

Zion Lutheran Church - Stratford

The Good News

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

June 2022

Worship Schedule

**Holy Communion Every Sunday
@ 9:00 am (except where noted)**

Sunday, June 5

Worship at 10am/Pentecost/Picnic

Sunday, June 12

No Communion/Pulpit Supply

Sunday, June 19

Quest: Travel as a Spiritual Practice Worship Series
Father's Day /Communion

Sunday, June 26

Quest: Travel as a Spiritual Practice Worship Series
Communion

Pastor's Ponderings

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. - Ephesians 3:16-17



Dear Siblings in Christ,

So much has happened in the last year, even in the last six months. And yet, despite all of the struggles and uncertainties of these current times, I see the Holy Spirit at work in and amongst the gathered people of God. I see the Holy Spirit at work in the mission and ministry of Zion Lutheran. This newsletter is full of new and exciting ministry opportunities. I hope that you take time to read it and then participate in the many opportunities to help share Jesus' love being a people of open doors, open hearts and open hands.

As of Sunday, May 1, 2022, the Council approved the Ministry Site Profile. We are now awaiting names of pastoral candidates. Please continue to pray for the person that will partner with you in Jesus' mission. In all honesty, these are difficult times across the entire Church. There are fewer pastors and seminarians than there were 10 or even 20 years ago. Pray for us to have patience as you continue to be led by the Holy Spirit for pastoral leadership.

The Transition Team and Council have heard your feedback from the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT). They are working on finding better ways to communicate what is happening at Zion. However, they need your help.

Please take time to read the CAT summaries (there are 12 of them), the newsletter, weekly emails, and other communications through mail and social media. Provide feedback. Take active participation in the various ministry opportunities. Be willing to serve and try new experiences. Have fun being a community of Christ together. Create a culture of generosity and radical hospitality. Worship regularly, making it a priority in your life. Share the Good News of Jesus. Dream of all the possibilities and impossibilities of Zion's ministry and mission in Jesus.

If you haven't yet completed your Zion Members Contact Information Form, please do so as soon as possible. We are updating our database system and Zion's membership list. We want to make sure that everyone is receiving information timely and appropriately. Please do not assume that we have your correct or current information. You can get a membership form at www.zionstratford.org or by contacting the church office.

In addition, we have a new website - www.zionstratford.org. It is an interactive website with audio sermons, worship bulletins, newsletters, Spotify playlists, a prayer wall, summer reading list, a spiritual practices page, a calendar and much more. Explore and bookmark the website. Visit often for updated information to help you grow in your relations with Jesus, with each other and with all people and creation.

The Church Council members are taking turns each month in the newsletter to introduce themselves to you as well as highlight some of the ministry opportunities they are working on. Please engage them in conversation. Ask questions. Partner with them in ministry. Keep dreaming, discerning, and praying for Jesus' ministry in this place and how we can partner together to live out being "open doors, open hearts, open hands."

In Christ, Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel



From the Council

Hi, I'm Cory Wiesman. I am married to Jim Wiesman and we have 2 children, Cooper (11) and Brynn (9). We both grew up in Stratford and live in Stratford. I am one of your Council members, and the chair of the Evangelism Committee. This is my 2nd term and I've been on council for 5 years now. I am also on the Transition team and Call Committee.

Things are happening and we are so excited on the Evangelism Committee to bring some old things back and do some NEW things as well! Fellowship is back in full swing and we are so grateful! It is so nice to have a morning coffee and a snack and reminisce with people after church again. We are also very excited to kick off this summer with a picnic on June 5th! **NOTE: Worship will be at 10AM this day.** There will be hot dogs, brats and a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass. We will have outdoor games, and get to enjoy our green space, so bring a picnic blanket or lawn chair and join in the fun! We hope to see you all there!

The meditation garden is really starting to bloom this time of year and it is just so beautiful and peaceful to walk around or sit out there. If you haven't had the chance to go and see it, please do! Even during fellowship would be a great time to admire all the beautiful plants and flowers that are out there! We have volunteers that take care of it all summer long with watering and weeding. They all do a fantastic job!

Did you know that we also send our last year's graduating class a card and send them a little gift card twice a year, letting them know we are thinking of them during their first year at college or

in the workforce? We have sent care packages and also cards to our active military members as we would like to keep in touch with them and also let them know we are thinking of them and are thankful for what they do for our country!

We have been busy working on our current membership as well! This will help us stay connected with our congregation and communicate with each other. We are looking forward to updating so many things in the computer system that haven't been done for quite some time! So, please let the church office know of any changes that you have, so we can stay connected and have the most current information. Our new email address is: office@zionstratford.org

The Evangelism team also organizes the Trunk 'R' Treat that we have downtown involving the community on Halloween. We put on a teacher appreciation meal for all of the Stratford elementary, high school teachers and coaches and bus drivers on open house night in August of every year. We also send out the birthday/anniversary/get well cards to our members. New members are also contacted by one of our committee members and we typically have a new member Sunday twice a year, recognizing our new members that have joined our congregation!

The Evangelism Committee members are Pastor Andrea, myself, Dan & Rhonda Thompson, Deb Wieland and Sharla Dreikosen. If you are interested in joining our team, contact one of the Evangelism committee members! We are always looking for anyone that wants to be involved and bring new ideas to the table! We meet once a month, which is typically the 4th Monday of the month from 6:30pm-7:30pm.

God Bless,

Cory Wiesman



Summer Kick-Off Potluck Picnic!

Mark your calendars 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! **Please bring a dish to share.** Brats, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. You are welcome to bring lawn games, chairs, and blankets. Come join in the fun (inside if raining) outside in our green space and east parking lot. We can't wait to see everyone!!

Reaffirmation of Membership

On **Sunday, June 5** worship at **10:00 a.m.** (Please note worship time), we will reaffirm our membership and commitment to the mission and ministry of Zion through Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. All baptized and confirmed members are encouraged to participate in worship and renew the commission and calling Jesus has set before us as a gathered community in His name. It is also the Day of Pentecost when we celebrate the Church, the people of God, and its mission and ministry. **Wear Red (symbolizing the flames of the Holy Spirit)!**

Updating Membership Information

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 have received a letter and form in the mail to fill out for your household and **please return it to the office as soon as possible**. A fillable PDF form is available on the homepage of the church website at www.zionstratford.org. 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

Transition Team Update

Did you know you can find summaries of the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) responses on the new Zion Lutheran Website at <https://zionstratford.org/call-committee/>. A new summary is posted each week. There will be 12 summaries in total regarding all areas of ministry.

The Transition Team continues to partner with ministry teams to update policies and procedures as well as helping the congregation to be ready to welcome a new pastor.

The Call Committee will be installed in worship on Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The Call Committee members are Kevin Miller (chair), Tadd Schoenherr (co-chair), Cory Wiesman (Council representative), Charles Foley, Mary Wussow, and Paul Untiet.





New Website

Zion Lutheran has a new website and a new website address. Check it out at ZionStratford.org. Listen to sermons, post your prayer concerns or pray for others, discover upcoming worship series, book studies, spiritual practices and so much more. Stay connected to the community and Jesus. Love the Lord and love the neighbor.

New Emails

The church staff have new email addresses. Please update your email contact list. You can reach us at pastor@zionstratford.org and office@zionstratford.org.

Congregational Meeting Update

On Sunday, May 15, 2022, following worship, congregational members voted on the disbursement of funds from the sale of the rental property. A quorum was met. The vote overwhelmingly approved the following:

- \$10,000 - Parsonage Updates
- \$10,000 - Pastor Recruiting Expenses (moving and interview expenses, etc.)
- \$5,000 - New Ministry Opportunities
- \$60,062.59 - Technology Upgrades

If the funds designated to Pastor Recruiting Expenses and/or New Ministry Opportunities are not used, Council shall have the authority to redesignate the funds. Money not spent on IT Upgrades will be redirected to a Capital Improvements or Building Fund account. Thank you to everyone who attended and voted.

Summer Worship Series



Quest: Travel As A Spiritual Practice

Sundays, June 19 -July 10, 2022 (4 weeks)

Whether you travel far away or see your local

surroundings as if for the first

time, pilgrimage has long been a spiritual practice, and “journey” a deeply-felt metaphor for our spiritual lives. “Quest” comes from the Latin root meaning “ask, seek.” This four week worship series will encourage us to open ourselves more fully to the curiosity and wonder, reflection and transformation that travelers—not merely tourists—experience when they choose to immerse themselves in soul-widening adventures.

Monumental: Celebrating God’s Greatness

Sunday, July 17, 2022 (1 week)

Kick-off Worship to Vacation Bible School! Through the story of Joseph (Book of Genesis), we will discover God’s greatness in our lives. Explore how God loved Joseph and his family, even when they made a mess of things and how that love is for us, too!

Language of the Holy Spirit

Sundays, July 24-August 28, 2022 (6 weeks)

The Holy Spirit, the third

person of the Trinity, is mysterious and often misunderstood. How exactly does the Holy Spirit work in, with and through our lives. In this worship series, we will explore the Holy Spirit in both the Old Testament and New Testament. Come, Holy Spirit, come!





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.

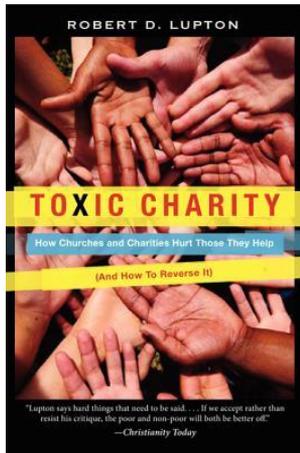
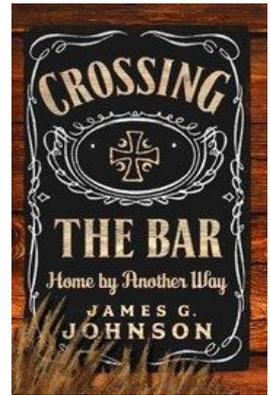
Have fun seeing where God is at work! Invite your friends and family to participate. We will post God Moments starting Memorial Weekend through Labor Day Weekend.

Zion Book Club

Learn, discuss and enjoy fellowship with others this summer as we launch Zion's Book Club. We will be reading the following books this summer. Individuals will need to purchase or borrow their own books. Discussion facilitated by Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel.

Wednesday, June 22 from 6:00-7:30 pm

"Crossing the Bar: Home by Another Way" by James G. Johnson



Wed., August 10 from 6:00-7:30 pm

"Toxic Charity" by Robert D. Lupton

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin will also be leading book studies this summer. For more information visit:

<https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/adult/summer-reading-and-beyond/>.

Summer Reading List

Being curious learners helps us to grow in our faith and discipleship. There are

suggestions of books on the church website, by paper copy in the Narthex and at the Information Table by the church office, that will challenge us in our discipleship and the love of our neighbors. Pick at least one book this summer to explore (paper, digital, audio). There are book discussion groups with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin staff (via Zoom) and with Zion Lutheran (in-person) to continue discussion and learning. For more information go to: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/adult/summer-reading-and-beyond/>.



Vacation Bible School Registration

Vacation Bible School will be held Sunday, July 17- Wednesday, July 20 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for ages potty trained through those that completed 5th grade. Dinner each night at 5:30 p.m. (more information to come for those registered). Families registered prior to June 20 receive a free copy of the music. All activities are held at Zion. You may pick up a paper copy at church or register online at <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>.

Prayer Requests

Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the new [ZionStratford.org](https://zionstratford.org) website? You can also let people know that people are praying for them too. Check it out at <https://zionstratford.org/prayer/>. You can also contact the church office to submit your prayer requests.

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 farmers and Fair Trade!

Parsonage Work Night

We are planning an evening to work at the parsonage on Wednesday, June 15, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. There are multiple items which need a little work and time.

- Clipping and cleaning some landscaping
- Removal of the basement carpeting
- Sanding and staining of the back patio deck
- Washing of the house/garage siding

We will be providing supper for those helping out.

Please contact June & Rich Krueger, Robin Curtis or Dan Thompson if you have any questions. If you are able to help, please contact any of us or simply show up. If you can't spend the entire time, that is fine, we appreciate what time you can give. We are hoping to have at least 10 people to get all the jobs completed. If you have any yard tools, please bring them along.

Check Out The Playlists



Zion Lutheran Stratford
Now on Spotify

Spotify Playlist

Did you know that Zion Lutheran has created playlists for those moments of celebration, praise, hope and lament?

Follow Zion Lutheran Stratford on Spotify or find the playlists at

<https://zionstratford.org/worship/>.

Council Minutes

Council minutes are now available on the church website at www.zionstratford.org/publications. You can also get a copy of the minutes by contacting Kathy in the church office or on the Information table by the church office.

Communion Bread Bakers

Zion is looking for a few people to help with making communion bread. Currently we have two people who make the communion bread. Looking to have at least 6 people on the baker's list. If you are interested, call or email the church office 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org. The office will send the baking instructions to all interested bakers.

Newsletter Distribution Update

With the rising cost of postage beginning with the July 2022 newsletter (this has been extended so that everyone can get their membership contact information forms turned into the church office), 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 <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>. 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.

Pastor Out of the Office

Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel will be out of the office, Thursday, June 9 - Wednesday, June 15, 2022. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact Pastor Heather Brown, Faith Lutheran Church, Marshfield at (402) 806-8841 or at pastor@faithmarshfield.org.

Building Update 2022

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 7,902.57
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 1,397.43</u>
Balance of loan as of 04-22-2022	\$149,943.23

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **05-06-2022** \$ 4,283.25

Dates	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
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
04/05 04/22	\$152,585.36	\$3,100.00	\$457.87	\$2,642.13	\$149,943.23

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.

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