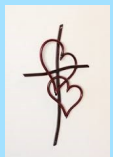


OFFICE HOURS:**Monday - Thursday****9:-00-2:00****Office email:****office@zionlcc.org****Pastor's email:****pastor@zionlcc.org*****Mission Statement:******"To make the love of Christ known to all"******Vision Statement:******"Where the Hungry are Fed"*****Summer Worship Schedule:****In Person Worship Sundays**

8:30 Traditional

Wwednesdays:**6:30 Contemporary****Traditional service premiers live on Facebook and YouTube at 8:30 am****www.zionlcc.org**

The Focus

A Publication of

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church



2022

A Message from Pastor Sarah

There are certain things we need for survival. Food, water and shelter top the list. The list of what we need to thrive is much longer: love, a sense of belonging, support, security and safety. Human beings were created to live together and we have a whole network of systems that connect us to one another such as family, neighborhoods and institutions like schools and churches. We need each other in order to live meaningful lives. There are people who are not surrounded by the support systems they need, whether that is healthy families, mental health services or a place to belong. The church is in a unique position to provide support and meaning to people's lives. We cannot solve all the problems of society, but we can provide a healthy and loving environment for all ages. We can help take away the stigma of mental illness. We can advocate for the needs of the people in our midst and in our community.

Zion already offers a number of ways to make connections. We have Sunday and Wednesday worship services. We have Sunday Coffee Hour and will be adding some Wednesday evening social events (S'mores anyone?). We have support groups for those who are caregivers and those who are grieving. The Community Meal resumes on June 6, offering both food and fellowship. The Health Ministry Team is active again and planning educational events on both physical and mental well-being. The youth group will be heading off on a mission trip later this month to grow in faith while serving others. Whenever we work together in the kitchen, volunteer with the cemetery group, greet a young person we are making vital connections. This month's newsletter is full of ways we can help strengthen our young families, children and teens. Weaving through all of our connections is the Spirit of God. We are reminded of this as we start our month with the celebration of Pentecost. The Spirit burns in our hearts, sending us out into the world to bring the warmth of this community to the people we encounter every day.

May the Holy Spirit continue to lead us and guide us in these summer months and may all that we do as a church reflect the joy of belonging to the community of Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Sarah

But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith lay in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on some who are wavering; save others by snatching them out of the fire... Jude 1:20-23a



Thank you to everyone who supported our confirmation classes! Thank you to the folks who provided treats throughout the year, families who provided pizza and dessert for our year end party, Monica Tosteson and Todd Freeman who helped with classes and built strong relationships with our youth. Thanks to all who take time to thank our young people for helping and worship. They know that this church supports them!

Dear Zion Evangelical LC,
On behalf of Hosanna Lutheran Church and the 2022 Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Lakes Area Mobile Pack, we would like to thank you for your donation of \$234.35. Your support helps us continue in our mission to end child hunger around the world. Thank you again for your support,
Roxanne Anderson
Hosanna Lutheran Church

To my Zion Family,

Thank you so very much for the Birthday Card shower that I received and enjoyed for my 98th Birthday. All the cards were so beautiful. God has truly blessed me.
Thanks again,
Onne Mae Fisher

Dear Zion Evangelical LC,
Thank you for your generous \$8000.00 emergency gift to help the people of Ukraine, who are enduring unimaginable hardship and suffering. Please continue to lift them up in your prayers.
Your gift is being put to use immediately to deliver emergency food, shelter, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, medicines and other critically needed items for children and their families who are trying to survive the horrifying fighting...or are being forced to flee their homeland with a few meager belongings. Thank you again, and God bless you!
Daniel V. Speckhard, President and CEO
Lutheran World Relief



Memorial Day Services:
Memorial Park - 10:00 am
West Green Lake - 10:30 am
South Green Lake - 11:30 am
Pastor Sarah will be giving the invocation at each of these services.



Relay for Life Garage Sale

The sale will be held during Ki-Chi-Saga days, August 18-21. You can start bringing items for sale to the church **AFTER** June 10th. **NO electronics or exercise equipment will be accepted for the garage sale.** Thank you for supporting Relay for Life!



In honor of their 60th Anniversary, Arild & Betty Hagberg & family will be serving coffee and cupcakes on June 19th after the 8:30 service.

8:30 Service Assistants

June 5

Ushers:
Greeters:
Reader: Richard Baumann
Coffee Server: Kerkows & Rensinks
Sound Tech - (needed)

June 12

Ushers:
Greeter:
Reader: Corrine Mix
Coffee Servers:

June 19

Ushers:
Greeter:
Reader:
Coffee servers: Hagberg family in honor of 60th Anniversary
Sound Tech - (needed)

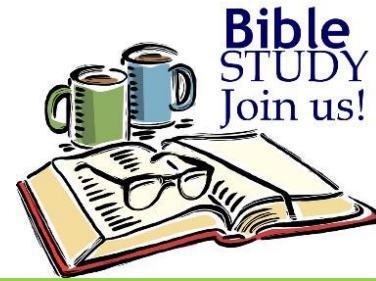
June 26

Ushers:
Greeter:
Reader:
Coffee Servers:

Thank You!

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.



Pastor's June Bible Study continues to focus on how to read the Bible. There are many approaches we can take when studying Scripture. What questions can we ask the text? What do we need to know about the Biblical worldview? How can we dig more deeply into the Word? Join us in the church library at 10:00 am on Thursdays. Beginning Bible readers welcome!

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.

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

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)

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
April 19, 2022

Devotions: Sherri Baumann (*May – Corrine Mix*)

Members Present: Corrine Mix, Mary Redgrave, Glade Sietsema, Carl Thomsen, Kris Skoog, Sherri Baumann, Jim Green, Dave Tosteson and Pastor Sarah. Meeting was held in the fellowship hall.

Member Absent: Danny Eby, Kelly Lachmiller

Guests: None

Motion to approve the agenda by Corrine Mix, second by Dave Tosteson.

Motion to approve March council minutes by Barb Garness and second by Carl Thomsen. Motion passed.

Staff and Committee Reports:

1. Finance: \$45,867 checking, about \$56,436 savings
2. Property:
 - o LARA asked to use our ball fields.
 - o Looking for volunteers to wash the outside windows. A work day will be planned
3. Education –
 - o NOIZ will end 4/28
 - o Confirmation will end 5/18
 - o Discussion about starting adult forum again
 - o Mutual Ministry – program has started.
 - o Hospitality – Strawberry Shortcake for Mother's Day
 - o Shepherding Ministry – written report

Motion to approve Committee/Staff report by Sherri Bauman. Second by Dave Tosteson. Motion passed.

Update from Pastor:

Worship in person and live streaming –
Holden Even Prayer Services
Holy Week Services
First Communion for 2 of our young people
Point Pleasant weekly visits
Bible Study on Thursdays
Wedding Thomsen/Schneider
Graveside service for a miscarriage (out of town, wanted a pastor presence)

Member visits
Member birthday parties
Grief Support
Musician search
Community Meal Meeting
Pre-baptism meeting
Head Start – met w/coordinator. Looking to start program for babies if they can find staff
Upcoming –

- Funeral – Jerry Long on April 23
- Vacation – 5/7 & 5/8
- Baptism – 5/15

Motion by Corrine Mix and second by Sherri Baumann to approve Pastor's Report. Motion passed.

Ongoing Business:

1. Spending Wish List: Kitchen, roof, sanctuary reconfiguration, new van, outdoor stage, musical upgrades, balcony railing, pickleball courts, new garage - keep on agenda as a reminder.
 2. COVID Protocol Updates –
 - o Community Meal – looking to resume June
 - o Worship – do we continue with the disposable communion protocol or do we go back to having communion up front with wafers handed out by Pastor & wine handed out by a Council member? After discussion, it was decided to have communion 1st & 3rd Sunday communion up front hopefully to start in May. The other Sundays will continue with the packaged communion cups. Barb & Carl to help with communion 5/1 on early service. Kris will help during 2nd service
 - o Planting Hope Campaign – present video, power point presentation, discussion at services, adult forum regarding campaign. Plan over 3 weeks.
- Musician search progress – not enough musicians out there to fill the need. Many churches are looking for an organist. The cost is high.

New Business:

Motion to adjourn by Carl Thomsen. Second by Dave Tosteson. Motion passed.

Next meeting date: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the Fellowship Hall (exec. council by email) Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Skoog



Hello friends in Christ,

Spring has sprung, and it is beautiful outdoors. It's also that time of year that we reach out for volunteers to help at Zion.

Many of you probably saw in the "Zion Zone" that we are looking for volunteers, but I thought I would just reiterate what we are looking for. Our congregation has so many gifts to give, and I am sure that we have the skills and talent to show up.

On June 4, we will be doing some Spring cleaning. Anyone who is willing to give some time to help would be greatly appreciated. If you can help, please show up at Church at 10am on June 4. We are also looking for volunteers who are willing to work with our youth. VBS and Sunday school volunteers are needed. If you are passionate about helping young people learn and grow in Christ, please consider this opportunity.

We are taking donations of soap (4oz. bars), bath towels (lightweight), and socks and underwear for women and children.

Community meals will be back in action on June 6...Praise the Lord!!

Strawberry Shortcake for Mother's Day was a success. Thank you to all mothers and those who care for our young people.

Finally, starting on June 8, we will be having the contemporary service on Wednesday evenings instead of after first service on Sunday. At this time, we will continue this throughout the summer months.

There's a lot going on at Zion. We are truly blessed.

God bless,

Danny

Gee Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire . . . And Encourage

Timely words given to Sarah Young to share with us during these times:

"Make Me your focal point as you move through this day. Just as a spinning ballerina must keep returning her eyes to a given point to maintain her balance, so you must keep returning your focus to Me. Circumstances are in flux, and the world seems to be whirling around you. The only way to keep your balance is to *fix your eyes on Me*, the One who never changes. If you gaze too long on your circumstances, you will become dizzy and confused. Look to Me, refreshing yourself in My Presence, and your steps will be steady and sure".

Good friends are like the stars....you can't always see them but you know they are there.

Author Unknown

Seen on a marquee of a big box store (must have been by the Mr. Obvious school of marketing):

"If it's in stock, we have it"!



Lutheran World Relief Children's Project

The Bag Lady is back!

We shall be filling the Backpacks again this year with school supplies. These basic school items may be just the things needed to spark interest in the learning needed for a child to achieve a good education.

As school items go on sale in the summer months, help us fill these backpacks. 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!





Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday morning worship 8:30am

Wednesday evening worship 6:30 pm

As the summer progresses we will be adding social events to the Wednesday evening calendar so we can take advantage of our beautiful grounds and new fire pit. Watch for it!



Endowment Committee Scholarship Recipients

The members of the Zion Endowment Committee are pleased to be able to award 5 students with scholarships to assist with educational costs.

Those recipients are:

Kailee Carlson

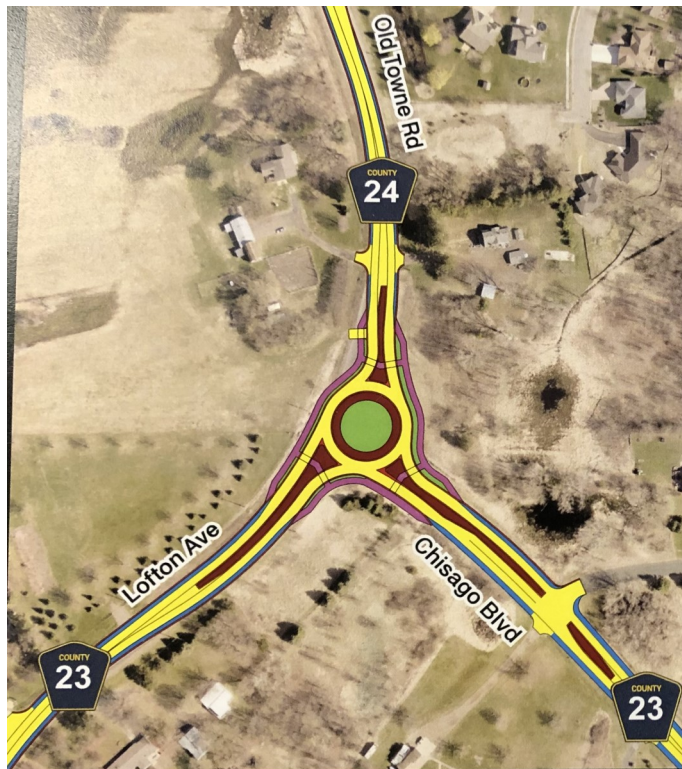
John Douglas

Charlie Green

Thomas Sargeant

Hayden Trupe

Congratulations and God's blessings as you continue your education!



Chisago County
MINNESOTA



ROUNDAABOUT PROJECT

Chisago County is planning to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Chisago Boulevard/CSAH 23, Lofton Avenue/CSAH 23, and Old Towne Rd/CSAH 24 in Chisago Lake Township. Construction is anticipated to start in June 2022 and be complete by September 2022.



To learn more about the proposed improvements, traffic impacts, and detours during construction, visit our website chisagocountymn.gov/867/Road-Construction



In order to have a summer VBS program we will need volunteers. If you are willing to organize or assist with Vacation Bible School, please speak to Pastor Sarah.



Young families are joining our congregation and eager to meet other young families. We will be setting up a time for them to gather outside as families. It would be lovely to serve an evening meal and have folks available to hold babies and watch toddlers. Let Pastor know if this is a ministry you would like to help with.



We welcome through Baptism in the Month of May:
 Nora Noelle Sapp, daughter of Adam & Samantha Sapp
 Lettie Lynn Schmitz, daughter of Jason & Melissa Schmitz
 Juddson Donald Bye, son of Justin and Emma Bye.

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

For the month of April we collected 6 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:

- Baked Beans
- Pickles
- Ramen
- Pop-Tarts
- S'more makings
- Fruit Snacks
- Individual cereals (hot or cold)
- Toilet Paper
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Ravioli
- Spaghetti-O's
- Dish Soap
- Salsa
- Specialty Diet Foods
- Gluten free
- Low sodium
- Sugar free

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!***

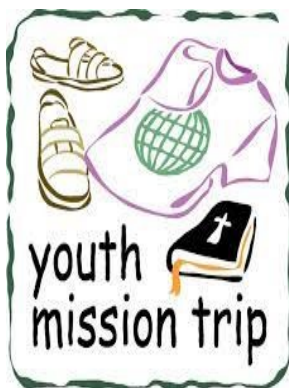
•••••
 • The Finance and Property
 • Committee meetings will be
 • held on **June 16** this month.
 •••••

An easy way to give to Zion!

We have added a “Vanco” online giving button to our webpage! Giving online is simple and secure! If you have never used Vanco before, it is fast, secure, and easy! Scan the QR code with your phone or portable device or head to our website at <https://zionlcc.org/> and click on the Vanco button on our website! If you already have an automatic donation using Vanco and would like to update, talk to Nikki on Tuesday.



Our Zion Youth will be going on their summer mission trip to Nashville this year from June 25 - July 2. They will be doing community service projects in the area, helping at various shelters and food pantries. Please keep them in your prayers as they make a difference in the lives of others!



We congratulate our graduating High School Seniors from Zion!:



John Douglas
Leah Dreckman
Lily Grabow
Hayden Trupe

God's Blessings as you pursue
your future endeavors!

Book Club

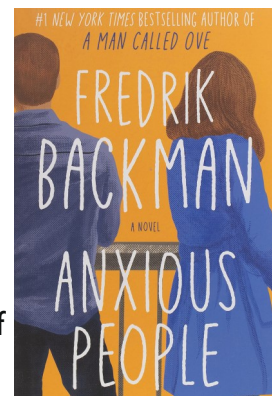
Book club is meeting in the church library on the first Monday of each month at **6:00 pm**. Please contact Marilyn Rue if you need more information.

mrue.rue@gmail.com

Our **June** book is *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek*. Cussy Mary Carter is the last of her kind, but that doesn't mean she's got nothing to offer. As a member of the Pack Horse Library Project, she delivers books to the hill folk of Troublesome, hoping to spread learning in these desperate times. But not everyone is so keen on Cussy's family or the library project.



Our **July** book is “Anxious People” by Fredrik Backman. Looking at real estate isn't usually a life-or-death situation, but an apartment open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage.



Zion is looking for a new organist/pianist to play for Sunday morning worship. Do you know anyone or have any ideas on where to search? If so, contact one of the members of the musician search committee: Sherri Baumann, KC Douglas, Shirley Kerkow, Kelly Lachmiller, Corrine Mix, or Pastor Sarah. Over the summer we will also be looking for a new choir director and a bell choir director.



Monday, June 6th marks the "new" beginning for the Chisago Lakes

Community Meal. The dinner is an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a healthy meal and a healthy dose of community conversation.

Serving is every Monday from 4-6pm at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church at 28005 Old Towne Road in Chisago City. However, meals will not be served on Monday, July 4.

There is no charge for the meal and reservations are not required.

The community meal began in 2011 as a truly community effort. It is eaten by, served by, funded by, hosted by, and run by the people of the Chisago Lakes area. The board consists of representatives from Zion Lutheran, Chisago Lakes Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and First Methodist Churches.

Families, singles, and friends of all ages have enjoyed a total of over 10,000 meals served over the years. Everyone is always welcome. If additional information is required, call (651)-775-3367.

The board is meeting to make plans to keep people as safe as possible. Pat Pojanowski has volunteered to be in charge of organizing our church volunteers and dessert providers. There is a donation button on our Vanco website for financial donations to the Community meal. Sue Frame, Pat Pojanowski, and Pastor Sarah are our Zion members on the community meal board. (We could use donations of containers for leftovers from the meal, bring them to the kitchen and mark them for leftovers.)

Thank you for your contribution!



Church Cleanup Day is June 4!!



Many hands make light work! Everyone is encouraged to come to church on Saturday, June 4 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm to help with spring cleanup. There are tasks for all ages and abilities, from window washing to tree trimming. This is a good way to serve the church and spend time together.

Tools Needed: Rakes, handsaws or chainsaws, wheelbarrows, shovels, power washer, step ladders/step stools, tools for scraping and caulking an outdoor window, microfiber cloths

for window washing, buckets and rags, cookies and bars. (Please let the office know if you are willing to serve coffee and goodies.)

Volunteers Needed at Family Pathways Thrift Stores



Family Pathways Thrift Stores has opportunities for individuals or groups to volunteer at their stores. Volunteers help accept and sort donations, stock shelves and create product displays. Volunteering at Family Pathways is a fun way to give back to your community. Church, civic and business groups welcome! To volunteer, contact Brooke Zank, volunteer manager, at BrookeZ@familypathways.org. Or complete the application at www.familypathways.org/volunteer/



Scandia City Wide Garage Sale will be held from June 2-4, 2022 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. There will be some tables located in the Scandia Community Center Parking Lot. Registered participants will be listed on a digital map available at :

www.cityofscandia.com/GarageSale

JUNE 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

Shepherding Ministry: Karen Pavel ext. 106
shepherd@zionlcc.org

NOIZ: Megan Dreckman

Sunday School: Anne Thomsen

Financial Secretary: Nicole Battles
finance@zionlcc.org

Youth Director: Todd Freeman

Organist & Bell Choir Director: Joy Sietsema

Choir Director: Kelly Lachmiller

Custodian & Groundskeeper: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery Grounds: John Hawkinson

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