

The Focus



A Publication of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2021

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:

Online services premier at 8:30 am

www.zionlcc.org

Or

Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church
on Facebook

In Person Worship

11:00 in the back
parking lot.
Bring your own chair



A Message from Pastor Sarah

Spring is arriving with all of its hopes and dreams, bird songs and mud puddles. We need a beautiful spring in our lives. It has been a long cold winter, one that most of us would rather forget. Now we have the chance to get outside, plan the garden and take long walks. Easter is also arriving with all of its hopes and dreams. We are given a new life, another chance to love and be loved, eyes to see the world around us through the eyes of the risen Christ.

We still have plenty of challenges ahead of us. We still have difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions to make, we still have anxiety. But we also have the promise of Jesus to be with us every step and every stop along the way. As always, we journey together into the season of Easter, united in Spirit. May this Easter Season be one of fresh beginnings, deep love and hope for the year ahead.

Peace and love,
Pastor Sarah

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:3-9

**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

Thursday, April 1	Maundy Thursday (Facebook & YouTube)	6:30 pm
Friday, April 2	Good Friday (Facebook & YouTube)	6:30 pm
Monday, April 5	Book Club via Zoom	6:00 pm
Thursday, April 8	Finance Committee	6:00 pm
Tuesday, April 20	Council	6:00 pm
Sundays	Online Worship In-person worship	8:30 am 11:00 am

Sunday Service Options

We will be continuing to do our online worship services on Sundays at 8:30 am. These can be viewed on either our Facebook page or our YouTube channel. (Links are on our website, www.zionlcc.org) They can also be viewed any time after the original showing.



Outdoor services are now being offered at 11:00 am in the back parking lot, weather permitting. Please bring your own chair. We are asking people to still maintain their distance from other family groups so we can continue to keep everyone safe. This service will only be spoken word, no singing or communion at this time.



DID YOU GET IT?

A weekly online newsletter is being sent out each Thursday. If you have not received it, please check your social tab, or your junk mail.



Palm Sunday, March 28

~ **Online service at 8:30 am**

~ **Outdoor in-person service at 11:00 am**

This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Stations of the Cross, March 28 - April 3

When you have time this week, come to the front parking lot and experience the Stations of the Cross. Pick up a booklet, then use that to guide you through the final days of Christ's passion story. For each station, the booklet will have a scripture for you to read, a thought to meditate on, and an artistic depiction of the event. Use this time to contemplate what Jesus did for you, before we get to the wonderful day of his resurrection.

Maundy Thursday, April 1

~ **Online service at 6:30 pm**

Maundy Thursday we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his dis-

ciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Good Friday, April 2

~ **Online service at 6:30 pm**

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. This service has been put together by all the area Lutheran churches.

Easter Sunday, April 4

~ **Online service at 8:30 am**

~ **Outdoor in-person service at 11:00 am**

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather, online or in person: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

NOIZ Is Back!

We are VERY excited to offer in person, outside NOIZ starting Wednesday May 5th. We will meet in the back parking lot at 5:00. We will play games or do a craft and finish up with Bible study. Dinner will be served, outside, starting at 6:00.

All church COVID guidelines will need to be followed, including social distancing and wearing masks.

If you know of a 3rd through 5th grader who would like to join us, please feel free to pass along the information. Any questions can be emailed to childrenandfamily@zionlcc.org

Sunday School News

Sunday School is going strong at Zion. We are sending packets and crafts to over 30 children! There is also the option to get a short video of the lesson each week via email. Packets for April will be sent out soon, and May will be the final month of packets and crafts. If you know of anyone to add to the list, please let me know.

Vacation Bible School will be held outside, July 19 – 22, from 9:00 – 11:30. Please watch the church website for a link to sign up. We will be looking for volunteers to help with music, games, craft and food. If you could volunteer just a couple of hours one day, it would be much appreciated! This year's theme is Rainforest Explorers. We are looking forward to seeing all the kids back at church!



Confirmation Class will meet outside at 4:00 or 5:15 pm on April 14 and 21st. These will be the last two meetings of the year. If the weather is bad we will be in the fellowship hall with one child per table, masks required.

Scholarships

Zion's Endowment Committee is very happy to announce that again through the generous endowment gifts from the Noreen family, Helen Rylander, and Paul and Betty Johnson, we are able to offer scholarships to Zion's students.

The applicants are required to complete an application, covering such items as their church, community and volunteer activities, leadership positions, educational and work history, along with their future plans and how this scholarship will help them reach their career goals. Application forms are available in the church office (Tuesday or Thursday between 9 and 2), or on Zion's website www.zionlcc.org under Quick Links. Completed forms are to be returned to the church office or mailed to Zion to the attention of the Endowment Committee.

The deadline is April 30th to return completed applications to the church office.

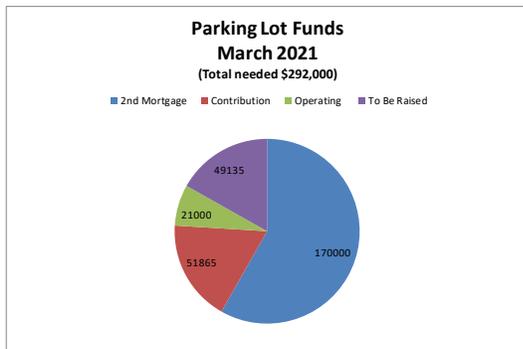
If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Endowment Committee: Gary Kerkow, LaDema Hawkinson, Jim Green, Ruth Nielsen, Marilyn Rue, or George Mickelsen.

Parking Lot Update

A significant milestone was reached in March. The loan application was submitted on March 18. There were a few questions from the underwriter and we are continuing communications with Thrivent Church Financing. There is no estimate of how long the loan approval process will be but we will keep you posted.

Second, there has been significant increase in plastic pipe cost. This is in line with what is happening everywhere in the US. We are reviewing this and trying to decide what our action will be. Nothing is certain at this time.

In the meanwhile, we will continue to raise funds. No matter what happens, the parking lot still needs attention. So please continue to keep this project in mind. What has happened so far is remarkable. But, we are not there yet. Thanks for all your efforts.



Caregivers Support Group

Our caregivers support group will be starting up again this month. Our plan is to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10:00 am. Our first meeting will be April 7th. 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.

Thank You!

Dear Zion Family & Prayer Chain,

Thank you very much for the cards, kind words and prayers on the loss of my brother Bob Briggs. Also thank you very much as you continue to pray for my niece Becki Mandt (my brother's daughter) as she battles her cancer.

It is comforting to be a part of such a loving and caring church family.

Love,

George & Pat Martin
& Families

Thank you to all who helped with our mid-week Lenten services: **musicians, readers, actors and technicians**. You made our journey very special.

Thank you to the **Council** for guiding us with wise and carefully considered decisions.

Thank you to **Sue Schneider** for all her work in setting up communion for on-line worship, for changing paraments and doing other altar guild tasks.

Thank you to **Rod Sietsema** for setting up and running the sound system for our outdoor worship.

Thank you to **Denny and Sandy Patrias** for keeping the prayer chain going, for the people who pray for all in need. Your prayers are appreciated!

Thank you to **all of you who keep in touch** with members of the congregation through phone calls, cards and e-mails.

Thank you to **Dusty Perry** at **Peterson Company** for the sandbags used for our Stations of the cross.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
February 16, 2021

Devotions: Barb Garness (*March – Laura Freeman*)

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

Staff and Committee Reports:

1. Finance –\$50,800 checking, about \$129,557 savings
 - a. Starting to work on mortgage for the parking lot

Update from Pastor:

- Continue on-line services. Getting help with reading of the lessons · Preparing for Ash Wednesday – ash packets
- Funeral – Larry Lofgren
- Baptism – Lydia Sargeant
- Wedding – Diane Peterson & Lee Duncan
- Virtual coffee hour successful – non-communion Sundays 8-12 people attend · Confirmation classes - will not have during Lent
- Weekly text study
- Bi-Weekly meetings with local clergy
- Monthly Zoom event with MN Dept of Health
- Tech guy from Trinity came out to help look at technology issues
- Vacation
- Upcoming –
 - Tool Kit for Leaders – Saturday 2/27
 - New website went live today 2/16/2021

Motion to approve January council minutes, committee reports and Pastor's report by Corrine Mix and second by Karen Pavel. Motion passed.

Ongoing Business:

1. 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:

1. Missions – will continue with quilts and the school kit. Will be starting the personal care kit – adult-size light-weight bath towel, 2-3 bars of soap, adult size toothbrush, sturdy comb, metal nail clipper for Lutheran World Relief
2. Youth – would like to start meeting at church – a group of 10 or less. Also trying to plan a summer mission trip.
3. Easter – is there an interest for a drive up/parking lot service? Will have further discussion in March. The weather will be deciding factor. We will review that tasks so we can be ready.
4. Parking lot work is scheduled for April
5. Relay for Life Garage Sale – would like to schedule. The committee will discuss future possibilities

Motion to adjourn from Jim Green, second Carl Thomsen. Motion passed.

Next meeting date: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, March 16, 2021 via Zoom (exec. council by email)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Skoog

Gee Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire

The Prodigal Son....Part 2?

A minister was on a train, the only occupant of a coach car except for a young man who was very ill at ease. The young man would stand up, walk around for a few minutes, sit back down, pick up a book and look at it momentarily before putting it down, stand up again, pace for a bit and again sit back down. The minister went over to him, sat down beside him and asked what was troubling him. The young man was hesitant to respond but then the dam broke. "I ran away from home and I've been away for a long time. I wanted to go back, and wrote my father asking if he would take me back. But I never got a reply. So I wrote my mother, told her I was not waiting for a reply, that I was coming home and if they would take me back she must hang a white rag on the crabapple tree, down near the railroad tracks, so that I can see it when the train goes by. I wrote her that if I didn't see the white rag, I would understand and go on by." He told the minister that they were getting near and that he was afraid to look-afraid the white rag wouldn't be there. The minister told him he didn't have to look, that he would look for him. The youngster sat with his eyes closed, trembling, the hand of the minister on his knee. As they drew near to where the tree was, the hand of the minister closed tightly on his knee and said, "My boy, there is a white rag on every limb of that tree!"



Something like this awaits us all-those who return to God for the first time and those who return to God with great frequency. It is a welcome so ungrudging, so overflowing that it will break down all our hesitations, all fears and doubts. Take one step toward Him, and He will take two steps toward you.

From *Abundant Living* by E. Stanley Jones



Greetings!

The mission team is still working. Several seamstresses are working at home, putting together quilt tops and sewing backpacks. We can always use you if you want to sew at home.

We continue to put together quilts of various sizes. We like to give these quilts to people in the local area. If you know anyone needing quilts, let us know and we will try to help.

We will be filling school kit backpacks in the fall. As school supplies are usually on sale July through September, we will remind you about those at that time.

We will add a new kit NOW! **Personal Care Kits** are needed worldwide and the items are readily available for us to purchase.

Each kit needs the following items:

- 1 lightweight bath towel
20 x 40 to 27 x 52
Dark color recommended
- 2-3 bath sized bars of soap
- 1 adult tooth brush in original wrapping
- 1 sturdy comb (no picks or finetooth)
- 1 metal nail clipper

Please buy what you can and we will make the kits. It is suggested that you buy in bulk. Please do **NOT** add other items. We will try to make the Personal Care Kits a year-round project.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-15 to see what Paul writes about giving! Not just about what we think of as mission projects, but to giving in general.

Pray that God will guide you. We can all be missionaries!

Blessings,
Corrine Mix



We are still in need of a few more drivers for Meals on Wheels, If you are able to help on any of the following



dates, please contact the church office or Marilyn Rue.

- ◆ April 30, Friday
- ◆ May 28, Friday
- ◆ June 29, Tuesday
- ◆ June 30, Wednesday
- ◆ July 29, Thursday
- ◆ September 30, Thursday
- ◆ December 30, Thursday
- ◆ December 31, Friday



Vacation Bible School plans are in the works for this summer. It will be held outdoors July 19-22, from 9:00-

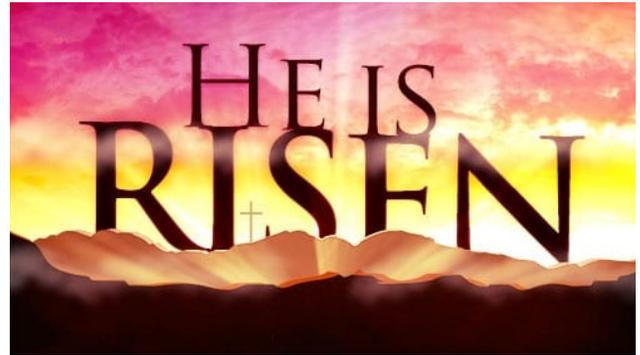
11:30. If you are able to help in any way with this, please contact Pastor Sarah. Watch the weekly Zone for updates.

We are looking for a couple people who would be interested in learning how to set up and run the sound system for our outdoor services. If you are willing to help out, please contact the church office.



No More Cans

The youth will no longer be collecting cans for recycling. Please do NOT bring any more empty cans to the church. Thank you!



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

Holy Communion

You will need to provide your own bread/cracker and wine/juice. God will provide the rest. This is another way we can stay connected and fed by Christ during this pandemic time.

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

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

215 pounds of food

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

Current food needs are:

- Cereal Bars
- Small snack bags
- Toothpaste
- Fruit snacks

Thank you for your generosity!

The church bell is rung on Sunday mornings. It rings once for every 100 Covid-19 deaths in the state of Minnesota. Thank you to Chet for his dedication to this task!



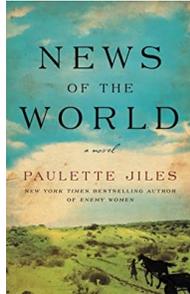
We have a number of people who have volunteered to assist folks. If you need help getting groceries or running errands, please call the office and we will send you a volunteer. 651-257-2713

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

Book Club

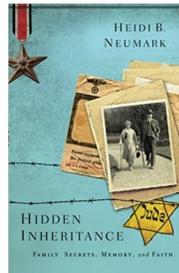
For the present time, book club will be held virtually on the first Monday of each month **at 6:00 pm** . Please contact Sue Frame to find out more. Susan.k.frame@gmail.com

Our **April** book is *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles



In the aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex, multilayered novel of historical fiction from the author of *Enemy Women* that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust.

Our **May** book will be *Hidden Inheritance: Family Secrets, Memory and Faith* by Heidi Neumark.



This is a book of her surprising discovery that her family had a Jewish side and her grandmother was a death camp survivor. "Seeking answers, Heidi traveled across the ocean and into the depths of her soul to encounter a family and spiritual heritage she never knew she had. For any who have had secrets, closeted identities, and silence shape their lives, Heidi's journey is more than a spellbinding memoir. It's also a courageous call to discover what can happen when all that has been hidden is finally brought to light.

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)



Men's **Bible Study**



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.

Altar Care for April

Susan Schneider -
Coordinator



The Crucifixion and Resurrection

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

Find these words:

alive	Gospel	rolled
angel	guard	soldiers
body	hammer	spear
burial	Heaven	spices
Calvary	Jesus	stone
cross	joy	Sunday
dawn	king	tell
disciples	morning	tomb
earthquake	nails	women
empty	risen	worship
Galilee	robe	



APRIL 2021

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Phone: 651-257-2713

www.zionlcc.org

Staff Members:

Pastor Sarah Kerkes, ext. 102
pastor@zionlcc.org

Interim Office Secretary: Joy Sietsema ext. 101
office@zionlcc.org

Bookkeeper: Deb Hoffmeister, ext. 103
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

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