



Zion Lutheran Church

The Messenger

August 2024

A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :

July ended with our “Merry Christmas” in July celebration. Thanks are due to Deb Reis, the Music & Worship Committee, special musicians, David Dagnais, bells, Linda Wirtz, cello, John Gill, vocal and the fellowship crew, Colleen, Gail, Karen & Elmer Luedtke for the holiday treats and décor.

Now we come to August, a month when changes begin taking place transitioning from summer to autumn. We fit in that last vacation, enjoy the last picnic, etc. as back-to-school supplies appear in the stores, football camps open, and a tinge of gold colors the leaves. For Zion, too, this is a time for changes.

First, there will be a small change. Beginning on August 5th, our Church Administrator, Karen Farlow, will be reducing her hours from 20 hours per week to 10. Due to additional hours required by her other employer, this change is necessary. However, because of Karen’s knowledge and efficiency as well as Zion’s transition to Lambert Business Solutions for our financial matters (giving Grace VanEyck a very well-deserved retirement) there will be no disruption to the effective running of our facility. Thanks Karen and Grace for all you do.

Second, there is a very pleasant change. Over the past several months we have had a number of supply pastors to lead our Sunday worship. We now have “Vicar” Jake back with us as our part-time SAM (Synod Approved Minister). This is a unique position that we much recognize and respect his role which is to preach, teach and minister to our pastoral needs. A very heartfelt WELCOME HOME VICAR JAKE!

Our largest, most challenging change will be with the Affordable Housing Project. Members of the Selection Team have been working diligently to sort through the volumes of information concerning this project in order to present a clear picture of our options to the congregation. Just as changing from swimsuits and flip-flops to sneakers and backpacks can be hard, we know some of the decisions concerning Zion’s future may be challenging, hard and possibly painful. It is clear that we cannot continue as we have once Appleton Bilingual School leaves. I ask everyone to pray that God will guide us as these difficult decisions need to be made. We are, after all, a community of faith and God has a plan for us.

The Bible shows us examples of life-altering changes. St. Paul (a.k.a. Saul) went from persecuting followers of Christ to spreading His message throughout the Mediterranean area to Jews and Gentiles alike. Because Paul embraced such a change, we are here today savoring his message of salvation. In his letter to the Corinthians he points out “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away, behold all things become new.” Zion has an opportunity to “Make all things new!” Let us embrace the change.

-Sue Bunkert, Council President

The Vicar's Views



“Come and Eat”

If you were anything like me as a child, you knew when mom said to come and eat that you had better wash your hands and come to the table for supper right away. As you might guess, I never missed a meal!

One of my favorite graces sung at Crossways with the campers before the meal is this lively grace: “Come and dine the master calleth, come and dine. There is plenty at God’s table all the time. He who fed the multitudes, turned the water into wine, to the hungry calleth now, come and dine”.

We also receive an invitation from Christ who invites us to the table every Sunday to receive the “Bread of Life”. All are invited to the abundant table of our Lord to feast on the bread and wine that is given freely to us believers. And it is an abundant feast with plenty for everyone including those who are homebound and, in our hospitals, and nursing facilities. I think of bringing communion to others as an extension of the table much like we expand our tables at home for folks who join us for the feast. This would be a good time to thank all our Visitation Ministers who so faithfully bring Communion to our members who are unable to join us for worship at Zion in person.

One of the members that I visited this week who was instrumental in creating the visitation ministry and served as our parish nurse for many years is Vivian Schutte. Her nephew, Dan Schutte, is a well-known church musician who composed many songs that are sung in Christian churches to this day. The refrain of one of those songs he composed, “Table of Plenty”, is a fitting hymn to mention:

“Come to the feast of heaven and earth, Come to the table of plenty, God will provide for all that we need, Here at the table of plenty”

My hope and prayer is that you will join us at Zion for in-person worship so that you can be spiritually nourished. Attending worship in person provides the opportunity to express and reinforce our faith together. This sense of community supports individuals in our spiritual journey and fosters a sense of belonging. You will hear numerous references to Christ as the Bread of Life in all of the gospel readings in August.

Many thanks to everyone who makes it possible for us to be inspired by the Word of God and spiritually nourished in Communion. I am grateful to the assisting ministers, readers, ushers, greeters, bulletin editors, acolytes, musicians, communion preparers and singers. Together with the entire congregation we form the Body of Christ to be fed so that we can go out into the community to feed others.

**Come and Dine the Master Calleth! In Christ’s Service,
Vicar Jake**



August 2024

Zion Lutheran Church

Monday, August 12, 2024

Submissions due for September's calendar

Sunday, August 4

Exod 16:2-4, 9-15; Ps 78:23-29

Eph 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Lectionary 18 (Pentecost 11)

Pastor Karen Jewell

Assisting Minister: Tom Meltz

Reader: John Gill

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Greg Pettigrew

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Sunday, August 11

1 Kings 19:4-8; PS 34:1-8

Eph 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

Worship Service 9:00 am

Followed by

Coffee Hour

Lectionary 19 (Pentecost 12)

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt

Reader: Karen Arnoldussen

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens and Closes: Jim Schley

Tuesday, August 13

Zion Mutual Homes Meeting 10:00am

Sunday, August 18

Prov 9:1-6; Ps 34:9-14

Eph 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Lectionary 20 (Pentecost 13)

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Deb Reis

Reader: Diana Staedt

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Gene Wiese

Closes: Gwen Schwandt

Monday, August 19

Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm

Sunday, August 25

Josh 24:1-2a, 14-18; Ps 34:15-22

Eph 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Lectionary 21 (Pentecost 14)

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs

Reader: JoAnn Salm

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens and Closes: Gwen Schwandt

Zion Council Minutes

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Monday, June 17, 2024

Present: Sue Bunkert, Ray Pittman, Tammy Mossholder, Gail Hunter, Tom Meltz,
Kandie Wilz, Karen F.

Absent: Kyle M.

Opening Devotion led by Ray Pittman at 6:30 pm

Approval of Agenda: motion made and approved

Approval of Minutes: motion made and approved

Committee Reports:

Property: The nonprofits letters sent out. List of nonprofit contacts from Bonnie coming to Karen. The life bids for the church lift are delayed due to the death of Chris Neumann. She was on the Foundation Committee. This will delay the work of Gary for it. Update will come.

Worship and Music: NA

Zion Mutual Homes: Hand out.

Finance: Hand out. No payment from ABS School for May and June. Looking at reducing paper for reports that are printed monthly. To save Zion money will try and reduce this but the information would still be available to anyone that would like to see it. They get long and the decision to have at council meeting to have only 1-2 pages for finance and Zion mutual homes. Karen reported that income exceeds expenses by \$8,513.97 YTD for this month.

June 2024 benevolence paid out.

Call Committee: NA

Old Business:

Affordable Housing: Request for proposals on schedule for July 11th, July 16th recommendations will be approved to inform the congregation on July 28th (Christmas in July service). There is a Faith base group who has a deacon intern to help with grants to help utilize grants for church.

Habitat: A group from Zion providing meal for builders, first one is June 27th on W. Heather St., 11:15 am meet at church to load up, the menu is set, we have enough volunteers. Thank you to them for giving their time in serving those workers. Two additional dates in July for lunches are on the calendar and are in the works for getting organized for those. Will have those dates at next month's meeting.

New Business:

Stewardship: At Christmas time we would like to do a collection within the church. This would be food for the pantry. Pledge cards for things that are needed would be on the tree. A Capital campaign for big amounts would be for reachable goals like repairing pew cushions and paint areas would be a couple of examples. People could just donate a certain amount that would be affordable for them. The stewardship committee will update us more on this as we get closer to that time.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2024, at 6:30 pm

Devotion to be led by Gail Hunter

Motion to Dismiss at 7:20 pm.

Closed in Lord's prayer.

Personnel Changes and Job Postings

Beginning on August 5th, our Church Administrator, Karen Farlow, will be reducing her hours from 20 hours per week to 10. Due to additional hours required by her other employer, this change is necessary. However, because of Karen's knowledge and efficiency as well as Zion transitioning to Lambert Business Solutions for our financial matters, there will be no disruption to the effective running of our facility.

Hospitality and Outreach Coordinator

We are seeking an individual to work with the pastor, other church staff, church council and volunteers to turn their ideas and content for events and outreach into reality. This is a part-time, hourly position, without benefits. The position is open to people who are committed to the mission of Zion Lutheran Congregation and serving the needs of the local community. If you are interested, please contact Wendy Sachs by phone 920-851-3422 or email wife4bike@aol.com. A copy of the job description is available upon request.

Lunch Social Group

Come join the Lunch Social group. We get together every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30am. We change locations every month. Check the clipboard in the narthex to find out where we are going for the month. Please sign up or at least let Colleen know you are coming so she knows about how many are going to be there. Hope to see some new faces join us. No age limit.

Affordable Housing Project Update

Team Meetings:

July 10, 2024 Neighborhood Advisory Team Meeting; July 14, 2024 Selection Committee Meeting; July 22, 2024 Roundtable Meeting; July 23, 2024 Selection Committee Meeting

Meetings with Key Individuals/Organizations:

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer, SAM Pastor Zion; Harriet Redman, WisconSibs; Mary Anne Oemichen, Home of our Own (Prairie House); Kara Homan, City of Appleton; Eric Broten, Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce

Important information:

-Several Developers indicated and interest in submitting proposals for Zion review. One submission was received from a collaboration of three companies: Impact 7, Catalyst Construction and AG Architecture. The Selection Committee reviewed the proposal and submitted questions back to the companies for further clarification. The Selection Committee will continue to meet to discuss this proposal and come up with a presentation to give to the congregation. The proposal calls for 60 affordable housing units, consisting of one-, two-, and three bedroom apartments as well as 15 market rate units.

- Bonnie and Kandie Wilz attended the Wisconsin Collaborative for Affordable Housing Conference in Middleton where they had the opportunity to meet and talk with many of the developers and funding agencies for affordable housing. Bonnie and Kandie also attended a tour of Linked Living in Appleton which builds small footprint housing.

-Bonnie sought out and was invited to the AARP-and Neighborhood Evolutions-sponsored Appleton Town Makers.

Upcoming Meetings:

July 31, 2024 Selection Committee Meeting (by invitation only)

September 9, 2024 Roundtable Meeting (Anyone may attend to hear updates on the Affordable Housing Project)

Memorials Gratefully Received

Donations in memory of Chirs Neumann for the Organ Loan Fund:

Gwen Schwandt, Diana Staedt, Mary & Jerry Schulz, Steve & Lynn Polman, Ralph & Jo-Ann Neumann, Bill & Judy Bohlman & Family, Randy & Judi Korth, Jacob & Brianna Wood, Shirley Lally, Karen Coonen, Donna Olson, Ellie & Kandie Wilz, Bob & Janet Tegge, Shirley Schmidt, Karen & Larry Laedtke, Jack & Jean Relien, Terri Jo Graverson, Leon & Bonnie Seifert, Daniel Abitz, Pat & Deb Jacklin, Sandra & Leroy Peterson, Terry & Vicki Mulder, Jim Schley, Tim & Anne Farebrother, Gretchen Abitz-Brei

Donations for the blessing box: Sally Fieck

Donations in memory of Joan Hawkins for the general fund

Mary Gammel, Joann Salm

Habitat Meals and Volunteers

It has been another successful year serving meals to the HABITAT BUILDERS. The meals were provided on June 27th, July 11th & 18.

Our leader, Sue Bunkert arranged the necessary plans for Zion volunteers to have the opportunity to reach out with meals to the faithful HABITAT workers. It is a wonderful circle of life to have many people join together in helping others.

Our Zion volunteers actually plan, provide/make and serve the meals. This year, we fed about 15 workers for each meal.

How thankful we are to the VOLUNTEERS that helped with this task. They include: Sue Bunkert, Diana Staedt, Colleen Malchow, Jim Schley, Ray Pittman, Tommy Meltz, Gene & Judy Wiese, Tom & Sue Joosten, Kandie Wilz and Karen Luedtke.

A job well done! This is just another way that Zion serves the community.

Church Photography Project

M. C. Kinney Photography of Appleton recently photographed the sanctuary as part of their project documenting historic churches. Any interested parties may purchase a professional print of the photo at the link below and 10% of any sales will be donated to the congregation.

<https://mckp.acisitebuilder.com/store/shop/image/119/8>

Blessing Box Donation Requests

We are looking for donations for the Blessing Box as part of our community outreach. We have seen an increase in use recently, and your donations are so important for members of our community in need. Cereal, bread, peanut butter, jam, easy open canned food items such as soups/stews, vegetables/fruit, applesauce, and bottled water are suggested items. If you have any non-perishable food items you would like to donate, please leave them in the narthex.

Raise Right Fundraising

Raise Right. What is it? It is a fundraising program where you purchase gift cards. Who doesn't need a gift card for something. Here is how it works. It has been predetermined how much less Zion would pay for each retailer gift card on the list. When anyone orders a gift card from a retailer, they pay the actual amount of the gift card but when Zion pays Raise Right, they subtract the predetermined percentage & that is what Zion pays. The difference is what Zion keeps. They do charge a shipping fee so when an order is placed, I need to make sure the savings Zion gets covers the cost of shipping. It usually takes about 2-3 days after ordering the gift cards to get them, so the turnaround is fast. I am hoping to have some gift cards on hand so you could get one right away. There is a list of all the gift cards available at church in the narthex. If you would like to receive the list of all retailers & can't get to church, please contact me & I can either email it to you or send it to you in the mail. If you have any other questions or would like to order any gift cards please contact me. Remember gift cards can be used for gifts, projects or for your everyday use. Thank you to anyone who has purchased them in the past & I hope many more will decide to purchase them in the future.

-Lynn Walter

Thank You From Zion

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help water flowers and assist with groundskeeping tasks this spring/summer and those who assist with ongoing building maintenance.

Thank you to Vicar Jake and Pastor Karen Jewell for preaching/presiding over our services

Thank you to those who have served as assisting ministers in July

Thank you to those who assist with fellowship after service

Thank you to all those who have helped with building security for worship services.

Thank you to our office volunteers who have helped in the past months, Lynn Walter, Janice Staedt, Grace Van Eyck and JoAnn Salm

Thank you to all who have served as ushers or volunteered in any way to serve our congregation.

Thank you to all who helped make our Christmas in July service a success!

Thank you to all those who donated water or other items for the blessing box which continues to be an important resource for marginalized members of our community.