

Zion Lutheran Church - Stratford

The Good News

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

May 2022

Worship Schedule

Holy Communion Every Sunday

@ 9:00 am

Sunday, May 1

Children Leading Worship

Sunday, May 8

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 15

Baptism & Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 22

Graduation Celebration

Sunday, May 29

Memorial Weekend

Pastor's Ponderings

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Spring is finally (hopefully) here! The other day as I was out walking in our beautiful community I saw signs of spring – a sandhill crane standing in the middle of the Heritage Trail, the disappearing ice on the ponds, and purple crocuses basking in the warmth of the sun. God has created seasons to remind us of the new life that we receive in God and in Christ's love for us, "the new is here!" Throughout our lives there are times of wintering and times of spring. Zion Lutheran is in this beautiful time of spring, in which things are being created anew. It is a time of dreaming, hope, and seeing the beauty of ministry that God is calling us into. But we also have to stop for a moment and look around or we will miss the opportunities to see God at work in this world and how we are to partner with Jesus to love and serve our neighbors, living out the mission statement, "Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands." Zion is called to be a caring community inside and outside the church building.

When I stop and look around, Zion has so much potential for growth and ministry. But to live into that potential, it takes everyone to dream, to risk, and to be creative. It also means that each of us needs to partner together and be supportive through our financial gifts and our gifts of time and skills. To live into this season of spring, to grow, it takes more than just wishful thinking.

Growing takes intentionality of action and generosity. It means living out being a caring community.

This newsletter is filled with ministry opportunities for you to participate in. If you have an innovative idea, let's try it out and see what happens. If it doesn't work, what did we learn? Do we need to tweak it a bit? Our ministry doesn't have to be successful in terms of how the world defines successful. Our ministry needs to be faithful to what God is calling and has created Zion to be. How is Zion (individually and collectively) living out this calling?

The month of May is filled with new life and milestone moments. Children will be leading worship on May 1 and showing you what they have learned during their time in Little Lutherans and J Team. May 8 is Confirmation Sunday when the 10th graders in our congregation will reaffirm their baptism. On May 15 during worship new life comes in the form of baptizing a child, in which God through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit names and claims a beloved child of God. New life is proclaimed as we celebrate our high school seniors and bless them in this new chapter in their lives. And on Memorial Weekend, we celebrate new life as we begin summer and more, importantly, remember the lives that loved and sacrificed so that we too, in our generation, can love and serve the world.

Please note that Sundays, May 1 and May 15 are important days in the life of the congregation. Assistant to the Bishop Randy Olson will be present on May 1 to review the Ministry Site Profile with the entire congregation following worship and to meet with the Call Committee. On May 15, there will be a congregational meeting to approve the expenditures of the rental property in order to continue to fuel the mission and ministry of Jesus.

With a grateful heart,
Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel

From the Council

Hi! I'm Lois Miller. I am married to Kevin Miller and between us we have 5 children. We live in Marshfield. Our exciting news is that we just bought a new home (that's a lot of work but it's so worthwhile!). I am one of your Council members and the chair of the Worship Committee.



Holy Week and Easter worship was incredibly beautiful and inspiring. It was good to see the sanctuary full and children engaging in worship, and all the beautiful flowers, decorations and incredible music. That incredible worship will continue in the month of May from Children Leading Worship to Confirmation Sunday, a baptism, and the blessing of our senior high school graduates. Worship celebrates our life in Jesus and in the Body of Christ. **On Sunday, June 5, we will celebrate the birth of the Church with Pentecost Sunday. Please note the worship time for that day will be 10:00 a.m.** We will also celebrate our baptisms and our mission together. My prayer is that you feel the energy and excitement of Jesus in worship.

The Worship Committee members are Pastor Andrea, myself, Marge Redetzke, Paul Untiet, Mary Wussow, and Brenda Huther. The Worship Committee does all the behind the scenes work to make worship happen on Sunday mornings, midweek worship for Advent and Lent, and church festival days such as Reformation, All Saints, Pentecost, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, and assists with Confirmation, Children Leading Worship, and First Communion.

There are so many people who are involved in various aspects of worship and we are grateful: communion bread bakers, changing of the paraments, assisting in worship, choir singers, bell ringers, musicians, creating the worship PowerPoint and bulletins, picking out hymns, ordering flowers, and so much more.

As the saying goes, “many hands make light work.” We need many hands to make worship happen so that everyone can experience Jesus. If you are interested in helping to connect with Jesus through worship, contact one of the Worship Team members.

Lois Miller



Children Leading Worship

On Sunday, May 1, J-Team and Little Lutherans will be helping to lead worship. They will also be leading the Good News Children’s Message during worship. Come and celebrate all that Jesus has done!

Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, May 8, at the 9:00 a.m. worship service, six students will affirm their baptism. The students are: Ryan Brubaker, Jacob Dahlke, Casey Dasler,, Hailey Federwitz, Koehler Kilty, and Aliya Maneke. Come celebrate and bless them as they take the next steps in their faith journey.

Transition Team Update:

Grateful! Thankful! Blessed!

Using the data from the responses of the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT survey), Zion's Transition Team is actively preparing our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) in anticipation of seminary graduates and experienced pastors seeking a new call. The MSP is an extensive document that describes our congregation and community, our mission and ministry, our hopes and our hurdles.

Once the MSP is reviewed by Synod staff and approved by Zion's Church Council, it will serve as a job description for prospective ELCA pastor call candidates. Then the Call Committee will take over in selecting candidates to interview. This should take place over the summer months.

Sunday, May 1, Pastor Randy Olson will visit from the Synod Office to share his thoughts on our prepared MSP. Please join us at the congregation meeting after worship on Sunday, May 1!
Other tasks being coordinated during this transition period are:

- Weekly sharing of the results and insights from the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT). These reports are distributed each Sunday and are also available on the table in the east entrance by the offices.
- Zion's website is being updated and brought in-house for internal control and easier editing.
- Zion's policies and procedures are being reviewed. This includes areas such as personnel, safe children, buildings and property, finances including investments and endowments, website and technology, stewardship, building use, weddings, funerals, and others.

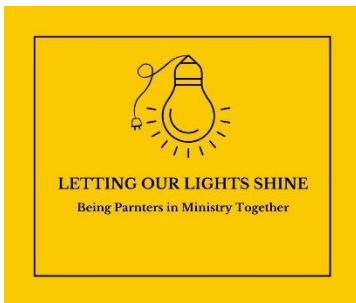
We are grateful to the Transition Team for their efforts these past months -- Rhonda Thompson, Cory Wiesman, Kristi Ormond, June Krueger and Tim Schoenherr, and for Pastor Andrea's guidance! Please continue to pray for the congregation, the Transition Team, Call Committee, and Church Council as we move through the process of inviting a new pastor to lead us.

Congregational Information Meeting

On Sunday, May 1, following worship, Assistant to the Bishop Randy Olson will be present to go over the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) with the entire congregation. The MSP is information about Zion's mission, ministry, and hopes that is given to pastor candidates.

The next step in the process will be for the Transition Team and Council to make any necessary changes to the MSP and then submit it to Zion Lutheran's Council for a vote. Following the vote, the MSP will be sent to the Synod and prospective pastoral candidates.

Please keep the Transition Team, Council, Call Committee and the new pastor in your prayers. Thank you for your support during this faithful process.



Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 15, following worship to approve designating the proceeds from the sale of the rental property. A formal notification letter has been mailed to

each member household. Please contact Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel or a Council member with any questions or concerns.

Updating Zion's List of Members!

As part of the transition process in calling a new pastor to Zion Lutheran Church, we are updating our membership information and need your help. You will be receiving a letter and form in the mail to fill out for your household and **please return it to the office by May 15**. A fillable PDF form is available on the homepage of the church website at www.zionlc.com. This will help us input your current information and ensure that you are staying connected with the Zion Lutheran congregation. Thank you for taking the time to complete this! - Evangelism Committee



Summer

Kick-Off Picnic!

Mark your calendar's for Sunday June 5!!

NOTE: Change in worship time will be moved to 10 a.m. this day.

We will have a celebration following worship with food and activities for all ages! We

will have brats, hotdogs and drinks and anyone that is planning on coming to please bring a dish to pass! Come join in the fun (inside if raining) outside in our green space and east parking lot. Bring your lawn chair or picnic blanket and any yard games if you would like! We can't wait to see everyone!!

Peeps Diorama Contest Winners

Thank you to all who participated in the Peeps Diorama Contest to support the local food pantry. The winners are Anika Weber (Old Testament); Jordy Spindler (Youth); Jill & Casey Dasler (Family); and June and Rich Krueger (New Testament). Congratulations!

Feed My Starving Children

Please consider volunteering for this great cause this year. It is at Zion Methodist in Marshfield on May 5, 6 and 7! We have a time slot to help with the packing on **Saturday, May 7, from 8:30-10 a.m.** Please sign up in the Narthex or let the office know. If you can't make Saturday, but another day and time works better for you, please feel free to sign up yourself for a time slot! Here is the link with all the information: <https://www.fmsc.org/get-involved/host-a-mobilepack-event/mobilepack-promotion-toolkit>.

Noisy Offering for Ukraine

On Sunday, April 3, the children collected \$635 to support Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe through ELCA Disaster Response. This amount has been approved to receiving matching funds through Zion Lutheran's Thrivent Choice Dollars. Remember to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars (if you participate in Thrivent products to Zion Lutheran Church – Stratford). Thank you for your continued generosity and being a caring community.



Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars. Vacation Bible School will be held Sunday, July 17- Wednesday, July 20 in the evenings. More information to come.

Zion on Instagram

We are excited to announce Zion is now on Instagram!!! If you are on Instagram, go follow us and spread the word to others who might only have an IG account to come follow us!! Search:
zionlutheranstratfordwi



Instagram

National Lutheran Choir Concert

National Lutheran Choir Live Stream: *Lament of the Earth* on Sunday, May 1 at 2:00 p.m. Livestreamed on YouTube.

The National Lutheran Choir will be live streaming their Minneapolis area concert of *Lament of the Earth*, a newly commissioned work combining the texts of celebrated Lutheran poet, the late Susan Palo Cherwien, with the music of Emmy Award-winning composer Steve Heitzig. Had Covid not intervened, this would have been a live concert with the world premiere on Earth Day in Seattle. This live stream allows us to continue to be a part of this magnificent moment, giving thanks for the life and ministry of Susan, the creativity of Steve, and the artistry of the National Lutheran Choir under the direction of David Cherwien. Use this link to access the live stream:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/NLChoir>

Fair Trade

The Fair Trade 24/7 booths are full and awaiting your purchases! The rest of your favorite coffees and other products have been restocked and are available at their regular prices. Darla 715.506.0044 or email at dleick@msn.com or visit the 24/7 booth. Thank you for supporting independent armers and Fair Trade!



REBOUND: High School Youth Summer Opportunity

All high schoolers entering grade 9 (in 2022-2023) through graduating seniors are invited to join for REBOUND where we

will encounter God and one another together in new ways through creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning, and uplifting worship. Amazing musicians and guest speakers. Event takes place July 25-27, 2022 at UW-River Falls. Cost is \$200. Please contact Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel if you are interested. This event will include participants from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, the La Crosse Area Synod, and the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Blessing of the Graduates

Do you have a graduate in your family - high school, tech school, college, or graduate school? Let the church office know their name, where they are graduating from, major and where they are

headed. We will bless them during our prayers **on Sunday, May 22 during worship at 9:00 a.m.** We will also recognize members of Zion that are graduating from high school as well.



Funeral Hospitality Coordinator Needed

We are looking for one or two people to be Funeral Hospitality Coordinators. This person would assist the pastor and families by finding volunteers to help set-up, serve, and clean-up for funeral luncheons. Time commitment varies. This person will work directly with the pastor and/or funeral family. Funeral coordinators and volunteers are essential to being a caring community during a time of loss. We will not be able to cater funeral luncheons at Zion without this volunteer position. Prayerfully consider how you can help. Contact the church office for more information or your availability.

Adopt a Highway Clean-Up

When: Wednesday, May 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Meet at church to get bags and vests and break into groups.

Volunteers must be 11 years old or in 6th grade to help.

The more people, the less time it will take us to clean our 2 mile section of Hwy 97. Please let the office know if you are able to help.

Newsletter Distribution Update

With the rising cost of postage beginning May 1, 2022, and in order to be good stewards of our gifts, the newsletter will only be mailed to your home by request. The monthly newsletter can be found on the church website at www.zionlc.com. Links will be made available on Facebook, Instagram, and through the Monday email. Paper copies will be made available in the Narthex and at the information table by the church office. Please contact Kathy in the church office if you would like a newsletter mailed to your home. Thank you for your assistance.

Meditation Garden

The Evangelism team is looking for a couple more volunteers to help with watering the flowers and some weeding this summer. We normally try and schedule a person one week at a time. If anyone is interested, please let Cory Wiesman or the office know.

Dwelling in the Word (Bible Study)

Come for a Bible study and discussion on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** We will be studying the first reading (Old Testament) and the Gospel reading (New Testament) scripture for the upcoming Sunday worship. No experience needed. No memorization required. It is a time of learning and exploring God's Word together. Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel facilitates the discussion. For upcoming readings, check out: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. Wednesday Mornings at 10:00 a.m. If you need a ride, call the church office 715-687-4110 Everyone is welcome to come.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

The listing of the dates for birthdays and anniversaries will now be posted in the weekly Monday email, in the weekly Sunday announcements, and on the Sunday PowerPoint announcements. If you would like a complete monthly list to send out cards, please contact Kathy in the church office. Thank you.

Walking Together

Did you know there are tons of resources on the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's website? Check out <http://nswi.org/walking-together-epic/walking-together-2022-videos> for videos and resources on how you can take the next faithful step as well as learning more about recent trends in the larger church and world.



God Moments: Going Deeper, Doing Less

Sometimes in life, we get overwhelmed with the many tasks on our to-do list and the expectations we place on ourselves as well as expectations people place on us. This summer season, ask yourself, “How can I go deep in my spiritual life while doing less?” Doing less doesn’t mean being lazy or unproductive. Doing less means focusing on your values and priorities and who God is calling you to do and be in this world.

As you go on walks, take trips, plant your garden, sit silently, or other activities, notice where God is at work. Where do you see God in your life? Take a picture, write a poem or a short paragraph. Feel free to post pictures or your writings on the bulletin board by the south sanctuary entrance.

You are also welcome to post on Facebook or Instagram and tag Zion Lutheran Church Stratford and use #ZionGodMoments.

Have fun seeing where God is at work! Invite your friends and family to participate. We will post God Moments starting Memorial Weekend through Labor Day Weekend.

Building Update 2022

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 7,878.80
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 1,421.20</u>
Balance of loan as of 03-25-2022	\$152,585.36

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **04-15-2022** \$ 5,469.25

Dates	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
01/14 01/28	\$160,464.16	\$3,100.00	\$481.64	\$2,618.36	\$157,845.80
02/11 02/25	\$157,845.80	\$3,100.00	\$473.74	\$2,626.26	\$155,219.54
03/11 03/25	\$155,219.54	\$3,100.00	\$465.82	\$2,634.18	\$152,585.36

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