

# ZION'S MESSENGER

June 2021

Volume 44

Issue 6

## ZION'S MISSION STATEMENT

To Proclaim the Joy of Salvation Through Word and Sacrament



Northeastern  
Minnesota Synod,  
ELCA

Pastor  
Mark Peters

Music Director  
Joe Belanger

Zion Chimes  
Donna Barg

In-person  
Sunday Worship  
9:30 am & 7:00 pm

Office Hours  
Monday – Thursday  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
and by appointment

218/283-9865

zionlutheranifalls@  
gmail.com



Following the May 16 worship service, parishioners gathered outside Zion to “burn the mortgage”. At the beginning of 2020, Zion satisfied its obligation to Thrivent for our Real Estate mortgage. A celebration was originally scheduled for March 20, 2020, then postponed due to COVID.

We praise God, celebrate, and look forward in faith to God’s continued call in our Community.

## **Pastor Mark's Musings – June 2021**

### **Google definition of “renew” – “to resume an activity after an interruption.”**

This year has certainly interrupted our sense of hope. Schools out for the summer and seasonal routines are rebooting. Although the Canadian border is still mostly closed, we are grateful that pandemic precautions here are lessening. An updated preparedness plan (printed in newsletter) creates new opportunities for resuming in-person worship with fewer restrictions while still protecting our neighbor's health. Many of our members will be out of town for part of the summer - on vacation or at “the cabin” - while others are returning to the area after winter in warmer climates. By the time you likely read this I will be on Lac LaCroix in the BWCA for a brief canoe trip with my brother and a few friends. International Falls is a popular summer vacation destination so be sure to encourage and invite family, friends, or people you are with to join you for Sunday worship (that includes the Sunday evening and on-line “virtual” options). If you are traveling, consider worshipping wherever you find yourself and then sharing any ideas you might have gleaned with me when you return. I welcome your input and suggestions!

### **Peanut's cartoon**

A despondent Charlie Brown seeks out a counselor, Lucy, and the sign above her booth reads “The Counselor is IN.” Charlie does not feel like he “fits in.” Lucy points and motions to the world surrounding them and asks if he sees any other world. He says he does not, and Lucy says, “LIVE IN IT THEN!!” (Charlie Brown is “blown off his feet backwards by this declaration).

### **Leveling effect**

How do we live in this world when much of it seems so different? This pandemic – perhaps all pandemics – foster an often painful but essential *leveling effect*. I mean by this that we are ALL, as individuals, congregations, communities, countries, and humanity (interwoven in God's creation) reminded of how we are inextricably linked and dependent on each other. Perhaps we could call this a “Declaration of Interdependence?” Maybe, just maybe, God is still at work renewing, re-creating, and restoring us to do things we could not have previously imagined.

### **“We experience hope through actions of kindness, thoughtfulness and love.”**

Joy Hensel, Project Coordinator for the NEMN Synod Youth Ministry & Mental Health Initiative, writes about hope: “*Hope is a want, belief or desire that change can occur, that a situation will work out, that an individual will get through a challenge, that something will happen. Hope is also the confidence we have in God's faithfulness and promises to us. Hopefulness feels like a positive attitude, optimism, it might feel like nervousness or anxiety about the unknown or about uncertainty, it can feel exciting, and it can feel like a deep breath or a sense of calm and peacefulness. We experience hope through our connections, relationships, our faith and community. We also experience hope through actions of kindness, thoughtfulness and love.*”

## **Pastor Mark's Musings, continued**

### **"Mountains Beyond Mountains"**

In Tracy Kidder's biography of Dr. Paul Farmer, he shares the story of one of the world's truly remarkable persons, a doctor who had every single reason in the world to enjoy a profitable and meaningful medical practice in the United States. Dr. Farmer was compelled and driven to address the world's most intractable infectious diseases that he has spent his life in remote parts of the world striving to bring a measure of health to the globe's most impoverished people (cast off by the rest of the world as hopeless). A doctor who did not heed geographic borders, he labored in Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia and multiple other countries. The truth of his life is that he simply did not give up but persisted, always seeing after some measure of success another challenge and possibility. The title of the book came rather easily to the author. He chose a Haitian proverb that has served to guide Dr. Farmer. It captures the wisdom that, in this life and world, when you solve one problem, there is always another waiting for you. The book is called "Mountain Beyond Mountains."

### **Pentecost possibility and hope**

The Holy Spirit continues to help us see possibilities where others only see problems. Fostering hope when others despair. The Holy Spirit grants us strength and persistence to climb the "Mountains Beyond Mountains." The Holy Spirit is steadfastly with us and for us and uses all that we have – through acts of kindness, thoughtfulness and love – for the sake of those around us. God's gift of the Holy Spirit that launches this season after Pentecost in the church year is always and everywhere available and at work in us. As certain as the air we breathe in and out.

### **A closing thought - pondering opportunities at Camp Vermillion or Camp Hiawatha**

Attending summer camp has been foundational to my faith formation and has stuck with me throughout my life. For some of you who might not know, I was the Director at a Lutheran camp in Northwest Wisconsin where 100's of children and many families regularly took part each week. Wondering how to provide a faith formation "boost" for your children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews this summer and throughout the year? Consider Camp Vermillion or Camp Hiawatha as a destination for a time "away" at camp or for a family cabin rental with all the amenities camp affords. Zion has financial assistance available (just ask me) so that all might consider this opportunity. If you have a college age member of your household who is still looking for summer employment, I know the camps are still hiring counselors and other staff as they prepare for the summer season. Contact me if you are interested as I know of some opportunities and know where to look.

Blessings on your journey and see you in worship (either in person or virtually)

Pastor Mark

**Prayer of the Day for Pentecost Day** "Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Holy Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your Gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever." Amen.

**COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN  
FOR ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, INTERNATIONAL FALLS**

**Effective May 28, 2021**

The Zion Lutheran Church Council would like to convey that you are not obligated in any way to come into the building for worship. If you or members of your family are in the high-risk categories and have not been fully vaccinated, we strongly encourage you to remain at home and continue to listen to our radio broadcast on K104.1 FM or view the service through the live-streaming on Facebook. The service will also continue to be recorded and broadcast on our Midco local access channel 7. However, if you choose to come into the building, the following rules will apply:

**IF YOU ARE SICK – DO NOT COME TO CHURCH!**

Zion Lutheran Church is committed to providing a safe and healthy church building for our staff, visitors, and worshippers. **Masks are still required.**

Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our church building and our community, requiring full cooperation among our staff, church members, and visitors.

With Council approval, Zion's Smart Team has worked through the details required to keep everyone safe when we worship and for other uses of our facility.

**Screening**

All are required to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. There is a checklist outside the main entrances.

**Handwashing**

All are encouraged to wash their hands prior to coming to the church building.

Hand-sanitizer is available at various locations throughout the church so they can be used for hand hygiene in place of soap and water. Handwashing is always preferred over the use of sanitizer. Use of the bathroom facilities must be kept to one person/family in the restroom at a time to maintain social distance. Hand sanitizer use is also required upon entry in the building.

**Social/Physical distancing**

Visitors to the church (postal carriers, short visits, etc.) will need to answer the self-monitor screening questions at the door.

For participants in worship services, funerals, and meetings, masks will be required to be worn for the entire time. If you did not bring your own mask, one will be provided.

Worship leaders will not have the requirement of masks while conducting worship. These leaders will be distanced more than 12' from the people/congregants and one another while speaking or singing.

The congregation may participate in the spoken and singing parts of the service with their masks properly in place.

## **Preparedness Plan Continued**

At the end of the service, congregants are asked to remain in their seats until an usher prompts them to leave. People will be ushered out, starting from the back of the sanctuary. Please promptly exit the church.

We will share the peace verbally, with waves or nods. Please, no handshakes or hugs.

Communion will be done with members remaining in their pews. We will use the pre-packaged communion packs during the worship service.

### **Fellowship**

Unfortunately, we will not be offering food and beverages inside during this time. Fellowship will only be permitted outside the building. The fellowship hall will continue to be used for meetings only.

If there is coffee/fellowship outside following a worship service, meeting, etc., the following protocol will be followed:

- 1) Only one designated person will dispense any beverages.
- 2) Only one designated person will serve any food.

This food serving policy is for safety / hygiene reasons so multiple people are not touching the same surfaces or food.

### **Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation**

Regular housekeeping practices continue, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of work surfaces, equipment, and areas in the building including restrooms, the fellowship hall, and the sanctuary.

Disinfecting wipes will be provided in each restroom for members to wipe door handles after each use.

### **Seating Capacity Guidelines**

All room capacities have been rescinded.

Zion's SMART Team, with council approval has established this plan to ease our church community toward the current CDC and MN Dept of Health guidance. We plan to reassess this policy at the end of June 2021 and, if there is not a large spike in COVID cases in Koochiching County, we will retire the policy July 1.

Your Smart Team and Church Council want all of us to be healthy and safe. This guideline will be monitored and updated, as needed.

Zion Lutheran Church SMART Team  
Zion Lutheran Church Council

Updated 5/22/2021

Approved by council 5/25/2021

### **From the Evangelism Committee**

The Evangelism Committee has been meeting regularly via Zoom and we're looking at activities to consider. We would love to have more join us as we search out ways to serve our Lord. Please spend some prayerful time in considering the options listed below. As more of us complete our Covid 19 vaccines, we'll be reaching out more to each other in person.

- We will be offering home communions again and building on the current list. This means that we'll need more people to help out. Pastor plans to be in the rotation but to enable members to be offered communions more frequently we're asking lay members to assist. If you're interested and have questions about the program, feel free to call and talk with Pastor Mark about what this involves. Instruction will be offered to equip you to provide communion and support this outreach.
- Help setting up a smart TV or device to enable members to view Zion's live streaming in their home.
- Deliver a copy of Christ in the Home (quarterly devotion book) to members interested in using this devotional resource.
- Volunteers to assist Servants of Shelter with moving furniture items. (max weight is 50#). Looking for 2-3 people able and willing to work if needed 3 hours one day a month. Having a truck or trailer would be a big plus.

Please contact Pat Smyithe (283-3707 or text 218/360-0232) with questions or if you're able to help with any of these projects.

Our committee is looking at different projects and directions to go. Pastor Mark has given us a ton of FUN ideas to think about. Again we'd like to welcome and encourage more to join the group. If you don't have Zoom available to you at home you can come to the church and join the zoom meeting from that location.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

At the May 25 council meeting, a Social Media Policy was approved for Zion Lutheran Church. It will be posted on our webpage and by the offices.

Since Zion has been utilizing Social Media so much more in the past couple of years (Web site, Facebook, etc), it only makes sense to have a policy that addresses how our web based social media resources will be designed, implemented, and managed, in addition to guidelines for Public Postings, Personal Social Media use, Data Ownership and Privacy, etc.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Sunday, June 13, 10:45 am  
(following the morning worship service)**

The Evangelism committee has talked about their being a need to offer bible studies. We've discussed it with Pastor Mark. He would like to see several groups become the *normal* for us at Zion. So let's do this! Pastor Mark has numerous materials available for us to consider. We can look at his top choices to see if they are of interest and also bring our own ideas that we might like to do as a group. Initially we'll start with in person bible studies but want to hear from you if you would like to be in a virtual group.

We'll plan to get the ball rolling on June 13th following the Sunday morning service at 10:45. We'll make decisions at that time what study we'll start with, determine time, day, location, and frequency the group will meet. We'll offer more than one time and or day if warranted by schedules and availability. We hope that this will be only the first of numerous groups to flourish into blossom!

The BIBLE is like Spring for our Souls and Hearts.  
We pray that our hearts and souls will be popping  
up blossoms All year round.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH – INCOME AND EXPENSE**

**January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021**

**INCOME**

Offerings and Memorials  
Other Income  
Transfers from Ded. Acct

\$42,039.00

**EXPENSES**

Printing 732.69  
Electricity 2,699.55  
Water 5,756.64  
Gas 3,958.08  
Insurance 1,682.86  
Salaries 36,438.30

**Total Income**

45,611.61

**Total Expenses**

\$53,277.12

**Net Gain – \$11,252.49**

The updated Income/Expense report through April 30, 2021 was not available at the time of printing.  
Thank you for your patience and understanding.



**Happy Father's Day!**



## ZLCW NEWS AND NOTES

June 2021

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH”. Psalm 119:105**

Although there will be no group Bible studies in June, July or August, get together with a friend or two and share the Gather devotionals. If you would like to subscribe to *Gather* magazine you can go online and visit [gathermagazine.org/subscribe](http://gathermagazine.org/subscribe) or call 1-844-409-0576. The cost for a one-year subscription (10 issues) is only \$9.95 for new subscribers.

### PIECEMAKER REPORT...

A total of 86 quilts were assembled from January through April with ten boxes of quilts, totaling 78 going to Lutheran World Relief. Four quilts were sold and we have four quilts on hand. Along with this project, 24 personal care kits were put together and packed.

Thank you to all who helped with putting quilts together and “special thanks” to Randy and Robin Hilfer for delivering the quilts and kits to the St. Paul warehouse for us. May God bless the work of our hands!

## RECIPE CORNER

### Fishing And Strawberry Time!

Here are two easy recipes to enjoy without turning on your oven.

#### White Chocolate Berry Pie

5 squares (1 oz. each) white baking chocolate, divided  
2 Tsp. milk  
1 pkg. (3 oz.) cream cheese, softened  
1/3 cup powdered sugar  
1 tsp. grated orange peel  
1 cup whipping cream, whipped  
2 cup sliced fresh strawberries  
1 graham cracker crust (9 inches)

In microwave or double boiler, melt FOUR squares of the chocolate with the milk. Cool to room temperature.

Meanwhile, beat cream cheese and sugar together in a mixing bowl, until smooth. Add orange peel and melted chocolate. Fold in the whipping cream. Spread into the crust. Arrange strawberries on top. Melt remaining chocolate and drizzle over berries. Store in the refrigerator.

## ZLCW NEWS AND NOTES

June 2021  
(Continued)

### Honey-Fried Walleye

In a shallow bowl, beat 1 egg and 1 Tsp. of honey.

In another bowl, combine: 1 cup coarsely crushed saltines (about 22)  
1/3 cup flour  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper

Dip 4-6 walleye fillets (about 1-1/2 lbs.) skin removed, into the egg mixture, then coat with crumbs.

Heat 1/4 inch of vegetable oil in a large skillet. Fry fillets over medium-high heat for 3-4 minutes on each side.

Drizzle with additional honey, and garnish with lemon or lime slices, if desired.

### CHUCKLES

OLE TO STOREKEEPER: "You're looking for a cashier? I thought you hired one last week."

STOREKEEPER: "I did. That's the one we're looking for!"

DAUGHTER TO MOTHER: "I was in a nightclub last night!"

MOTHER: "But your dad has said you shouldn't do that because you'd see something you were not supposed to see! What did you see?"

DAUGHTER: "Dad!"

LENA TO OLE: "If anyone asks me what I see in you, what shall I tell them?"

### Food for Thought...

The will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.  
Until next month – Donna

Happy Father's Day to all the dads!

### PLEASE NOTE

Articles for the July 2021 Newsletter are due Thursday, June 17.

Thank you.

## **GIVING THANKS TO GOD – ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**

The daily practice of giving thanks to God for blessings received is at the heart of our lives as women of faith. Even the ordinary blessings of daily life call us to gratitude.

Lutheran women have a time-honored way to practice giving thanks – THANKOFFERINGS. Some women keep the practice of setting aside daily thankofferings throughout the year, and then joining all those offerings into one with others at our annual *Thankoffering and Blessings of Quilts* service each year.

If you weren't at our Thankoffering service on April 26 this year and don't have a thankoffering box or envelope for offerings, you might decorate a box, jar or envelope to hold your daily offerings. Remember to bring these offerings to our special service in 2022. Our treasurer gathers up all the offerings and forwards the total amount to the church wide expression of Women of the ELCA.

## **THANKOFFERING PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE DAY**

Listed below is a few short prayers of thanksgiving that you can use any time during the day as you set aside your thankofferings.

### **AT ALL TIMES**

I give thanks at all times, for the Lord is good, for God's mercy endures forever. Amen.

### **SUNRISE AND BIRDSONG**

Thank you, Creator God, for this new day – a day which you have made. I lift my voice in grateful song along with the psalmist and the birds; Let us rejoice and be glad! Amen.

### **GETTING UP**

God of love, I thank you for the light of Christ, for it dwells in me and allows me to arise and shine. Amen.

### **HOME**

Sheltering God, you give your creatures places to call home. I thank you for this, my home, where love can live and faith can grow, all in your care. Move my heart and hands, Lord, that all your people may have safe places to call home. Amen.

### **CREATE YOUR OWN**

We all have many things throughout the day to be thankful for... Amen!



## **2021 Northeastern Minnesota Synod Highlights from the Online Assembly**

Friday evening, April 30 -  
Saturday morning, May 1

**Theme: *LOVE IGNITES US***

**Key verse: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

***For the love of Christ urges us on***, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

**The 34th Annual Synod Assembly of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod** began with Bishop Amy Odgren welcoming the voting members and guests to the Online Assembly. The prerecorded **Opening Worship** service began with a Recognition of the Land and Thanksgivings for Holy Waters followed by the Opening of the Assembly by Bp. Odgren. Synod Council Vice-President Rachel Berry gave updates and announcements. Anne Laechel, Registrar provided the Credentials Report for Friday evening: 282 total voting members consisting of 168 Lay, 7 Deacons, 77 Pastors under call, 6 retired pastors, 15 Synod Authorized Ministers and 9 Synod Council members. Newly appointed and newly elected Synod Council Secretary Paula Jackson was introduced.

The 2021 Agenda, Assembly Rules & Procedures and the 2020 Synod Assembly Minutes were all adopted.

### **Keynote Address**

Bishop Odgren introduced our Keynote Speaker for Friday evening, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton who “Zoomed In” live to give thanks and encouragement for the ministries being carried out in the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. Presiding Bishop Eaton recognized the various ministries, especially taking note of the Together Here/Anti-Racism Team work which is leading the way in the ELCA for education and building relationships with Indigenous Communities of which there are five federally recognized Tribal Reservations sharing land with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod.

Eaton also lifted up the partnership of Lutheran Social Service (LSS) whose services touch 1 in 50 people everywhere throughout the United States. She thanked the Northeastern Minnesota Synod for their continuing generosity.

An ELCA Covid Relief Fund was set up and the response was overwhelming. Many congregations and ministries were able to receive extra financial help including our Lutheran Outdoor Ministry partners.

“Strengthening lay people in their faith and leadership roles is absolutely essential,” Eaton said as she lifted up the work of Synod Authorized Ministers, the synod’s Lay Leader Network and Faith Formation of all ages.

Following her prepared remarks, Presiding Bishop Eaton opened it up for lively conversation, answering voting members questions typed out in the chat box.

### **Synod Staff Introductions and Installation**

Bishop Amy Odgren introduced the Synod Staff as your Synod Ministers: Rev. Rollie Bockbrader-Synod Minister for Operations & Congregational Care; Deacon Brenda Tibbetts Synod Minister for Leadership Support; Catherine Anderson-Synod Minister for Discipleship & Christian Community; Rev. Liz Davis-Synod Minister for Candidacy Management (part-time); Deacon Colleen Bernu-Director of Evangelical Mission and Synod Minister for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

**Report of the Nominating Committee** - All uncontested conference nominees were elected.

**2022 Synod Budget** - Synod Council Treasurer Sarah Gunderson presented “The Budget is a Missional Document” power point narrative budget on Friday evening which was then discussed and voted upon Saturday morning. The \$1,161,250 budget was passed. The 2022 Synod Budget is available on the website.

**Synod Council Vice-President Rachel Berry** closed the evening with prayer.

## CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CHURCH

To become more effective with correspondence to the church, there are now additional opportunities for you to contact specific areas of the church organization for information, questions, or concerns.

The following email addresses have been set up for your convenience:

[pastormarkzion@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarkzion@gmail.com)

(For direct emails to Pastor Mark)

[newsletter.zionlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.zionlutheran@gmail.com)

(For information or requests regarding the monthly newsletter)

[joe.zionlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:joe.zionlutheran@gmail.com)

(For worship and music, Sunday bulletin information/announcements, etc.)

[bookkeeper.zionlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:bookkeeper.zionlutheran@gmail.com)

(For questions or concerns regarding church bookkeeping or accounts payable concerns)

[contributions.zionlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:contributions.zionlutheran@gmail.com)

(For Simply Giving inquiries, questions about a contribution or giving statement, etc.)

[membership.zionlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:membership.zionlutheran@gmail.com)

For member info changes (address, phone number, forwarding address, etc.)

As always, you may continue to call the office (218/283-9865), mail stuff (530 6<sup>th</sup> Street, International Falls MN 56649), or send communications to our primary email address ([zionlutheranifalls@gmail.com](mailto:zionlutheranifalls@gmail.com)) and it can be forwarded to one of the above areas.

## WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

Would you be interested in ushering, reading the scripture lessons, being a communion steward, or assisting with leading Sunday worship services? Please contact the church if you are willing to help with any of these ministries.

*... you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it – 1 Corinthians 12:27*

### **LET'S GET ACQUAINTED WITH PASTOR MARK!**

Pastor Mark has completed the two Covid 19 vaccinations and is anxiously awaiting the chance to meet you! We're requesting that you assist with some fun, and spontaneous, or organized gatherings with Pastor Mark. Please join us and make this a priority for the church and our community.

Options for meeting include 1) at your home, the church, or some other fun location *in person* or 2) virtually via Zoom or Facebook videos.

If you would like to extend an invitation to Pastor Mark, please call the church office. Leave your contact information and the date and time you would like to meet. Pastor Mark will call you back to confirm or arrange a different time if needed.

Regardless of the type of visit, please gather contact information from your guest so Pastor Mark can contact them with follow-up or support as needed. Please send this information to Pat Smyithe via email- [tomandpatsmyithe@yahoo.com](mailto:tomandpatsmyithe@yahoo.com), text 218-360- 0232, or call 283-3707.

A member can choose to be the host or request to attend a group hosted by another member. If you'd like to join a group you can contact Pat Smyithe at the contact choices above. Even if you've met Pastor Mark, a repeat visit will help him put a name and face together. Please give this idea some prayerful thought.

Contact: Pat Smyithe with any questions or to relay your willingness to participate.

### **RADIO BROADCASTS**

There are openings to sponsor radio broadcasts of our Sunday morning worship service. The cost is still \$90. Please contact the church if you can help with this vital outreach to our community and radio listening area.

### **FLOWERS FOR THE CHANCEL AREA**

If you'd like to donate fresh flowers for a Sunday service, they are always welcome. Contact the florist of your choice to order (or wherever you would obtain them), then make arrangements to bring them here or have them delivered directly to the church. Please let us know in advance so that we can acknowledge the gift in Sunday's bulletin.

### **Looking Ahead**

**Sunday, July 4, 2021**

We will have Sunday morning worship at 9:30 am, but no Sunday evening service.

**Tuesday April 20, 2021 Church Council Meeting Minutes by zoom**

**Attendees:**

Pastor Mark    President: Carol Schumacher    Vice President: Shawn Kelly    Secretary: June Wilson  
Treasurer: Doug Anderson    Elsie Korpi    Len Peterson    Tawyna **Schoewe**

**Absent:**

Hunter Wilson- College                      Marva Fairchild                      Brooke Joslyn

**Devotions:** Len Peterson

**Smart Team:** In house 30-35; Facebook live stream and Radio still going as well

Motion to accept the **March** Minutes by Tawnya Schoewe and seconded by Elsie Korpi; passed by all

**Secretary's Report:** nothing at this time

**Treasurer's Report:** looked over and a motion to accept the treasurer's report by Len Peterson and seconded by Shawn Kelly, passed by all.

**President's Report:** We will need a new Financial Secretary as Kris will be retiring at the end of April. She will stay on until we fill the position. Joe B. has a few in mind and if the council has any suggestions for someone to fill this position.

**Pastor's Report:** The Education Committee will meet in May ASAP to discuss ideas and options for all ages and intergenerational participation in youth/family opportunities. The Evangelism Committee has also discussed some adult education ideas for consideration. A meeting will be after the church service on Sunday May 16 (10:45( to bring together (in-person) those interested in exploring possible topics. An on-line zoom option will be explored.

Build Education Committee for planning (Tawnya S., Brooke J., Hunter W., Len P,- all from the Council Liaisons) and Nancy A. and Katie A. Additional committee members are also welcome. Rally Day focus for Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> with Faith 5 will be presented for discussion, stay tuned.

Met with Pr. Erin from First Lutheran to discuss potential collaboration w/after school drop off on Wed.

Pr. Andy & Erin will collaborate and coordinate with Zion as we prepare for 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering in MPLS.

Installation of Church Council members and Executive Committee sometime in May; Carol will do a poll- by email ,if May 16 or the 23 will work best this will be done in person at the church service.

Update on the Zion Constitution and align w/Bylaws. Committee Len P., Gail R., Pastor Mark, and Sheryl P. upon completion of work we will present to the church council for their input review/approval. The final approval will be at a congregation meeting TBD.

Administrative- Church 360- training ongoing; four one-hour training sessions total w/ongoing support. Thanks to Kris Helloid for all her work with bookkeeping at Zion (which is volunteer, as well) Many thanks for her dedication to all her faithful work!

Vacation: April 22-25 )Th-Sat)- travel to WI farm for Turkey Hunt w/son and brother (three nights) Good Luck! May 28-31 (Fr.-Mon) Canoe trip planned to BWCA for Memorial Day weekend (four nights)

**Key Goals:** Meet & Greet- build relationships w/congregation and community (work through Evangelism Committee)

Explore collaboration with area congregations (Confirmation/Youth, collaborative worship services After school drop-in-First Lutheran Church

Council Retreat building relationships going forward

Committee Reports:

Education: See above Pastor Mark

Evangelism: Pastor meets/greets working with Pat Smyithe

Worship/Music: quite a few at the Easter Service will talk and have more next month

Property/Grounds: Shawn Kelly was notified by Joe of an issue upstairs of a 3-way heater valve leaking onto the floor-needs to be fixed. Shannon's has been contacted. P/G committee met in person on March 26 at the church. Members present were Shawn, Len, Belmer, Leslie K., and Jon Winkler will be added to the committee as well.

Sound system ordered and rolling; Boilers are still #1 priority request to use \$13,881.19 from the Diane Semmler fund; \$6,492 from Pay Protection Plan Down payment by the end of April . Locked price at \$20,000. Buy all the components now and worry about labor cost later. Maybe in the next newsletter add about the boiler project. Amend motion to use \$3,000 from the KEDA be used to open a Dedicated Account for Labor expense first motion by Len Peterson and seconded by Doug Anderson for the \$20,000 down this will be locked in.

Slab for the bell tower needs to be repaired or better yet removed will fill in with dirt for the time being.

Shawn also thanked Guy Johnson and Gordy Lindgren for painting Pastor Marks office.

**Old Business:** NEMN Synod Assembly April 30-May 1 Doug & Nancy Anderson are registered and will be the Lay Representatives.

Next meeting will be Tuesday May 25 at 7:00 pm at the church

Closing Prayer by Pastor Mark

Minutes by June Wilson Laskiainenjw@gmail.com

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR JUNE 2021

### SUNDAY, JUNE 6 – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

**Readings and Psalm** – Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1, Mark 3:20-35

**Prayer of the Day** – All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 13 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

**Readings and Psalm** – Ezekiel 17:22-24, Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17, Mark 4:26-34

**Prayer of the Day** – O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 20 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

**Readings and Psalms** – Job 38:1-11, Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

**Prayer of the Day** – O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

June readings continued –

**SUNDAY, JUNE 27 – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

**Readings and Psalm** – Lamentations 3:22-33, Psalm 30, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15, Mark 5:21-43

**Prayer of the Day** – Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**FATHERS IN OUR LIVES**

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.

Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail.

We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways--both big and small--they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting.

Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray.

Amen.

- Rev. Chuck Currie

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## **June 2021 NEWSLETTER – VOLUME 44, ISSUE 6**

### **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

In addition to our Sunday radio broadcast on K104.1 FM at 9:30 am,  
we also live-stream the service on our Facebook page.

Please join us!

### **HELP US MAINTAIN OUR MAILING LIST**

Please let us know if you have an address change – temporary or permanent.

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