

FOCUS



A Publication of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Chisago City, Minnesota

Message from Pastor Sarah

I am not good at tending seeds. I love to garden. I take care of the flowers and herbs while my husband tends to the vegetable plots (yes, two). He plans ahead, planting tomato and pepper seeds in late April. He keeps them watered, rotates them so they grow evenly. He then spends a few days bringing them outside and back in so they will harden off and can be transplanted. One year he even had them in his pickup during the day where the sun would warm them while he was at work. Now I, on the other hand, have tried planting seeds in the house then I forget to water them or I over water them. Right now I have a small flat on the front steps where they are baking in the sun. I plant seeds in the garden also but prefer to skip ahead and buy plants ready to go in. I have some seeds in the soil right now and need to remember to water them! Hopefully I will remember where they are all planted.

I am always grateful that God is more patient than I am. There are many parables about the planting of seeds. The gardener plants seeds with wild abandon and then patiently waits for them to grow. Wheat and weeds grow together until the master comes to harvest them. We are to trust in God's abundance and wait patiently for the growth to come in its own good time. Sometimes we are impatient. We want the church to grow now! We want families to show up on Sundays! We want to see results of our outreach this week!

It is good to be reminded that we plant seeds with abandon. We invite others to worship but also to the Senior Luncheon, to game day, to Bible Study. Sometimes the invite is a seed planted but not yet ready to sprout. As for families, Emmy will remind us that we need to go where the children are! Wednesday NOIZ and confirmation class during the school year, this month's kids lock in (just show up to help with snacks or to just sit in for an hour), Vacation Bible School later this summer. For every adult that shows up, a seed is planted. A family sees how much we all care for their children. Seeds take time and in God's good time, they will sprout and grow. We just need to show up, plant those seeds of compassion and care, do some patient nurturing and let God lead the way.

Peace and patience,
Pastor Sarah



He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-12

Worship Services

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

*Contemporary Worship is
on hiatus for the summer.*

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

Find Us Online:

YouTube: recordings are posted
@zionaevangelicallutheranchi6301
Facebook: 9:00 am Live (zionlcc)

Office Hours

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





NEW MEMBERS

There will be a member information class on June 8th at 5 pm. This is your opportunity to learn more about Zion and to have your questions answered. Attending the meeting does not obligate you to join the church. If you are a current member and have questions about Zion you are also welcome to join us. We will meet in the Church library. Come early to eat at the free Community Meal, which is held from 4:00-6:00 pm!

Zion Lutheran Church invites you to
Seniors & Friends Luncheon
Thursday, June 18, 11:00 am

RSVP by June 15th:
651.257.2713 or office@zionlcc.org

Bring a friend and join us for worship and a meal.



Father's Day is
Sunday, June 21st.
The Hospitality
Committee will
continue their tradition
of serving root beer
floats during
Fellowship Hour at
10am.



**We are looking for
volunteers to support
a variety of VBS tasks:**

- Morning Check-In
- Prepare and Serve Snacks
 - Read Books
 - Craft Helpers
- Nursery/Quiet Time assistant

*Commitment can be one hour,
one day, or multiple days.
See Emmy or the list on her board.*

Two VBS options this year!

High School Graduates were honored on May 17th.



WHAT: A week of activities and fun!
WHO: Ages 5 to 12 are invited.
Helpers 13+ are welcomed.
HOW: Registration is required 1 week prior.
COST: Vacation Bible School is Free!

July 20-24, 9am-2pm
Theme: *Tell Me a Story*

August 10-14, 9am-2pm
Theme: *What Just Happened*



Engaging with Emmy



NOIZ kids went bowling for their year end party.



We are looking to start a group to learn and play SAMBA!



Zion hosted two tables at the Tea Party held by the Chisago County Historical Society.



photos courtesy of Emmy Lundeen

WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

NOIZ kids are on summer break. Let Emmy know if you will enroll in the Fall.

Confirmation Class will resume in September. Let Pastor Sarah know if you plan to participate.

Game Days will continue during the summer on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm.

Join us for an afternoon of games. We'd like to establish a variety of groups who like to play a particular game. 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; so far, there is an effort to create a group to learn the game Samba. We meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship For All Seasons

This new team is planning to meet in August to work on goals and visions for the financial health of Zion. You are welcomed to join us at any time. If you can help in any capacity, we'd love to have you! Perfect attendance not required. Sit in on a meeting to see what it's all about.

Ge Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire

Words given to Sarah Young to share with us

It's all right to be human. When your mind wanders while you are praying, don't be surprised or upset. Simply return your attention to Me. Share a secret smile with Me, knowing that I understand. Rejoice in My love for you, which has no limits or conditions. Whisper My name in loving contentment, assured that I will never leave you or forsake you.

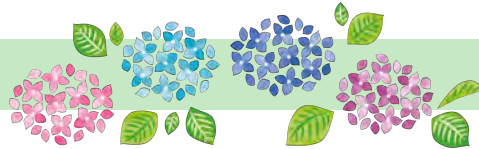
From Sarah Young "Jesus Calling"

If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving isn't for you.

Steven Wright



Notes of Gratitude



Thank you to everyone who showed up and made our annual clean up day a success.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, visits, and cards while I was recovering from a fall and during my move to The Meadows. You are all wonderful! Carol Stromgren

Thank you to everyone for the birthday cards and wishes! Josh Miller

Thank you to the Patrias's for their weekly donation of homemade treats for the confirmation and NOIZ children. They always looked forward to snack time!

Thank you to Deb Hoffmeister for her many years as our volunteer bookkeeper. Deb will be stepping down and Melanie Tornberg will be taking her place. The Finance committee will host coffee hour on June 7 to thank Deb for her countless hours of dedication to Zion's finances.

Thank you to the property team for making sure the parking lot received repairs (in the back) and fresh stripes. Thank you to Gary Kerkow who also arranged the removal of the large dying ash tree by the playground.

Thank you to Todd Freeman for stepping in to mow the church yard this summer. Thanks also to Connor Frederixson who will be weed whipping and Diesel Lundeen who will be helping with cemetery maintenance.

Thank you for letting us have a place to meet! -Thursday Night Narcotics Anonymous Peeps

I want to thank all the members from Zion who offered prayers, sent cards, brought flowers, and visited me while I was recovering from my fall and surgery. -Onne Mae Fisher

Pave the Way- Part Two

WE HAVE RAISED \$39,225 TO DATE!

Our church family continues to make steady progress in caring for the financial commitments that helped provide our much-needed parking lot.

The remaining balance on our second mortgage is \$86,000 and requires annual payments of \$21,000. The interest rate is 4.25 %, and it would be paid off in about 5 years.

By working together through prayerful generosity, we can reduce or eliminate the debt, ease future financial pressure, and free additional resources for ministry and outreach.

We invite you to consider making a special gift toward this effort. Any contribution would be above and beyond your regular annual giving and would not reduce or replace the commitment that you already have made.

Various gifting techniques could be used: Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA, appreciated stock or property, or just writing a check. You may want to consult your tax preparer if necessary. To discuss this further, feel free to contact Gary Kerkow @ 651-308-9225.



COMMUNITY

SAVE THE DATE: Community Meal fundraiser

Friday, July 17, 2026, 5:30 pm

There will be an auction, bingo, and more!



Volunteer Opportunity: Community Meal Representatives

The Community Meal board is looking for new members to join them.

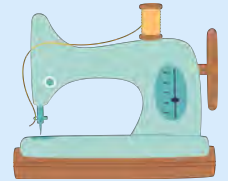
There are different opportunities including week to week volunteers as well as individuals who can help with raising funds throughout the year. Contact Emmy Lundeen to learn more about the details.

SEWING CLASS

A sewing class is being offered beginning Wednesday, June 10th at 2:00 pm.

Linda Letourneau will teach the basics of sewing, here at Zion.

Contact Emmy Lundeen if you or your child is interested in this new opportunity.



ST. PAUL SYNOD NEWS

The St. Paul Area Synod Assembly met May 15-16. The Rev. Justin Grimm was elected bishop. Bishop Grimm joined the synod staff in 2015. Prior to this call, Justin served as pastor of Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann, Michigan. Justin came with 10 years of experience as a mission developer in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod where he was instrumental in developing Advent Lutheran from its inception. Justin and his wife Anna, a licensed marriage and family therapist, live in Shoreview with their daughter, Payton, and sometimes Logan (a student at Carthage College).



Synod Vice President George Mickelsen giving his report.



photos courtesy of Saint Paul Area Synod/Dan Nyberg-Electric Picture Co



MAY COLLECTION

Thanks to you, during the month of May we collected a total of **56** large containers of all sorts of cleaning products! Zion also collected **14** pounds of food and supplies in May.

JUNE COLLECTION: Toiletries and Packages of Socks for Kids (all ages) to benefit Safe Haven Foster Shoppe. These donations will fill backpacks for foster kids in our local area. For more details, visit www.safehavenfostershoppe.org.

THRIVENT

Thank you to those who designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion in April, we received a total of \$521. Thanks to Barb Garness, Steven Jones, George and Vicki Mickelsen, Jon and Sandy Nickelson, Sandra Peterson, and Lorene Voto.

We are able to utilize **Thrivent Action Team cards** throughout the year. Emmy is currently in need of funds for future Senior Luncheons, Health Ministry events, and shepherding projects.

Page Turner's Book Club

On Monday, June 1st at 6:00 pm we'll discuss *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Strout.

On Monday, July 6th at 6:00 pm we'll discuss Mrs. Everything by Jennifer Weiner.

Mrs. Everything is an ambitious richly textured journey through history - and herstory- as these two sisters navigate a changing America.

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.

Missions- Backpack Supplies Reminder

As our schools close up for this school year, there are stores already preparing for next fall and the 2026-27 school year with awesome school item sales. We hope to fill another 200 Backpacks for children in our country and around the world...filled with supplies to make the learning process easier. Hope you can help!

As you shop for this project, the following items are most needed. The quantities below consider our extra supplies from last year.

- **800 NoteBooks** - Spiral bound 70 sheet, wide or narrow
- **50 Boxes of Crayons** - 16 or 24 Count
- **100 Scissors** - Blunt end [Safety with embedded steel blades]
- **120 Erasers** - 2 1/2" type
- **90 Rulers** - 30 centimeter
- **540 Pencils** - 5 per backpack
- **325 Pens** - 5 per backpack



- OR -

- Monetary donations to help purchase needed items.
- Thrivent \$250 Action Cards

Your support may help a child achieve an education needed. In advance we say 'THANK YOU!' Virgi Johnson

MEETINGS

Finance Committee
Tuesday, June 9, 1:00 pm

Property Committee
Monday, June 15, 4:00 pm

Zion Council
Wednesday, June 17, 6:00 pm

Adult Education

Pastor Sarah's Bible study meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the library, year-round. Pastor's Bible Study continues to delve into the stories of women in Scripture. 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. *This group is on hiatus during the summer months.*

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 July 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.

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 email at sd.patrias@q.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 .
- Tuesday/Thursday classes are open to the general public. Donations are welcome to pay the instructors.



NEW: Wednesday morning Yoga at 8:30am with Teresa Rosen in the Choir Room.

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



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



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.