

FOCUS



OCTOBER 2026

A Publication of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Chisago City, Minnesota

Message from Pastor Sarah

Autumn is here and school is underway. It is a time to watch football, enjoy the changing leaves, switch from sandwiches to soups, from tee shirts to sweatshirts. What is your favorite thing to watch in the fall? Football? Soccer? New tv shows?

There are many opportunities to be a spectator. We can watch events from the sidelines or the comfort of our favorite chair. Too often this attitude rolls into the rest of our lives: "you do it, I'll watch."

The center of our church life is worship, and worship is not a spectator sport or entertainment. The very shape of our worship life is called the "liturgy." Liturgy simply means "the work of the people." We come together to confess our sins together, to sing together, to pray together and to receive the bread and wine of the table, together. In many places our words are straight out of Scripture. But it is our participation is what makes worship so powerful. Being a child of God is not something we do on the sidelines. It is a way of life that centers us on God and requires the use of our bodies, minds, and hearts.

Even in times when our faith is low, just saying the Apostles Creed or the Lord's Prayer in unison can fill us up. If all we can do is whisper, there will be someone around us who will speak out and carry the faith for us. It is the same with the music and the prayers. The shape of Lutheran worship has intentional movement from the confession/forgiveness through to the blessing and then it sends us back out into the world as forgiven and fed children of God.

See you in church!
Pastor Sarah

¹ *O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*

² *Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*
Psalm 95:1-2

Worship Services

9:00 am Sunday
Coffee and Fellowship
following the service.

Contemporary Worship
will return
October 4th at 10:45 am



Facebook live is available at 9am
and YouTube recording is
available at 10:00 am.

Find Us Online:

YouTube: recordings are posted
@zionevangelicallutheranchi6301
Facebook: 9:00 am Live (zionlcc)



Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
or by appointment.



OCTOBER and Beyond

WE'RE BACK

Contemporary Worship will officially return on October 4th at 10:45 am. Blessing of the Pets will be held during this service.



Zion Pipers Music Night is scheduled for Monday, October 12th at 6:30 pm. Come see Wayne Hulting, Julie Lauritzen, Josh Miller, and Joy Sietsema perform special musical selections on the organ and piano. A free will offering will be taken.



Pat Pojanowski Pie Making Day will be held on Saturday, October 24th beginning at 10:00 am. We will gather in honor of Pat, who was dedicated to making pies so that funds would be available to support the Chisago Lakes Family Pathways food shelf. The pies will be preserved for the Thanksgiving pie event after worship on November 25th.



Confirmation Sunday will be held on October 25th. We have a class of eight this year!



All Saints Sunday will be held on November 1st. On All Saints Sunday we celebrate the victory won for all those we have lost this year, but we also grieve for them as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of the feast to come.



WEEKLY PROGRAMMING



Game Day is held almost every Wednesdays at 1:00 pm Let us know if you have a favorite game and we will attempt to form an interested group ahead of time! We also realize there are those who are very competitive and those who'd rather chat while playing a game. Connect with Emmy if you have a specific game in mind.



NOIZ kids meet on Wednesdays at 3:45pm. Transportation is available from Lakeside .



Confirmation Class is held on Wednesdays at 4:00pm. Transportation is available from the Middle School. There is also an alternate option of the third Sunday of each month from 11:45am-1:30pm.

**Also see Adult Education on page 5*

MEMBER UPDATES



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Charles & Nancy Roberts and Betty & Rod Hestekin during the month of October.

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy is extended to the families of Jane St. Onge and Onne Mae Fisher.



BAPTISMS

Maggie Lea Hannam, daughter of Whitney Tinjum and Tyler Hannam
Salina Ann Werner, daughter of John and Jennifer Werner

Engaging with Emmy

Pumpkin Day: Thursday, October 15th, 10am-12pm.

We will have pumpkins to decorate, pumpkin crafts and pumpkin snacks during this MEA week activity! We'll be here as long as people show up, so feel free to join after Bible Study!

Just Coffee: Tuesday, October 20th, 9:30 am

Gather to have coffee and conversation. Our destination is Another Cup in Dresser, Wisconsin. We'll take the Zion van, so let us know if you're interested!

SAVE THE DATE

Faith & Fun Day: Friday, November 6, 9am-2pm

Formerly known as "Play and Pray" Emmy will host the kids during a day off from school. Please enroll for this free event. Forms available from Emmy or the office.

It's never too late to sign up the kids for **NOIZ**! Kids in 2nd through 5th grades are welcome. Our curriculum this year is "Wonder On The Go". If you're interested in learning more, go to www.ststephenlutheran.org/wonderonthego.



2026-2027 NOIZ SCHEDULE

- October 7, 28
- November 4, 18
- December 2, 9, 16
- January 6, 13, 20, 27
- February 3, 10, 17, 24
- March 3, 17, 24, 31
- April 7, 14, 21, 28

Transportation from Lakeside available.

Life at Zion



Zion hosted an overflow crowd for the Community Meal's 13th Anniversary on September 14th.



Maggie Hannam and her family on September 20th.



Confirmation students recently studied creation and made their own creations out of clay.

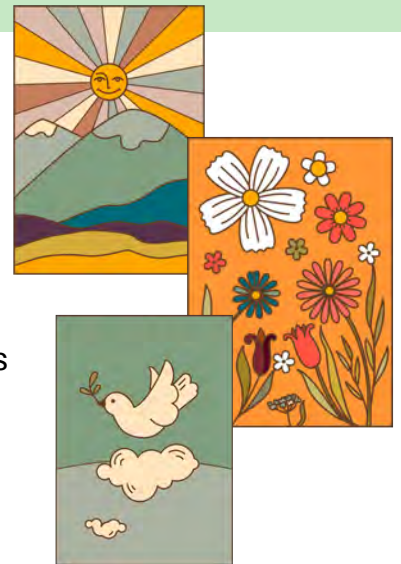


Gee Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire

Approach each new day with desire to find Me. Before you get out of bed, I have already been working to prepare the path that will get you through this day. There are hidden treasures placed along the way. Some of the treasures are trials. Others are blessings that reveal My Presence: sunshine, flowers, birds, friendships, and answered prayer. I have not abandoned this sin wracked world; I am still richly present in it. Search for deep treasure as you go through this day. You will find Me all along the way.

Words given to Sarah Young to share with us

Lasting change is a series of comprises. And comprise is all right, as long as your values don't change. Jane Goodall



Notes of Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who contributed time, talent, and funding to the backpack mission project! 240 backpacks were sewn, filled with school supplies, and packed up for shipping. Especially to Virgi Johnson, who orchestrated the entire project.

Dear Zion Church family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, kind words and hugs during this difficult time. Pat loved the church and the family created. She often said she was blessed to help and serve. Thank you also for the help in setting up for the visitation hour and lunch. Our deepest gratitude for all you did.

Sincerely, the family of Pat Pojanowski

Thank you to Vicki Mickelsen for leading the Caregiver Courage Group. We receive positive feedback on that group every week. It has been a tremendous help for people doing the hard work of caring for their loved ones.

Thank you to the Zion folk who help with the Community Meal.

Thank you to Gary and Shirley Kerkow for having the rotting Norwegian pine in the church yard taken down (in the corner by the gaga pit).

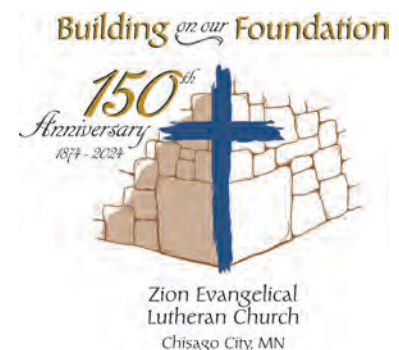
Thank you to the Edholm family for working on a sanctuary project.

Thank you to everyone who have continued supporting funerals through the Service Teams.

Stewardship

We are continuing to build on Zion's foundation with the 2026 stewardship campaign. The kick off will be in October. Look for upcoming communications beginning mid-October. There will be something to pick up on Sunday mornings October 25th, November 1st, and November 8th. If you are unable to attend worship, these will be mailed to your home. *Contact the office if you'd like them put in your Zion mailbox.*

The Stewardship Committee is now meeting most Mondays at 1:00 pm. If you'd like to help with the upcoming preparations, please join us!



Food Shelf Ministry & Community Support

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION

Thanks to you, during the month of September we collected a total of **573** individual snacks for our Zion kids!

Zion was credited with collecting **1006** pounds of food and supplies in September. This huge collection is thanks to the many generous memorials made in Pat Pojanowski's name. Pat's loved ones have continued to champion the Chisago Lakes Pathways food shelf with many of the memorials received.

OCTOBER COLLECTION: 150 Cans of CORN

To Benefit the Chisago Lakes Family Pathways Thanksgiving Meal kits.



Way to go!



thrivent

If you have a Thrivent account but haven't used your **2026 Thrivent Action team cards** yet, consider requesting your card for future Intergenerational programs. Upcoming events Emmy can use them for include the December Seniors and Friends Luncheon, Shepherding 'to-go' bags, and the Angel Tree.

Many individuals have more than one opportunity per year to request a \$250 gift card for an Action team event. The request can be made through your online account with Thrivent or by calling 800-847-4836.

Page Turner's Book Club

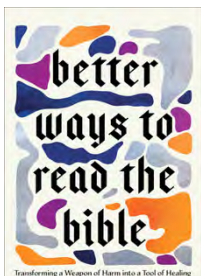
On Monday, November 2nd at 6:00 pm we'll discuss *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd

In 1739 Eliza Lucas is 16 years old when her father leaves her in charge of their family's three plantations in South Carolina, then proceeds to bleed the estates dry in pursuit of his military ambitions. How much the French pay for indigo dye, Eliza believes it's their salvation. Her only allies are an aging horticulturalist, a lawyer, and a slave with whom she strikes a dangerous deal: teach her the intricate 1000- year old secret process of making indigo dye, and in return - against the laws of the day - she will teach the slaves to read.



For further information contact Marilyn Rue at mrue.rue@gmail.com. Books previously reviewed by Page Turners can be found in the church library. If you'd like a comprehensive list of the planned book choices, contact the office.

Book Study



Pastor Sarah will host a new book study beginning October 5th at 3:00 pm in the library. We will continue meeting on Mondays (before the community meal). The book is "*Better Ways to Read the Bible: Transforming a Weapon of Harm into a Tool of Healing*" by Zach Lambert. Copies of the book have been purchased and are available from Pastor Sarah.

MEETINGS

Finance Committee
Tuesday, October 13, 1:00 pm

.....

Property Committee
Monday, October 19, 4:00 pm

.....

Zion Council
Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 pm

Adult Education

Pastor Sarah's Bible study meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the library, year-round. You are invited to join us at any time. No Bible Study experience necessary. Coffee is provided.

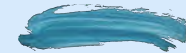


Men's Bible Study is led by Pastor Richard Baumann, on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Readers, Ushers, Greeters, Communion Assistants, and Coffee Hosts are needed every week.

Online sign-up is found at zionlcc.org or see the paper schedule after worship on the bulletin table. Dates through October are listed.



The **Quilting Group** meets once a month on the first Thursday from 12:30-2:30 pm. There are also opportunities to assist with Missions at these gatherings.

We are looking for **leaders** to take on organization of our monthly quilting group and our annual mission project of the school backpack project. If missions are your calling, please reach out for more information.

Minutes from the September Council meeting is available upon request.



FREE EVENT



2026 CHISAGO AGE WELL EXPO

"It's Never Too Late to Learn Something New!"

Friday, October 16th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Chisago Lakes High School Performing Arts Center (PAC)

www.ChisagoAgeWell.org for more information

Presentations:



10:30 am Keynote Speaker:
"Joy in Every Season"

Jenni Thyng Speaker & Entertainer



1:00 pm "What's New in Medicare 2027?"

Laura Sakry, MN Aging Pathways

Mini-Classes

9:45



Exercise
with Diane

10:15



Paint
with Pam

11:45



Line
Dancing

12:15



Ukulele
Lesson

Over 60+ Vendors
from local organizations

Vaccine Clinic
Thrifty White Pharmacy
Bring your insurance card

Health Screens::

Blood Pressure
Hearing
Balance
and more!

Unexpected Company
12:30pm
Community Choir Performance

Sponsored by Fairview Health



Lunch Concessions
Catered by

Dinner Rebellion

Sources of Support at ZION CHISAGO CITY



Pastor Sarah is available to minister to anyone in need of spiritual care and comfort. Please let her or the church office know if there is someone she can pray with or help.

- **The Prayer Chapel**, located in a small room in back of the sanctuary, is always available for anyone in need of a quiet space to pray or meditate. Someone can be available to pray with you, if you wish.
- Zion has a strong **prayer chain** group. If you have prayer requests or would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please call Sandy Patrias, 651-674-2029 or dennysunrise11@gmail.com.
- The **Caregivers Courage** support group, led by Vicki Mickelsen, parish nurse, meets the first and third Wednesday mornings of the month at 9:30 am in the library. If you or someone you know is a caregiver, please come and invite them to join the group. Bring a beverage if you wish. For more information, contact Vicki at gandvmick@frontiernet.net.
- The **Grief Support Group**, led by Pastor Sarah, meets in the library on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of the month at 10:00 am in the library. This group is open to people in the larger community as well. If you know someone who has lost a loved one and could use a caring group that understands the pain of grief, please let them know about this group.
- Zion hosts the free **Community Meal** every Monday of the year from 4-6pm in our Fellowship Hall. Year round, this weekly event brings together 250+ people from all walks of life to share a meal. No reservations necessary.
- **Contact a Mental Health Navigator for free** at 612.642.1220 (text/call) or email navigator@mhconnect.org. Navigators are available Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. If you reach out outside these hours, they'll return your message the following day. Help with access to mental health services and support with resource navigation.
- **Mental Health Crisis Help** call or text 988
- For **local crisis help**, call 800-523-3333 or Text "MN" to 741741
- Questions about Mental Health? **You are not alone**. One in four adults will experience at least one diagnosable mental health problem in any given year. People in all walks of life, and those they care for, can be affected at any point in their lives. You can find information and resources in our local area: **AdultMentalHealth.org**
Serving counties of Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Are you worried about your mental health but don't know where to start?
Find a free Mental Health Screening at: mentalhealthmn.org

Movement Opportunities

- **Tai Chi** meets every Monday morning from 9:30-10:30 am.
- **Strength and Flexibility (55+)** meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-9:15am
- **Cardio class** meets immediately after at 9:30 am. Cardio class is dance based .
- **Yoga** meets Wednesday morning at 8:30 am in the Choir Room.

Classes are open to the general public. Donations are welcome to pay the instructors.



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



28005 Old Towne Road
Chisago City, MN 55013
Phone: 651.257.2713
Web: www.zionlcc.org or www.elca.org
Email: office@zionlcc.org



ZION STAFF

Pastor Sarah Kerkes, ext. 2, pastor@zionlcc.org
Intergenerational Ministry: Emmy Lundeen, ext. 3, emmy@zionlcc.org
Office Administrator: Nina Ball, ext. 1, office@zionlcc.org
Bookkeeper: Melanie Torborg, ext. 4, bookkeeper@zionlcc.org
Organist: Josh Miller
Auxiliary Organists: Julie Lauritzen, Joy Sietsema, Wayne Hulting
Bell Choir & Choir Director: Kelly Lachmiller
Accompanist: Melanie Torborg
Youth Director: Todd Freeman
Maintenance: Hal Becker, Linda O'Donnell
Cemetery: Sheryl Mellgren, ext. 5, cemetery@zionlcc.org
Sound Tech: Rod Sietsema

ZION COUNCIL

Vicki Mickelsen, President
Shepherding/Health Ministry
Barb Garness, Vice-President
Hospitality
Sheila Strehlo, Secretary
Arlen Strehlo, Treasurer
Roger Edholm, Property
Kia Frederixon, Youth
Virgi Johnson, Missions
Kelly Lachmiller, Music & Worship
Mutual Ministry/HR
Linda Letourneau, Stewardship
Emmy Lundeen, Christian Education
Karen Pederson, Outreach



Courage is not the absence of fear, but
rather the judgment that something else is
more important than fear.
--Ambrose Hollingworth Redmoon

If you would like to
donate to Zion's
ministry, you can use
this QR code.
Thank you.



If you have photos from a day in the life of
Zion's community, please send them to
office@zionlcc.org. We'd love to share them!

If you view services from home and would like to be on the email list
to receive the bulletin each week, notify the office.

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If you'd like to receive this newsletter via email and Zion's weekly E-news on Thursdays,
contact the office to be sure your information is in our database.