

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday

9:00-2:00

Office email:

office@zionlcc.org

Pastor's email:

pastor@zionlcc.org

Mission Statement:

***"To make the love of
Christ known to all"***

Vision Statement:

***"Where the Hungry
are Fed"***

**In Person Worship
Sundays**

9:00 Traditional
10:45 Contemporary
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

September

2023

Pastor's Page

We have started celebrating 150 years of Zion's presence in Chisago City. We have a committee excited about their work, full of ideas and enthusiasm. We have started collecting 150 items each month to give to a charity. We are collecting stories from members to include in the newsletter. We have plans aplenty and it is going to be a fun year.

Our oldest continuous member is 99 years old. She was baptized at Zion and has been a faithful and active member all of her life. She is on the committee! We also have some people who have joined us within the past few months. Our history may not be as important to them. But it isn't just our history that we are celebrating. We are also taking this time to see where we are now, and to plan for the future. When people look back, 150 years from now, what do we want them to know about us? What is our joint vision for the future? Where is God calling us to go?

We take the best stories from our past, learn from the hardest challenges and then mix it up with new people and new ideas. We want everyone to be engaged with our celebration as well as our commitment to serving our community. We need everyone's input as we look to the future. This church is made up of all kinds of people, a myriad of stories and a deep love of the Lord. You are a welcome and important part of this church! Join us as we celebrate the past, examine our present ministry and craft bold visions for the future!

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:1-3

Blessings and joy,

Pastor Sarah



GEE HOWARD....Words to Challenge and Inspire

Anyone familiar with industry knows the importance of secrecy. One area where new creations are jealously guarded is the fashion field. Designers work secretly, protecting their ideas until they are ready to be disclosed.

David wrote of God designing and making us in secret. As with designers, much of God's work is kept under cover until the right time for it to be shown to the world. For a moment, think of God's work in your own life. He is working on you right now, secretly preparing you for life eternal with Him. His Holy Spirit is designing a new and better you, one that will fit into His kingdom.

From In Search of the Blessing by Smalley and Trent

Don't ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up in the first place.

Robert Frost

And a funny...I stepped on a bathroom scale and it said "Please practice social distancing; only one person at a time!"

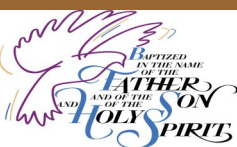


HELP WANTED:

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

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

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



We welcome into the Lord's family through baptism Weston John Merrick. Weston is the son of Matthew and Rachel Merrick. His sponsor is Krista Swanson.



Christian Sympathies to the family of Venzel Lindholm, who passed away on 7/31/23.

Christian Sympathies to the family of Nicole Finklea, who passed away on 7/31/23.



Thank you to our Zion family for lifting us up in prayer these last few years. Donald fought valiantly up to the end and we are so proud of him and the life he led. We will miss him so much but we are comforted to know we will see him again in heaven. Thank you Pastor Sarah, Julie, and the kitchen staff for all you did for Don's memorial service.

With love and gratitude,
Jan Ringstmeyer and family

Thank you to Julie Lauritzen for being the choir accompanist for many years. She has retired from her position and we appreciate her sharing her

talent for so many years.

Dear Zion Family,
Steve & I want to thank all of you for supporting me with thoughts and prayer throughout my battle with cancer. I can tell you that I have truly felt your prayers and support throughout the months. The Lord is good as he has blessed me with the doctors, treatments, family & Friends, neighbors and my church community in this fight against cancer.

Brief update for you in my fight: Cancer was diagnosed from a colonoscopy in October as Stage 4 as it had spread to lymph nodes in pelvic and abdominal areas as well as the liver. Now after 12 cycles of treatment (immunotherapy & Chemo) all the cancer is undetectable in the original area plus the lymph nodes in both pelvic and abdominal areas. The cancer in the liver has continued to shrink and we will continue treatments as long as it takes. The Lord is listening and he is truly good. Thank you again for all your prayers and support. You are all remarkable people. ~Diane & Steve Jones



The winner of the August trivia question of "How many pastors and associate pastors did Zion have in 150 years?" was Ron Holmquist with a guess of 23 (not going over the correct answer.) There has been 19 pastors and 5 associate pastors in the past 149 years for a total of 24. We have also had 8 interim and one visitation pastor for a total of 33 dedicated pastors serving Zion. Ron, you may collect your prize from the office.

This month's trivia question is: "What year was Zion's library established and who was the librarian?" The gold box is on the welcome desk awaiting your answer!

We far surpassed our goal of 150 notebooks by collecting a total of 307 for our Lutheran World Relief school bags! Thank you so much! This month's items for collection for our 150 goal are Lysol wipes (must be brand specific due to ingredients listed) and Play-Doh. They will be donated to the Chisago Lakes School District to keep our young ones healthy and creatively occupied during free time.



I am collecting memories of your history with Zion. Your personal short story will share some of the history of Zion. If you have a memory you would like to share please type it and present it to me to

Pastoral Care

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



Zion has a strong prayer chain group. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, or have prayers you would like us to add, please contact Sandy Patrias at: 651-674-2029 or sd.patrias@q.com (email)



September Altar Guild duty:

9:00: Sue S. & Pat P.
10:45: Carol Bisek

Food Shelf



For the month of August we collected 342 7pounds of donations for our local food shelf

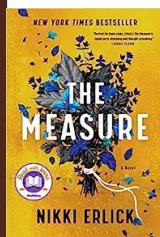
Current needs are :

Spaghetti O's
Canned Ravioli
Pop tarts
Toilet paper
Ramen noodles
Oatmeal packets
Noodles
Bottled water
Snacks
Shampoo
Laundry soap
Dish Soap

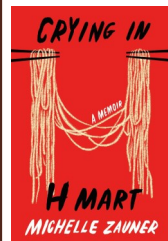
*Thank you
for your
generosity!*

Book Club

Book club is meeting in the church library on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. **Due to Labor Day, our meeting will be on Monday, September 11.** Please contact Marilyn Rue if you need more information: mrue.rue@gmail.com



Our September book is "The Measure" by Nikki Erlick. 8 ordinary people. One extraordinary choice. It seems like any other day. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live. From suburban doorsteps to desert tents, every person on every continent receives the same box. In an instant, the world is thrust into a collective frenzy. Where did these boxes come from? What do they mean? Is there truth in what they promise? As society comes together and pulls apart, everyone faces the same shocking choice: Do they wish to know how long they'll live? And, if so, what will they do with the knowledge?



As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band, and meeting the man who would become her husband—her Korean-ness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer, when Michelle was 25 that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her.

There are updated Service Team Booklets in the office on the front desk if you would like to pick one up any time.

Zion's choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 pm. Teens and adults welcome!



Meeting call to order

Dave T.

Absent: Rick, Jim

Present: Pastor Sarah, Carl, Barb, Kelly, Sherri, Eric D, Dave T., Glade, Emmy, Corrine, Mary.

Devotions: Pastor Sarah

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Carl

2nd: Barb

Motion carried.

Approve minutes from last meeting.

Motion: Pastor

2nd: Carl

Motion carried

Finance:

Checking as of 7/18: \$18,556.20

Savings: \$65402.33

Reserve Funds: \$35560.67

Property: No updates since last time. Mowing costs are down.

Door is fixed \$600

Electrician has been here for dishwasher. Fixed now.

Education (Upcoming topics)

Gary going to do financial planning event.

Israel by Dave T

Spiritual gifts

Thrivent Card Topic 7/30 Leif Erickson.

Mission and outreach:

All quilts and blankets (65) were taken. Big and small since she serves families.

Quilters will start refilling room on Thursday.

Starting to receive things for backpacks.

A lot of personal kits are together.

It was really nice to have the quilts set out during the church service.

Down 1 person so called around and hoping to get support to keep 4th team.

Stewardship:

Meeting in August.

Technology:

Matt Mitchell working on projects (getting them fixed). Some concern about brightness of existing projectors. We have a borrowed projector and will look at it.

Worship and Music:

Meeting in August with Josh.

Kelly working on toddler Choir for VBS

Shepherding

Another baptism this Sunday.

More people to visit.

Need more prayer shawls

Health Ministry:

First class last Sunday. EMT supervisor was to present, but got called. Jeff Truedo can teach. EMT and trainer

Next class is on Diabetes in August.

September will be Mental health/suicide prevention for youth. Need speaker

October will be on 22nd. Topic TBD.

Mutual Ministry

2 new people, Richard Bauman and Judy Lifgren on team.

Intergenerational

VBS this week

Firetrucks are coming Wednesday 7/19

Cotton Candy on Thursday.

Harmony in park tomorrow night.

Triathlon support booth on 7/30. Signup on board to hand out water. 7am to 3pm. 1.5hr shifts

August 1st is national night out. Zion is hosting. In past we did root beer floats.

Relay for Life? Should we do anything? We should do luminaries, but need people to decorate.

Twins night on 8/15.

Pastor Report

Blessed Mission trip

Blessed Quilt

2nd Opioid meeting. 20 community members to identify distribution of funds.

Senior Luncheon. It was really fun.

Staff Evaluations done.

Grief Group: A lot of hospital and home visits this month.

Bible study is fun. Rich discussion.

Zoe Fedor Baptism (Jelinek family) 7/23

Weston Merrick baptism (Sue Swanson Grandchild) 8/6

September TBD funeral for Pat Freeman

Barb Motion

Eric 2nd

Motion Carried:

Ongoing business

Need line item in budget for Anniversary activity next year.

Working on list for donating to specific causes.

Remaining Spending List: Kitchen, roof, sanctuary reconfig, new van, balcony railing, long term maintenance plan.

Balcony railing will be revisited. Working on it. If you touch it, you have to bring it up to code. Property looking into it.

150th anniversary meeting yesterday. A lot of ideas and enthusiasm. Meeting every 2 weeks.

If you know anyone who has been member and gone on to be pastor, let Pastor Sarah know.

New Business

Agenda items for the meeting: If you want to bring something to meeting, go through the committee member first to go through proper channels.

Michilu potluck to start up again at Lion's Park. 7/23.

Next meeting is August 15th.

September meeting is 19th. 6pm.

Motion to adjourn

Motion Carl

2nd Corrine

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Douglas

Secretary





Engaging with Emmy:

There are lots of things going on in Intergenerational Ministry at Zion! September is busy, busy, busy!

- ⇒ Parenting with Passion is now weekly! The 11th, 18th, and 25th.
 - ⇒ Senior Luncheon Thursday, September 14, RSVP in the office and check out my board to sign up to help!
 - ⇒ Sunday Connect and Contemporary Worship start a new schedule September 17. (see below for details)
 - ⇒ September 18 is the 10th Anniversary of the Community Meal.
 - ⇒ September 20 NOIZ starts, after school till 5pm.
 - ⇒ September 24 blessing of backpacks/purses/bags/baskets
 - ⇒ September 25 is a Parenting with Passion/Intergenerational trip to the MN Zoo! See my board to sign up and join us.
- If you are interested in any or all of these events, check out Emmy's board to the right of the main restrooms in the church.



Our Intergenerational Ministry is hosting a Parenting group every Monday at 10:00 am! This is an opportunity for Mom's, Dad's, or caregiver's to come join us for service projects and chance to have some adult conversations. Child entertainment is available (it's Emmy, she's entertaining) along with a snack. Everyone is welcome. Come play! Connect with others for support and compassion.

September 11, 18, & 25 (September 25 is an Intergenerational Field Trip)

Sunday Intergenerational Connect!: All ages are welcome! We will take a couple of weeks off and then on **September 17** our schedule will change to 4:00 class, with Contemporary Worship (our second Sunday service moving from 10:45 am to 5:00 pm) and finishing the evening out with a meal together at 6:00. (We'll even do the dishes!)



Thrivent Friends: If you are ordering shirts along with your Thrivent Cards, we are looking for shirts in sizes L— 4X, as well as child sizes XS-XL . Thank you!

**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, September 14, 2023 at
11:00 am**

Please RSVP to the church by calling
651-257-2713

No later than Monday, September
11th.

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

**CHISAGO LAKES COMMUNITY MEAL
10TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC**



**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18TH
4-6PM**

ZION LUTHERAN

The picnic will be held outside the church at 28005 Old Towne Road, Chisago City. In the event of rain, the picnic will move indoors

*FON

*FOOD

*FELLOWSHIP

*MUSIC

*FACEPAINTING

CLCM is a ministry of Zion Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, Chisago Lake Lutheran and First United Methodist Churches



FREE WILL DONATION

NOIZ is back!!

NOIZ, our program for 3rd-5th graders, is going to be back up and running on September 20. Join Emmy after school on Wednesdays till 5pm. There will be homework time and a snack included. Registration is free. Please register on our website at zionlcc.org or in the office.



Confirmation Class for 6th –8th grade will begin on Sunday, September 17 at 4:00 pm, or Wednesday the 20th at 5 pm. All children in that age range, or older children who are interested, are invited to attend. They do not have to be a member to join in the learning and community building. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarahlk@gmail.com





Backpack Project

The **Backpack School Supplies** challenge has been met and we shall be packing these backpacks on **September 12th at 1:00 pm**, in the back hall of the education building by the choir room. As always, Zion members have stepped up to the task and been so supportive of the educational project for children so needing assistance. These backpacks, once boxed up, will be taken to the **Lutheran World Relief** warehouse in East St. Paul to be shipped to designated areas around the world.

Do you remember the excitement you felt as that first day of school approached and you, with the help of your folks, purchased those pencils, erasers, and that Big Indian Tablet of Paper? There are such children today who are hopefully awaiting their new year of school. As we have said before...Thank You for making it possible for these children to be properly equipped with the tools needed to learn. May their lives be changed and they grow into participating adults in the world in which they live. With our help, the LORD Will continue to bring about miracles in our world.

Again—Thank you! And...we hope to see you on **September 12 at 1:00 pm**. We need some strong folks to help move the packed boxes as well.

Changes in the Office—From the Finance Committee Introducing Realm

Earlier this summer the Finance team proposed, and the Council authorized moving forward with a new, integrated church management system. When fully implemented, Realm will provide “One Stop Shopping” for our financial operations (giving and spending), member management (communications) and other services (Website design and maintenance, event registration) and all the other activities it takes to manage and grow the church.

We are starting with the accounting area. Beginning August 1, we started running parallel systems to ensure we have an orderly transition from QuickBooks to Realm.

Overall, after implementation is complete, we expect to see lower costs for the software. More details will be provided as we move through the conversion.

Additional questions? See Deb Hoffmeister or someone from the Finance team.

As we head into our 150th year, we have some larger projects that members are invited to adopt. We will, eventually, have a display with more info. These projects include replacing the organ pipe caps (\$5,000), New candelabras (\$4,000) Stucco repair on the north side of the building (\$2,000—\$3,000), Repair of the sanctuary windows on the Old Towne Road side (TBD), Art project for the courtyard (space between the narthex and sanctuary, TBD)

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.

UNEXPECTED COMPANY CHORALE

Unexpected Company Chorale Rehearsals Starting for Winter Concert

Calling all singers to join Unexpected Company Chorale as we embark on our 39th season!!! Rehearsals for our winter concert, "Shines a Star", begin on Monday, September 11th, at 7PM (registration and music hand-out will start at 6:30), at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lindstrom (13025 Newell Avenue -- come through the door at the back of the church in the parking lot). Rehearsals are every Monday, and the concerts are Friday evening, December 1st, and Sunday afternoon, December 3rd. Membership dues are \$60 per concert cycle, and purchase of concert attire may be required. We look forward to having you sing with us!! No audition is required.



**JULY
2023**

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: Josh Miller

Bell Choir Director: *Needed*

Choir Director: Kelly Lachmiller

Accompanist: Riley Abbott

Custodian & Groundskeeper: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery: John Hawkinson, Chet Garness

2023 Church Council Members:

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