



Zion Lutheran Church

# The Messenger

August 2025

## A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :



August – the month when kids fear walking into a store and seeing those dreaded words – “BACK TO SCHOOL SALE”. No more carefree days soaking up the sun or splashing in the pool. However, for the first time in thirteen years Zion’s halls will be silent; no more childish energy or laughter. The Appleton Bilingual School is gone.

The departure of this long-time tenant leaves many questions and possibilities, which has led to our Affordable Housing Project, repurposing our facilities to create housing for those who are in need of an affordable place to live in our community. This is in keeping with our mission of “creating community through God’s love and guidance”. The Real Estate Committee has been formed to work with our consultants to reach out to developers, both large and small, with a RFP (Request for Proposal). It is a slow process since in the past we had considered several proposals which unfortunately did not work out. Please keep this committee in your prayers as we continue the search for a project which that is feasible and meets our needs. As matters develop and there is positive news to share, the congregation will be informed.

Likewise, the Call Committee, co-chaired by Deb Reis and Trisha Kasten, continues their search for a “Right Fit” pastor for Zion. Pastor Asher O’Callaghan has left his position as Assistant to the Bishop for Transition. It will be filled by Pastor Nathan Gauerke. Pastor Gauerke had served Zion for several years and hopefully will have a clear picture of our needs and will be helpful in finding the right individual. Again, as things develop, the congregation will be informed. Please keep Pastor Gauerke and the Call Committee in your prayers.

Although we face a number of uncertainties, Zion remains a worshipping and active congregation. We enjoyed fellowship at our annual picnic in June, used our Christmas in July celebration to leave gifts, both monetary and non-perishable food items under the Christmas tree and look ahead to September with “God’s Work, Our Hands”. Our blessing box, faithfully filled by Tommy Meltz, is used daily and your donations go far in Jesus’s commission to “Feed my sheep”.

We also continue to serve meals to the Habitat for Humanity volunteers which is much appreciated by those who generously give their time for make homes affordable to families. Our meaningful worship is conducted with the involvement of two wonderful pastors, Karen Jewell and Jan LaVake, when Vicar Jake cannot be with us. We have enjoyed varied types of music over the summer, thanks to our Music Coordinator, Heather Watney. What we have not heard is the beauty of our bells. The reason for this is the bells have been sent for cleaning and refurbishing, something long overdue, thanks to the efforts of Paula Staedt and the Worship and Music Committee. This is an expensive process, costing over \$5,000.00. Anyone who wishes to donate to this endeavor can contact the church office or mark an envelope. We look forward to hearing those lovely tones again in the near future.

As we look to a future that looks uncertain, searching for answers and praying for guidance, please remember “LET YOUR FAITH BE GREATER THAN YOUR FEAR!” -Sue Bunkert

## **Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**June 16, 2025 Meeting began at 6:30pm**

**Opening Devotion: Amanda Kuba**

**Present: Sue Bunkert, Molly Kuba, Ray Pittman, Tom Meltz, Kandie Wilz, Amanda Kuba,  
Linda Van Bommel, Vicar Jake**

**Guest: Liaison Barb Dunlap for Zion Mutual Homes and Council, Grace Van Eyck**

**Absent: Kyle Moseng**

**Opening Devotion led by Amanda Kuba**

**Approval of Agenda: motion made and approved**

**Approval of Minutes: motion made and approved**



**Vicar Jake's Report: handout was given. Vicar Jake reported that himself along with Diana Staedt and Tricia Staedt attended the Synod Assembly; 275 people attended the synod assembly. Vicar Jake met with Pastors Karen and Jan for the summer/fall Sunday schedule. Vicar Jake met with people from St Joes for the parish overflow emergency shelter program. Motion was made and approved for continued discussions on the shelter. Vicar Jake requested for Zion to make a contribution to Pillars. \$500 was suggested and a motion was made and approved for \$500.**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance - Grace gave an oral financial report. A financial report for May was handed out and discussed.**

**Personnel - Wendy Sachs is our new Finance Manager as of July 1, 2025. Grace is the backup.**

**Zion Mutual Homes - handout was given. Barb Dunlap gave an oral report. The meeting is tomorrow June 17.**

### **Old Business:**

**Affordable Housing - Appraisal of the building will be \$3,000. Bonnie is working on RFP (Request For Proposal). The next meeting is June 25th. A half sheet bulletin insert will be in the bulletin in July letting the congregation know what is going on. Document has been created for everyone's duties. The estimate about the gym roof is \$307 to patch the cracks. The Council approved adding the \$500.00 fee to the appraisal for the empty lot behind ZMH.**

### **New Business:**

**Zion received a thank you card from Joshua Hoesli for his scholarship. ABS presented Zion with a plaque; it is on display in the back of the sanctuary.**

**Next Meeting: Monday, July 21, 2025 at 6:30pm**

**Devotion will be led by Ray Pittmann**

**Motion to dismiss at 8:20pm.**

**Closed meeting with The Lord's Prayer**

**Submitted by Amanda Kuba**





# The Vicar's Views



## How is your prayer life?

How we pray, or even whether we pray, says a lot about our relationship with God. So, when one of the disciples in Luke 11: 1-13 says to Jesus, “Teach us to pray,” we can be pretty sure he is asking for more than simply words or techniques. There is a desire deep within him. He has seen Jesus praying. Perhaps he saw Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening as we heard in last week’s gospel. The disciple wants a relationship with Jesus like Mary did and what Jesus has with God the Father. That relationship is not about words or techniques.

Most of us were taught as a child to see prayer as a wish list given to God. This to-do list kind of prayer leaves us seeking something from God rather than seeking God. It seems that giving God our “to do list” of requests is the usual way that most people pray. I invite you to pray by giving up the to do list and just be with God.

Jesus is not simply teaching us new words or techniques, and certainly not another to-do list for God. He is, rather, giving us a new direction for our lives. He is calling us to a deeper prayer. It is a place of being with God rather than taking from God. It is a place where God himself is the answer to every prayer. This way of praying is less about the words we say.

So, our relationship with God and our relationship with neighbors, friends, family, and our enemies, mirrors each other. Prayer requires a relationship. That relationship means that our life, comes from God. Prayer reminds us that we are “not self-sufficient” but dependent on God.

Finally, perhaps the greatest difficulty with prayer is that sometimes we just want God to change our circumstances. While God sometimes does change circumstances, I am convinced that God, more often than not, changes us.

Let us pray, in the last days of this summer, may you enjoy time to relax and revel in God’s creation and just be with God. May you experience the love and support that comes from a closer relationship with God. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

God Bless you,  
Vicar Jake





Zion Lutheran Church

# August 2025

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**Monday, August 11, 2025**

**Sunday, August 3**

Eccles 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Ps 49:1-12

Col 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

followed by

Coffee Hour

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**Submissions due for September's calendar**

**Lectionary 18 (Pentecost 8)**

Pastor Roger McQuiston

Assisting Minister: Tom Meltz

Reader: Sue Bunkert

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Greg Pettigrew

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Greeters: Gary Busch, Carol Gipp



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**Sunday, August 10**

Gen 15:1-6; Ps 33:12-22

Heb 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

Followed by

Coffee Hour

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**Lectionary 19 (Pentecost 9)**

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Grace Van Eyck

Reader: Heather Watney

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Gene Wiese

Closes: Jodi Hoesli

Greeters: Jo Schiedermayer, Linda Wirtz

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**Tuesday, August 12**

**Sunday, August 17**

Jer 23:23-29; Ps 82

Heb 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

followed by

Coffee Hour

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**Lectionary 20 (Pentecost 10)**

Pastor Roger McQuiston

Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs

Reader: Lynn Walter

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens and Closes: Gwen Schwandt

Greeters: Collen Malchow, Diane Moseng

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**Monday, August 18**

**Sunday, August 24**

Isa 58:9b-14; Ps 103:1-8

Heb 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

followed by

Coffee Hour

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Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm

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**Lectionary 21 (Pentecost 11)**

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt

Reader: JoAnn Salm

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens and Closes: Jim Schley

Greeters: Karen & Elmer Luedtke

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**Sunday, August 31**

Prov 25:6-7; Ps 112

Heb 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

**Worship Service 9:00 am**

followed by

Coffee Hour

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**Lectionary 21 (Pentecost 12)**

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Tricia Staedt

Reader: Jim Schley

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Gwen Schwandt

Closes: Jodi Hoesli

Greeters: Diana Staedt





## Upcoming Special Trips & Excursions

The Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center provides opportunities for people 50+ to thrive through meaningful collaboration, socialization, education, and wellness programming

3000 E College Ave, Appleton, WI

+1 920-939-3088

### Wisconsin State Fair

**Monday, August 4, 2025**

Join us for a day at the fair filled with sounds, smells, and attractions. Stroll through the Agricultural barns and 4-H Displays, visit numerous concession stands, and don't miss the famous cream puff! Moderate walking required. Thanks to **Network Health** for sponsoring tickets for this trip.



**Cost:** \$55

**Depart:** 9:00 am **Return:** 5:30 pm

**Register by:** Thursday, July 3

### Legends & Landmarks: A Day in Green Bay

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

Join us for an exciting day in Green Bay! Start with a tour of **Lambeau Field**, visit the **Packers Hall of Fame**, and shop at the **Pro Shop**. Enjoy lunch at **1919 Kitchen & Tap**, then explore the **Neville Public Museum** at your leisure, featuring art, science, and local history exhibits. Experience a great mix of sports, culture, and camaraderie!

**Cost:** \$95 (includes all tickets, tips, and lunch)

**Depart:** 8:15 am **Return:** 4:00 pm

**Register by:** Friday, July 11

### Milwaukee Brewers

**Thursday, August 28**

**vs. Arizona Diamondbacks**

Enjoy a trip to American Family Field to watch the **Milwaukee Brewers** take on the Arizona Diamondbacks. Enjoy seats along the first baseline. The game starts at 1:10. Explore the stadium and enjoy lunch on your own prior to game start. Prepare for moderate walking. We will be stopping at McDonalds on the way down.

**Cost:** \$80

**Depart:** 9:00 am **Return:** 7:00 pm (or after the game)

**Register by:** Friday, July 22

### Fireside Theatre: Oklahoma!

**Friday, Sept. 26**

"Oklahoma!" is an American classic, marking the start of the Golden Age of American Musical Theatre. This vibrant musical comedy features colorful costumes, impressive dancing, humor, and popular songs like "People Will Say We're In Love," "Surrey With the Fringe On Top," and the title number "Oklahoma!"

**Cost:** \$140 (includes all tickets, tips, and lunch)

**Depart:** 8:15 am **Return:** 6:30 pm

**Register by:** Friday, August 22

### Scenic Beauty, Tasty Treats & Autumn Adventures

**Tuesday, Oct. 14**

Join us for a fall adventure at **Holy Hill**, exploring the basilica and enjoying autumn views. We'll tour **Lake Winnebago**, have lunch at **LeClare Creamery** while learning about cheesemaking, and visit **The Little Farmer** for apples and seasonal treats. Experience a colorful and fun autumn day with us!

**Cost:** \$80

**Depart:** 7:30 am **Return:** 5:30 pm

**Register by:** Thursday, Sept. 11

### New to the Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center...?

Obtain and Complete a Participation Form - can be found online or in person at the Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center

Sign up for programs in advance - Programs can be signed up for through the following methods:

- Online registration - [www.mbnactivitycenter.org](http://www.mbnactivitycenter.org)
- Calling ahead - (920)939-3088
- Visiting the front desk in person - 3000 E. College Ave. Ste. B, Appleton, WI 54915

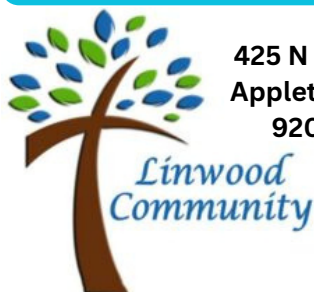
If a program you wish to attend has a fee:

- Ensure there is sufficient money available in your prepay account.
- Alternatively, bring the required fee each time you attend the program.
- Civic League/Bus Trips - must be paid in advance



Register for  
Classes Online

If you'd like the newsletter sent to you electronically, e-mail [register@mbnactivitycenter.org](mailto:register@mbnactivitycenter.org)



425 N Linwood Ave  
Appleton, WI 54914  
920-734-7225

A Ministry of Fox Valley Lutheran Homes

### Ask Our Neighborhood Pharmacist

We invite you to join us on Thursday, August 14th at 1 PM for an educational session with our special guest, Pharmacist Tyler Wallenfang from Hometown Pharmacy. This is a great opportunity for you to gain insights on why it is important to use a single pharmacy for your medications. Tyler will also share essential information on medication disposal, interactions, and packaging. Join us as we learn to take steps toward enhancing our quality of life and well-being!

### Cycling Without Age

Join our tenants this summer for trishaw rides. Trishaws provide a slow ride, piloted by a certified volunteer that allows older adults an opportunity to spend time outdoors. "Make the Ride Happen" will offer trishaw rides to our tenants, families and friends on Tuesday, August 19 from 1:30 - 3:30.

# 2025 Summer Concert Series

In Support of Linwood Community  
Supportive Independent Living for Adults (62+)

50/50 Raffle

Sunday, Aug 17 2pm      Sunday, Sept 21 2pm

## ELVIS JOHN

## VOICES OF PEACE GOSPEL

Bring your lawn chair... Get ready for Great Music and Fellowship at  
Linwood Park Pavilion 401 N Douglas St  
(Across from Linwood Community, Fox Valley Lutheran Homes)

# 2025 LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

Free Organ Concerts on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.

August 6 - Colin Welford

First Presbyterian Church  
200 S Church St, Neenah

August 13 - Dr. Erich Knapp

First English Lutheran Church  
326 E North St, Appleton

August 20 - Devin Atteln, CAGO

St. Mary Catholic Church  
528 2nd St, Menasha

August 27 - Jared Stellmacher

Memorial Presbyterian Church  
803 E College Ave, Appleton



For more information visit  
[www.newago.org](http://www.newago.org)

Sponsored by:  
Northeastern Wisconsin Chapter of  
the American Guild of Organists



JOIN US



On the 3rd Thursday of each month there is a lunch social. We meet at 11:30 and go to a different restaurant each month. There is a signup sheet in the narthex each month that lets you know where the lunch social will be. Please consider joining us for a fun & friendly time had by all.



## Living Spirit

Dementia Respite Center  
A ministry of First English Lutheran Church

## Care for Them, Rest for You

Caring for a family member or loved one is gratifying yet can also be challenging. Living Spirit is designed to relieve caregivers for a few hours in order to:

- Run errands
- Take care of business
- Relax

Caregivers enjoy peace of mind knowing their loved ones are spending time in a loving, supportive, and joyful environment.

At Living Spirit we believe that

all people have the living spirit of God within them. Our mission is to provide a place for people living with mild to moderate dementia where the spirit of God, the living spirit of love, joy, hope, and peace, is nurtured through fellowship, entertainment, and service to others.

All who participate in this ministry - those living with dementia, their caregivers, our volunteers - share equally in this joyful mission, just as we all share equally in the

living spirit of God.

Everyone is embraced as part of our community regardless of their religious affiliation or status.

A typical day includes:

- Music
- Arts and crafts
- Service projects
- Games
- Memory work
- Light exercise
- Ongoing fellowship

To learn more and to apply for enrollment at Living Spirit please visit our website at [www.felc.com/livingspirit](http://www.felc.com/livingspirit).



## Living Spirit Dementia Respite Center

First English Lutheran Church  
326 E. North St., Appleton, WI 54911

Phone: (920) 733-2303 x310

Email: [respite@felc.com](mailto:respite@felc.com)

Website: [www.felc.com/livingspirit](http://www.felc.com/livingspirit)

### Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Tuition\*:

\$40/day, includes lunch and all activities.

\*If you are worried about the financial commitment, there are full grants available. No one will be turned away.

COUNTRY • SOUTHERN GOSPEL • BLUEGRASS



Voices of Peace  
Peace Church, Potter  
20th Annual  
Gospel Music Fest

Hilbert Civic Park • Hwy 57 • Hilbert, WI

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY!

RAIN OR SHINE  
AT THE PARK

Friday, August 15  
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Saturday, August 16  
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



## FREE ADMISSION

Bring lawn chairs! • Bring your family!  
Food available! • Nondenominational!

## PLEASE NO COOLERS!

Free will offerings will be taken.  
100% given to the bands.

For more information

contact Bud or Carolyn at:

920-756-3830 • 920-470-0423

e-mail: [bud.mcatee@gmail.com](mailto:bud.mcatee@gmail.com)

[www.voicesofpeacemusic.net](http://www.voicesofpeacemusic.net)

**REGISTER NOW FOR THE**

# **ZION/COLUMBUS PLAYGROUND PROGRAM**

**JULY 15 - AUGUST 21**

**T/W/TH**

**1-4 PM**

**AT THE COLUMBUS PLAYGROUND**

**FREE FOR AGES 6-13**

Zion Lutheran Church sponsored but non-religious  
Email Brianne to Register: [b.connelly26@gmail.com](mailto:b.connelly26@gmail.com)

## **Zion/Columbus Playground Program**

### **Logistics:**

**Starts Tuesday, July 15th**

**Ends Thursday, August 21**

**Days/Hours - T/W/Th 1-4pm**

**Location - Columbus playground**

**What to bring - kids should come with a full water bottle**

**In case of rain or high heat, we will move to Zion's gym - kids can come and go through the double doors of Zion on Winnebago St.**

**(Zion is across the street from Columbus)**

**Sign In & Sign Out - although this program is flexible and kids can come and go as they please, they will be asked to sign in and sign out each time they arrive and leave**

**Expectations - Be kind, be respectful, be responsible \*more on this below**

**My contact info - I'm assuming (and hoping for play-sake!) that kids won't have phones**

**so if you need to get in touch with your child or relay something to me, text me at**

**918-625-5895**

**-Brianne Connolly**

### **Week 1 Recap (July 15-17)**

**5-11 kids came daily**

**1 visit to Zion's game room when it rained**

**a few games of drip, drip, drop to cool off from the heat-lots of fun had**

### **Week 2 Update (July 22-24)**

**Just as we will be going to Zion in the case of rain, I've decided that we will also go to Zion in the case of high heat. If you come to drop off or pick up your child at Columbus and you do not see us there, we are at Zion**

**If your kiddo has friends that still want to join, please have them reach out to me**

**Drip, drip, droppin'**

**Gaga Ball!**



### Week 2 Recap (July 22-24)

5-7 kids coming daily

daily visits to Zion's game room and gym - future pool and ping pong stars in our midst; games of wet sponge "500" to keep cool from the heat

### Week 3 Update (July 29-31)

Ms. Linda (Zion member who has come to hang out with us a couple times) will be bringing water balloons this Wednesday. Quin's 8th birthday is this Wednesday so cupcakes (from a nut-free processing facility) will be brought to share. New equipment this week: Kickball and bases



*thank you*

Thank you to all donors-we could not keep our doors open without you!  
Darlene Roehl given in memory of her daughter for Sunday School Needs.

Kandie Wilz for fellowship and gym roof repair.

Arne and Barb Carlson, Linda Wirtz for bell/chime restoration.

Thank you to our numerous volunteers who assist with building and grounds maintenance, fellowship, worship, outreach, and office work!



## Raise Right Fundraising



Raise Right. What is that? It is a program where gift cards are sold & the group selling them gets to keep some of the money collected for the gift cards. There is a long list of gift cards to choose from. Depending on which gift card you choose determines how much we get for selling the gift cards. Please keep this in mind when you are doing any of your projects, a special occasion or just your normal grocery and/or other shopping. An order is usually placed about every month and if you order something you usually get the gift card within 1 week. Lynn Walter is in charge of this program, so if you have any questions please talk to her. She also has a limited amount of gift cards available for sale each week so you can have them right away.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION

**Custodian - Zion Place** is seeking an individual to provide ongoing custodial services for 10-15 hours per week. If you have a high school diploma or equivalent, take pride in attention to detail and the presentation of a clean and welcoming atmosphere, we would love to talk to you. Please call the Zion's office at 920-739-3104 or email: [zion@zionappleton.org](mailto:zion@zionappleton.org).

**Apartment Manager - Zion Place** is seeking an individual to manage its facility. If you have prior building management/maintenance experience, take pride in offering a safe and welcoming community for individuals age 55 and older to live independently, we would love to talk to you.

Please call Zion's office at 920-739-3104 or email: [zion@zionappleton.org](mailto:zion@zionappleton.org).



# Donation Opportunity

Zion's handbells and chimes are currently in the hands of Malmark Bellcraftsmen and being repaired to provide glorious music to the Lord for many years to come. This repair will cost approximately \$5000 plus shipping. Generous donations of approximately \$3600 have been received so far. If you would like to contribute towards the bell and chime repair, please mark your donation for this purpose.

Thank you!



## Christmas in July



Thank you to all who made donations for the blessing box for "Christmas in July. Many food items and \$255 in monetary donations were received. Thank you to Tommy Meltz for continuing to fill the blessing box for those in need in our neighborhood.

## Zion Serves Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers from Zion donated and served meals for Habitat for Humanity June 17<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who volunteered to make these meals possible!



