 pm service you will have a second chance to be a winner. (With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming put your creativity into the socks you will wear that day.)

Trivia question for November is: "When was the present Sanctuary built and what did it cost?"

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, December 14, 2023 at 11:00 am

Please RSVP to the church by calling

651-257-2713

No later than Thursday, December 7th.

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

NOVEMBER 2023

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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: Josh Miller

Bell Choir Director: Kelly Lachmiller

Choir Director: Kelly Lachmiller

Accompanist: Riley Abbott

Custodian & Groundskeeper: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery: John Hawkinson, Chet Garness

2023 Church Council Members:

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