

FOCUS



Message from Pastor Sarah

This month we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. I am sure the fireworks will be larger, the parties more rambunctious and the sales of red, white and blue apparel will hit new records. We will ask God to bless America once again.

Our nation has a tumultuous history. The land has not always been a blessing to all people. We have had a civil war, civil rights movements, and we continue to struggle with welcoming others to "our" country. It is easy to forget that Native Americans were here long before any of us. It is easy to forget that America is not mentioned in the Bible as the promised land.

We can and do lift up our gifts of freedom: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly. We remember those who have died fighting for these freedoms and those that still work to protect them. As Christians, in this time and place, we follow Jesus' teachings and acts of love in our interactions with the people around us and around the world. For God's words of grace and compassion still ring true all these centuries later on the other side of the globe, just as they ring out in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world. We pledge allegiance to the United States of America, but we pledge our hearts to serving others as Christ has served us.

Peace, Pastor Sarah

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He [Jesus} said to him [an expert in the law], " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
Matthew 22:36-40

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.



SUMMER HAPPENINGS



Please keep our Youth Group and chaperones (Todd Freeman and Heidi Klecker) in your prayers as they travel to Kentucky on their annual mission trip. They leave early on July 4th and will return on July 11. They are collecting drink and snack donations as well as gas money until they depart. ***Gather with us on Sat., July 4th at 7:30 am to send them off.***



Zion Council will meet offsite on Sunday, July 12th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. They will hold a visioning workshop as part of the stewardship planning process. Mentor Pete Roice, who is helping guide our stewardship campaign, gave the council the task to envision where we see Zion now and in the future. The desired outcome will give the Stewardship Committee solid direction for their efforts. The council will decide what it is Zion wants to accomplish with their resources and the Stewardship Committee will decide how to accomplish these new goals.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST: Save the Dates

- Zion will host guest preachers this summer. Pastor Marla Amborn will be with us on Sunday, August 2nd, while newly elected Bishop Justin Grimm will be with us on Sunday, August 9th.
- Zion will host a root beer float stand during National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4th.
- The Stewardship Committee will move forward with planning for the program Stewardship For All Seasons. The next meeting will be held August 6, at 6:00 pm. We will meet with our consultant on this day. 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.



RECENT HAPPENINGS

We celebrated Deb Hoffmeister on Sunday, June 7th. Deb began as bookkeeper in 2017 and recently stepped down from that position.



photo courtesy of Shirley Kerkow



Welcome New Members

Linda Parker
Les and Karen Rickert

Thanks to Karen Pederson and Beth Tollefson for organizing a special Mother's Day event.



photo courtesy of Linda Letourneau

TELL ME A STORY BIBLE CAMP

JULY 20TH- 24TH
9AM-2PM
PACK A LUNCH
SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED

Lions, and snakes, and whales oh my!
Join us for FUN this week
as we go on adventures with
David, Adam, Eve, Noah, and Jonah



WHO: Ages 5 to 12 are invited.
Helpers 13+ are welcomed.

HOW: Registration is required 1 week prior.
Paper and digital forms are available.

COST: Vacation Bible School is Free!

Save the Date for a second VBS option :

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

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 Day is on hiatus during July and August.

We will continue in the Fall on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm.

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.

Linda Letourneau led several youth through a beginning sewing class in June. If you are interested in a future class, let Emmy know.



Fun and Fellowship was had by all at the June Seniors and Friends Worship and Luncheon. Save the date for the next luncheon on September 17th.



photos courtesy of Emmy Lundeen



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.*

Ge Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire

APPETITE FOR DISTRACTION

I set my phone down and shut it off, weary of the constant bombardment of images, ideas, and notifications on that little screen. Then, I picked it up and turned it on again. WHY!

In his book *Shallows*, Nicholas Carr describes how the internet has shaped our relationship with stillness: What the Net seems to be doing is chipping away at my capacity for concentration and contemplation. Whether I'm online or not, my mind expects to take information in the way the Net distributes it; in a swiftly moving stream of particles. Once we were scuba divers in the sea of words. Now we zip along like someone on a ski jet! But how do we begin to slow down?

In Psalm 131, David writes, "I have calmed and quieted myself". His words can serve as a reminder that we have responsibilities. Changing habits begins by making a decision to be still-even if we must make that choice over and over. And when we do, we can reach that contentment that no smartphone app can touch and no social media can deliver.

Adam Holz from "Our Daily Bread"



Character is much easier kept than recovered. Thomas Paine

Notes of Gratitude



Thank you to our Zion family for your prayers, cards, and thoughts before and after my recent surgery. We indeed have some real Prayer Warriors! --George Mickelsen

Thank you to the donors of the new grand piano cover!

Thank you to all who helped with the Senior Luncheon. Special thanks to Matt and LeRoy Mitchell for preparing the food.

Thank you to the property committee who have been busy with a multitude of items from trees to toilets.

Thank you to all of our worship and coffee hour volunteers. Remember to sign up on the paper form at the back of the church or online at zionlcc.org We are happy to work with you if you would like to try something new!

To Everyone at Zion that has taken time to pray for me during the past week. I'm so thankful and grateful to God and you for your faithfulness. I'm feeling so much better! To say the least. It is no wonder Zion is such a wonderful caring church. My love, Judy Lifgren

Thank you to everyone who recognized my time at Zion as bookkeeper. The cards were a wonderful surprise. --Deb Hoffmeister

Cemeteries Update

Britta Lind (Pastor's middle son's partner) is working on her master's degree in public history through the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Her capstone project is working on Zion's cemetery history and records. She will be presenting some of her work at the National Council on Public History annual conference which takes place in Rhode Island this coming September. She was one of five students in the US that received an additional travel award. Talk to Pastor Sarah if you would like to see what she has been working on.

*Did you know we have a cemetery board that manages our three cemeteries?
If you would like to join this group, speak with Pastor Sarah or Sheryl Mellgren.*



Pave the Way- Part Two: Update

A special thank you to all who have contributed toward the pay down of our 2nd mortgage. You've given \$40,000 so far, which gets us halfway to our goal. Considering that we just got notified that our 1st mortgage (balance of \$480,421) which has a 5-year adjustable rate is going up by 2.225%, that means our monthly payment is going up by \$456.00.

When we get the 2nd mortgage paid off, we'll have an extra \$1,286.00 per month in our budget.

Thanks again AND let's keep going! Gary Kerkow



Food Shelf Ministry & Community Support



JUNE COLLECTION

Thanks to you, during the month of June we collected a total of **92** pairs of socks and **29** toiletries!

Zion also collected **177** pounds of food and supplies in May.

JULY COLLECTION: MISSIONS School Supplies

In an effort to support our own Missions Project, we would like to collect note books (spiral bound 70 sheet, wide or narrow), sharpened Pencils, and/or black pens. See below for other requested items.



thrivent

Thanks to those who designated their **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Zion in May, we received a total of \$284. We are grateful to Tom and Liz Alldritt, Ron and Shirley Holmquist, Virgi Johnson, Shirley Lofgren, Arlen and Sheila Strehlo, and Susan Swanson.

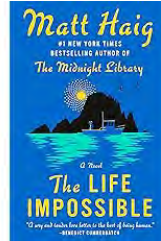
Thanks also to all those who recently applied for and received **Thrivent Action Team cards**: Bob and Nancy Butte, Barb Garness, Virgi Johnson, George and Vicki Mickelsen, Karen Pederson, Arlen and Sheila Strehlo.

Page Turner's Book Club

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

On Monday, August 3rd at 6:00 pm we'll discuss *The Life Impossible* by Matt Haig.

"What Looks like magic is simply a apart of life we don't understand yet..." When retired math teacher Grace Winters is left a run-down house on a Mediterranean island by a long-lost friend, curiosity gets the better of her. She arrives in Ibiza with a one-way ticket, no guidebook and no plan. Among the rugged hills and golden beaches of the island, Grace searches for answers about her friend's life, and how it ended.



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

Zion Council

Sunday, July 12, 11:00 am-3:00 pm
at Homestead Community Room

.....

Finance Committee

Tuesday, July 14, 1:00 pm

.....

Property Committee

Monday, July 20, 4:00 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. *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.

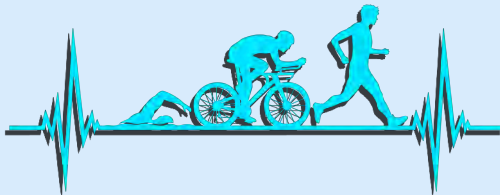


The **Quilting Group** meets once a month on the first Thursday from 12:30-2:30 pm. There are also opportunities to assist with Missions at these gatherings.



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.



Zion will help with the Chisago Triathlon on Sunday, July 26th. We're looking for volunteers to staff the water station at the Primary School.

BINGO
for
COMMUNITY MEALS
Fundraiser!

CHISAGO LAKES
COMMUNITY MEAL

FUN PRIZES!
BRING YOUR LUCKY STREAK!

SUPPORT LOCAL.
SUPPORT NEIGHBORS.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

JULY 17TH
6:00PM – 9:00PM
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHISAGO CITY, MN

SILENT AUCTION | LIVE AUCTION | ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT COMMUNITY MEALS

HOTDOGS & SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE!

LIONS INTERNATIONAL
We Serve

Cost: FREEWILL DONATION Bingo!

Zion Volunteer Opportunities

We're looking to recruit a few more helping hands at Zion.

Current Requests are:

- Scrubbing coffee cup stains every few weeks
- Organizing the archives
- Clearing weeds around and in the playground
- Organizing books in the library
- Being on the Mutual Ministry Committee (supporting our staff)



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 .
- **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



May we think of freedom, not as the right
to do what we please, but as the opportunity
to do what is right.

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.

Focus design-Nina Ball// graphics supplied by Adobe Express or Freepik.com

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.