



Zion Lutheran Church

The Messenger

February 2024

A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :

February is a strange month. Every four years we add an extra day and choose that year to elect our national president, while honoring the lives of two of our greatest leaders, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln on Presidents' Day. Add to that is the tradition on February 2nd of hauling hibernating rodents out of their dens, think Punxsutawney Phil and Sun Prairie's Jimmy the groundhog, to forecast the coming of spring. (their success rate is only 39%).

This year the secular and church calendars share on special date on February 14th. Valentine's Day; a day to celebrate love, often with special cards, flowers and candy. It is also the more somber Ash Wednesday; a time for reflecting on our sins and witnessing Christ's journey to the cross. (From dust you came and to dust you shall return). Yet, Ash Wednesday is a symbol of an even greater love than that of Valentine's Day. It is a reminder of God's infinite love and mercy for us as sinners through the sacrifice of His only beloved Son. Salvation is the most precious of gifts.

As we move forward into our Lenten journey, let us keep in mind that Zion has many challenges ahead, as we continue our search for an interim pastor and ultimately for a permanent part-time pastor. In the meantime we continue to enjoy our strong music program and supply pastors have continued to lead us in meaningful worship each week. Likewise, we continue to move forward with the Affordable Housing initiative.

Following Ash Wednesday, worship will be held each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. with the traditional soup suppers beginning at 5:00 p.m. Thanks to all those who have stepped forward to make these meals possible. During this Lenten journey toward the cross and facing the challenges ahead as a community of faith, Zion needs to remember: Faith does not make things easy, faith makes things possible. Let us embrace the possibilities.

-Sue Bunkert



Monday, February 19, 2024

Sunday, February 4

Isa 40:21-31, Ps 147:1-11, 20c

1 Cor 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

Monday, February 5

Tuesday, February 6

Wednesday, February 7

Sunday, February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12, Ps 50:1-6

2 Cor 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

Followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

Wednesday, February 14

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Ps 51:1-17

2 Cor 5:20b-6:10, Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

Worship Service 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 18

Gen 9:8-17, Ps 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

Followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

Monday, February 19

Wenesday, February 21

Lenten Supper 5:00 pm

Worship Service 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 25

Gen 17:1-7, 15-16, Ps 22:23-31

Rom 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

Followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School

Wenesday, February 28

Lenten Supper 5:00 pm

Worship Service 6:00 pm

Submissions due for March's calendar

5th Week of Epiphany

Pastor Mike Dimer

Assisting Minister: Grace Van Eyck

Acolyte: Lily Gruselle

Musician: William Surtees

Opens: Gene Wiese

Closes: Greg Pettigrew

Finance Meeting 6:00pm

Zion Mutual Homes Meeting 10:00am

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Pastor Warren Egebo

Assisting Minister: Tom Meltz

Acolyte: Alexa Rusch

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Jim Schley

Closes: Greg Pettigrew

Ash Wednesday Service

Pastor Mike Dimer

Assisting Minister: Deb Reis

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens and Closes: Gwen Schwandt

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

First Week of Lent

Pastor Jan LaVake

Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs

Acolyte: Charlee Weiland

Musician: William Surtees

Opens: Gwen Schwandt

Closes: Greg Pettigrew

Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm

Lenten Service

Assisting Minister: Tom Meltz

Musician: Pam Keane

Opens and Closes: Gwen Schwandt

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Second Week of Lent

Pastor Ralph Hankermeyer

Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt

Acolyte: Ava Dorn

Musician: William Surtees

Opens: Greg Pettigrew

Closes: Gwen Schwandt

Lenten Service

Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs

Musician: Pam Keane

Opens and Closes: Gwen Schwandt

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Zion Council Minutes

Monday, December 18, 2023

Present: Sue Bunkert, Pastor Jake, Ray Pittman, Tammy Mossholder, Gail Hunter, Kyle Mosberg, Carl Abendroth

Absent: Kandie Wilz

Opening Devotion led by Kyle at 6:26 pm

Approval of Agenda: motion made and approved

Approval of Minutes: motion made and approved

Pastor's Report: Hand out given: Neighborhood Community is very grateful for the connection with Zion. Point given to keep contact with them and maybe have them join the council meeting in Jan./Feb. Heather Plainse, Communications Coordinator last day is Friday, Dec. 22. Kimberly will help with on going communications- Facebook, Messenger, Calendar, mailings. Jonathan Johns promo for Zion, did one for Zion Homes.

Motion made and approved.

Finances Committee: statement handed out, will end up with deficit at the end of the year but not as big as projected. Per handout Pastor pay is 50K, which can be overbudget for which Zion is looking for. Musician is projected at 10k, with Heather, Zion is under. Church Admin. is projected at 28k, that is under budget. Office coordinator is at 28k, projected at 30k in which will change after 90 days. Custodian who is Elliot, is paid at 3k, and he is doing 2 positions. Payroll taxes are under due to reduction in salaries which is a bonus for zion.

Committee Reports reviewed from:

Zion Mutual Homes: Hand out given, elevator approved to be fixed, April is the date to be fixed, 2 weeks downtime, \$80k TK

Property Committee: Hand out given. Lift is fixed. Boiler 1 is not working, can use Boiler 2 until Boiler 1 is fixed. No estimate cost yet but will need to be fixed. Conversation came up about using parish house for travelling nurses by Theda Clark. Need to work Rentalworks. Checking on taxes and insurance.

Conference Room Floor \$1-2 K – vinyl flooring, 22x28 – funds in designation funds. Seeking out bids from Property committee

Personnel: Hand out given. Karen starts on the 2nd for church administrator. Lambert Finances recommended to use for finances. Motion made and approved for personnel to use these services.

Discussion and recommended by Council to give office staff Christmas eve off – request will go out to personnel.

Old Business

Affordable Housing Project: Advent suppers have been a big hit with the community-
GLCI

Call Committee: no updated status, there are pastors coming in January for Sundays. Lent services- Wednesday services do not need an ordain person to do a sermon.

New Business:

Recognize Grace, Elliot, Heather and Kimberly for their help... gift cards given for appreciation.

Continuing Pastoral Care: Partnership with other churches to help out in needs

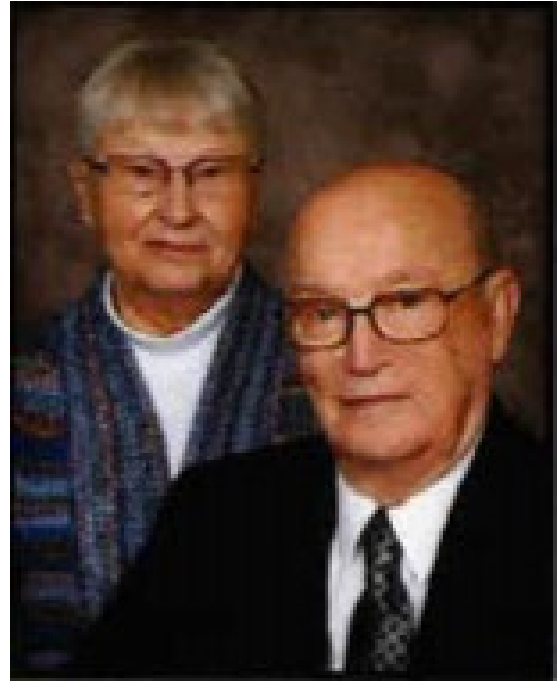
Motion to Dismissed at 815 pm. Closed in Lord's prayer.

Next Meeting: January 15,2023 at 630 pm

Devotion to be led by Ray Pittman

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hunter

Life Passages and Celebrations



Ruth Mosher died on Sunday, January 14th. The funeral was held on Thursday January 18th. Please keep the family of Ruth in your prayers.

George and Vera Zimmer celebrated their 75th Wedding Anniversary on January 29th. Happy Anniversary from everyone at Zion!

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 you can contact me at 920-659-1021. 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

Blessing Box/Free Little Library

We are looking for donations for the Blessing Box and Free Little Library 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. If you have any non perishable food items or books you would like to donate, please leave them in the narthex. If you are a Thrivent member, you may be able to apply for an action team grant for \$250 to purchase supplies for the Blessing Box and/or Free Little Library. The church office staff can purchase the supplies or arrange for a volunteer to do it for you if necessary.

Scholarship Information

Are you a Senior in High School and an active member of Zion? Get a Scholarship application from the Church Office window ledge beginning February 11, 2022. The awards are based on accomplishments, grade point, need, and an essay on the impact of Jesus Christ and the Christian faith in the life of the applicant. Only Zion members are eligible. ALL PARTS of the application (including reference support letters) must be IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 11:00AM ON SUNDAY, March 17, 2022. Call the church with questions at 739-3104.

Memorials Gratefully Received

Jon & Cheryl Meyer for Organ Loan repayment to Foundation
Given in Memory of Jan Mossholder

Thank You from Zion

Thank you for your service to our supply pastors who served in January: Pastor Jan LaVake and Pastor Karen Jewell; Thank you to Pastor Mike Dismer for his continued service and for providing emergency pastoral care to our members during our transition.

Thank you to the members of the funeral team for their service for the funeral of Ruth Mosher.

Thank you to Gwen Schwandt for her dedicated service to the Zion Community.

Thank you to Lynn Walter for all of her hard work creating the bulletins for worship services.

Thank you to Lynn Walter, Janice Staedt and Sue Joosten for volunteering to cover office hours.

Thank you to Janice Staedt for her work with our membership files in Shepherd Staff.

Thank you to Diana Staedt, Colleen Malchow, and Karen & Elmer Luedtke
for providing fellowship in January.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve as assisting ministers in January: Wendy Sachs, Tom Meltz, Deb Reis, Grace Van Eyck, and Gwen Schwandt.

Thank you to all who donated items for our Blessing Box.

Call Committee Update

Zion's Call Committee met Monday Jan.15th. We continue to work on our interview skills, to keep fresh for when we are given a candidate to consider. The process continues to be slow due to the shortage of clergy at this time, but we are positive that the right fit will come at the right time.

We have explored the many positive things going on at Zion, and our gratitude for the volunteerism and positivity that Zion is blessed with.

We pray for Zion and its congregants in this time of waiting and appreciate your prayers for our team, and Zion Congregation.

“Not only so, but we also glory in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Romans 5:3

Zion Pastoral Call Committee: Deb Reis, Tricia Kasten, Cheryl Meyer, Jon Meyer, Kyle Moseng, Ray Pittman

Church Happenings in January



Pastor Jan LaVake and Pastor Karen Jewell graciously served as supply pastors at Zion during January as the search for an interim pastor continues. Zion thanks them for their service.

Epiphany Walk-January 7th

