

Zion Lutheran Church - Stratford

The Good News

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

August 2022

Worship Schedule

Sunday, August 7

Language of the Holy Spirit: "Breath of God"

Communion

Sunday, August 14

Language of the Holy Spirit: "Justice and Shalom"

Communion

Sunday, August 21

Language of the Holy Spirit: "Stop! Now Go Here!"

Communion

Sunday, August 28

Language of the Holy Spirit: "Gifts For All"

Communion

Pastor's Ponderings

See something. Do something.

While these words aren't Biblical scripture, Jesus shows us by example that when we see something or someone in need, we are called by him to do something. Take for example, the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus says "Go and do likewise."



Being a disciple of Christ is not like belonging to a social organization where membership has its privileges. Discipleship is about wearing a servant's towel. Jesus set us an example at a Passover Supper in the Gospel of John. He could have sat at the head of the table, being the first one served, and the one whose feet was washed first. But that's not what happened. Jesus knelt and washed the disciples' feet. He showed care, compassion and love for everyone gathered around the table. That's what it means to be the Body of Christ and to wear the servant's towel. We are called to a life of being a servant rather than a member with privileges.

How does this show up in the life of the Church, the community of Christ followers? It means that if we see a piece of garbage on the floor, we pick it up or we get the vacuum out of the closet. It means that we make sure the person next to us in worship is greeted and welcomed and introduced to other people in the congregation. It means that if we are scheduled to assist in worship that we show up in a timely manner or find a substitute. It means that we visit and send cards to our homebound members, people who are ill or recovering from surgery. It means that we give generously of our financial resources.

Being a disciple means that we pull weeds around the church building or at the home of an elderly neighbor. It means we show up at youth activities at church or in the community and be an encouraging presence. Living the life of a disciple means showing up **and** being an active participant. The life of a disciple is not about privilege, ownership, or being a spectator. It's not an easy path to follow.

Also, we need **EVERYONE** to complete a Membership Information Form. We are switching software to better communicate with the congregation and in order to maintain appropriate and necessary membership information. We need to make sure that our roster of members is correct and accurate in order to call a pastor. **Only those members in good standing will be able to vote to call a pastor.** Please also make sure to complete the blue communion cards during worship and give to the ushers so that we know you received communion. You can find Membership Information Form online at <https://zionstratford.org/> or by contacting the church office.

Please check-in with your family, friends and neighbors.

Everyone needs to complete a Membership Information Form.

This shows intent and willingness to be an active member of Zion Lutheran Church.

C8.02 of the Zion Constitution states, "Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have **communed** in this congregation and shall have made a **contribution of record** to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws."

As the Call Committee begins its work, continue to pray for guidance and discernment. Pray for the Holy Spirit to send the pastor that Zion needs to partner in ministry. Take time to read the results from the CAT survey. You can find the results online at <https://zionstratford.org/call-committee/> or at the Information Table by the church office.

Grace and Peace, Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel

From the Council

Hello! My name is Maryel Schoenfuss and I am currently serving as Vice President on the Church Council. I was born and raised in Stratford. I love spending time with my family, especially up at the cabin. I also enjoy getting involved in the community as a Village Trustee.



As the Council Vice President I serve on the Executive Committee along with the President, Secretary, and Treasurer. We meet in advance to prepare for monthly meetings and address any issues or concerns that may have come up. The Vice President assumes the duties of President when the President is unavailable, so at times I may have to run the monthly Council meeting. Being on council, I really enjoy learning more about the Church and the work done behind the scenes. It really adds a different perspective.

Upcoming Worship Series



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!

Our Money Story

Sundays, September 18 - October 9, 2022 (4 weeks)



Discover and tell your money stories in light of God's money story of liberation and love. This series encourages us to transform our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe. *Our Money Story* is intentionally direct—it invites us to name exactly what we're talking about

and not skirt around it. Too often, we avoid talking about money with transparency and vulnerability. It's time we reframe this. Money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story. *A worship series adapted from A Sanctified Art.*

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 <https://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

Grateful. Thankful. Blessed!

We've been hearing the terms "transition" and "call" a lot over the past months. So where are we — *the people of Zion* — in this period of transition as we prepare to call a new pastoral leader?



First and foremost, progress is happening...and it is EXCITING!

- Rooms have been prepped in the lower section of the church's education wing to house the Stratford Area Food Pantry and they are settling in. This community resource has been located in a basement room at St. Joseph's Church for many years. Wishing to serve in a greater capacity, Zion stepped up with this opportunity to share our space. Watch for opportunities to volunteer with the expanded Food Pantry!
- A big task for the Transition Team was to coordinate an extensive review and update of the many policies and documents of the church. Many have been completed; some are still being worked on by the Council and Teams.

From wedding and funeral policies, to building use, to job descriptions...Thanks to all of the Teams who worked through this process.

- Zion's email addresses have changed, along with an extensive upgrade to the website. Be sure to check out the new website at zionstratford.org! There's a lot of info so settle in for a bit of scrolling and browsing. Stay in touch with all that's happening at Zion. Add your prayer requests..Check out the recommended reading list.
- A property assessment is underway, asking the following questions:
 - Is our building welcoming and comfortable for members and visitors?
 - Are we using our building and property resources efficiently and effectively so we can make ministry possible and vibrant?
 - Are we holding onto things that no longer have relevance?

Maybe you've noticed items being removed from spaces or furniture being moved into different configurations, and YES, the garbage and recycling carts are full each week. It is an ongoing process so your patience is appreciated when you notice temporary messes or see the shuffling of stuff. Watch the "FREE" table in the Gathering Area as we sort items that you might find useful. And watch for an upcoming "Come and Get It" where we'll set out discarded items – large and small – on a donation basis.

- The parsonage work night was a great success with so many outdoor projects completed by a wonderful gathering of volunteers. Inside, the lower level face lift began with the carpet being pulled. Thanks to everyone who stepped up that night! Since then, the lower level has been painted and Council has approved the flooring project. Then it's just a few finishing touches yet in the

lower level to complete this total parsonage update prior to welcoming our new pastor.

FINALLY... (insert drumroll!)...

- The Call Committee is in the process of interviewing for the Pastor's position. Stay tuned! Please continue to pray for the Call Committee as they share our ministry and learn from the candidates how they might lead our congregation into the future. Also pray for the Pastor that God is already preparing for us!

We are *grateful* for the many who have taken on additional responsibilities or stepped into new roles during the transition, *thankful* to Pastor Andrea for her guidance over these past months, and *BLESSED* to be part of this amazing congregation of believers!

Treasurer's Report

To keep everyone informed of the financial status of Zion Lutheran, we will be starting a monthly Treasurer's Report in the newsletter. The overall purpose is to be transparent about how Zion is building a culture of generosity and being a steward (manager) of God's gracious provision in order to fuel Jesus' ministry.

Through June 30, 2022, **income** received to the Current (general offering) was \$76,723.20. This money is used to provide financial support for the ministry budget expenses such as faith formation, evangelism, worship, staff salaries, property, etc. This amount does not include the 10% benevolence. Total income for designated income such as lawn mowing/snow plowing, salaries, utilities, etc. is \$5,214.93. Loose offering/initial offering is \$1350.00.

The ministry **expenditures** are \$95,692.92. This means that for the first half of the year, Zion is in “the red.” This means that our income (giving) is not in line with our expenses by \$17,619.72. Most ministry teams are well below their budgeted expenses for the first half of the year.

As of June 30, 2022, the church’s **undesignated cash balance** is \$40,404.85. This is money that is not specifically designated to a specific purpose, such as utilities, mortgage debt reduction, lawn mowing, GermanFest, etc. The undesignated cash balance is like our savings account or reserve fund when our expenses are more than our income. This can be quickly depleted if actual income doesn’t match expenses.

At the moment, our **benevolences (ministry to the world)** are:

Crossways Camping Ministry	206.00	7.5% of goal
ELCA 10% Benevolence	8,524.80	53.3% of goal
Lutheran Social Services	660.00	36.7% of goal
Missionary Support	1480.00	42.3% of goal
ELCA World Hunger	3212.80	98.9% of goal

The balance available in the **GermanFest /Crisis Bank** account is \$6,652.88.

As of July 7, 2022, the **Building Fund** account balance is \$7,682.25 (July payment still needs to be made). The loan balance as of June 16, 2022 is \$144,635. Since June 1, 2022 (as of July 18) , we have received \$8,469. The monthly mortgage payment is \$3100.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Zion’s ministry in Jesus’ name with financial gifts. It takes all of us together to fuel our ministry plan.

With a grateful heart,
Marge Redetzke, Council Treasurer



Faith Formation for All Ages

What Is a Lutheran?

On Wednesday,
September 14, from
6:30-8:00 p.m., Bishop
Laurie Skow-Anderson
will be leading a
discussion and

presentation on “What is a Lutheran?” and “What does being a Lutheran mean?” at Zion Lutheran. This presentation is open to all age groups. *It is required for all 7-10th grade students, parents, and mentors.* If you come from a different religious background or it's been a while since Confirmation, then you don't want to miss out on this opportunity.

Blessing of the Backpacks

The school year always brings excitement and energy. On Sunday, September 18 at 9:00 a.m. during worship, we will bless backpacks, lunchboxes, school bags, etc. The children will assist the pastor in blessing teachers, coaches, bus drivers, school administrators, school staff, school board members, as well as Little Lutherans, J-Team, Confirmation and Disciples in Christ leaders and mentors. **Please bring your backpacks (this includes teachers, coaches, bus drivers and school staff too).** You are welcome to place them in front of the altar before worship.

Little Lutherans/J-Team

Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will begin on Wednesday, September 14. These faith formation classes will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:15-5:15 pm. Children may arrive anytime between 3:15 and 3:50 pm, for those coming from a non-Stratford school district. Please watch

announcements, emails or mailed letters for registration information and more details. To keep up-to-date or upcoming opportunities visit <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>.



Confirmation

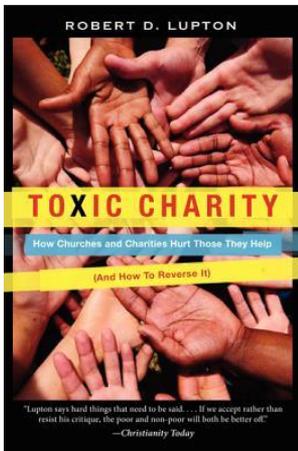
Confirmation (7-9th grade) will begin on Wednesday, September 14 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. **This is a required class for all 7-9th graders and their parents/guardians.** Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson will be leading a discussion and presentation on “What is a Lutheran?” and “What does being a Lutheran mean?” Please watch announcements, emails or mailed letters for registration information and more details. To keep up-to-date or upcoming opportunities visit <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/7th-9th-grade/>.

Disciples in Christ

Disciples in Christ (10th grade) will begin on Wednesday, September 14 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. **This is a required class for all 10th graders and their parents/guardians and mentors.** Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson will be leading a discussion and presentation on “What is a Lutheran?” and “What does being a Lutheran mean?” Please watch announcements, emails or mailed letters for information and more details on the *Disciples in Christ* schedule for the year. To keep up-to-date or upcoming opportunities visit <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation10th-12th-grade/>.

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 Fluege



Wed., August 10 from 6:00-7:30 pm
“Toxic Charity” by Robert D. Lupton

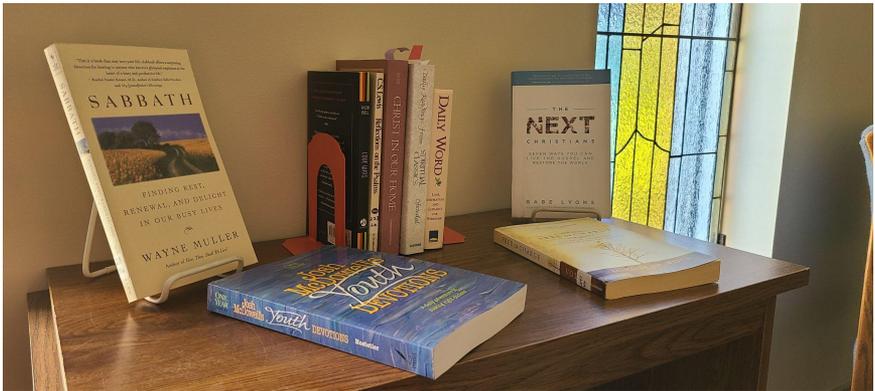
The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin will also be leading book studies this summer. For more information visit:

<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 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/>.



Meditation Garden Devotionals

The Meditation Garden is a great place to re-center yourself during the summer and fall months. It provides a quiet place to reconnect with Jesus. Devotionals and books are available by the doors to the Meditation Garden and in the Library. Remember if you want to take a book home to use, please check it out from the Church library.

Serving Our Savior Opportunities

Creation Care Team

At the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Assembly in May, a resolution was passed to encourage congregations to create a Creation Care Team. If you are interested in participating on this team or would like to know more about Creation Care, contact Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel at pastor@zionstratford.org or at 715.687.4110. Resources are available at



<http://nswi.org/social-justice-advocacy/creation-care>.

Parsonage and Church Work Night

Another Zion work night will be held on **Monday, August 8** beginning at **4:30 pm**.

Parsonage tasks – build a closet, replace ceiling tiles, remove flooring in the bathroom, replace light fixtures.

Church tasks – cleaning the old kitchen, moving things in and out of storage areas, cleaning in the classrooms.

Prepare to get dirty and get your steps in. Contact Rich or June Krueger if you are able to help. Snacks and root beer floats for all volunteers when we wrap up at 7:30 pm!

Housekeeping Position Available

Join the Zion Team! We are currently seeking candidate(s) to fill a Housekeeping position for 10-12 hours per week. Job duties include general weekly cleaning (vacuum, dust, clean restrooms, replenish supplies, empty trash, etc.) plus as-needed tasks like washing windows and mopping floors. A keen eye to maintenance issues, such as a leaky faucet, is key to the position. Being conscious of the worship and building use schedule, housekeeping hours may be flexible. More info and application materials are available at the church office or by contacting Brenda Castellano at 715-321-2452 or biner5@hotmail.com.



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

7110 or office@zionstratford.org. You can find the recipe at <https://zionstratford.org/worship/communion-bread-recipe/>. This is a great opportunity for families to participate.

Counters Needed

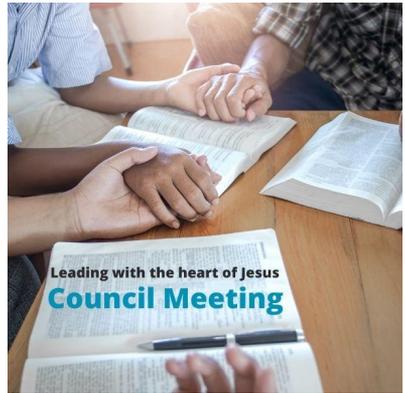
People are needed to assist with counting the church offering. No experience needed. Will train. It takes 20-45 minutes (possibly longer) depending on the season and the offering. Confidentiality required. Depending on the number of people who serve, time commitment is one to two times per month. For more information, contact Amy Cournoyer at ajcournoyer@yahoo.com or 715-650-1381.

Homebound Visits

Zion's Homebound Members are ready for home visits from congregation members. It helps them to feel connected, less lonely, and cared for. The commitment is one or more members per month. If you can serve this way, please contact Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel.

Council Minutes

Council minutes are now available on the church website at 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.



Building Use

New building use and fees were approved by the Zion Church Council on July 18, 2022. If you would like to use the church building for a family event, please visit the church website at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/> for more information and a request form.

Wedding Guidelines

New wedding guidelines were approved by the Zion Church Council on July 18, 2022. If you or a family member would like to schedule a wedding, please review the wedding guidelines, complete a wedding information form available at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>.

Technology Ministry

WiFi Now Available

WiFi has been installed throughout the church building for you to use. The password is printed in the weekly paper announcements, on the Sunday Worship powerpoint announcements. You can also contact a staff member for the password. The Zion-Public password is **Zion54484**.



Sermons by Phone or Podcast App

Audio recordings of Sunday sermons are now available by calling **848.204.2721**. You can also find it on the podcast apps *PodBean* and *Bullhorn* under the podcast name "Open Doors Open Hearts Open Hands." You can also find a recording and a copy of the bulletin at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>.

Monday Emails

The Monday Weekly Emails are now being sent through a new membership and communications software to everyone who returned a member contact information form and requested to receive weekly emails. If you did not receive the email one of three things has likely happened.

1. You have not yet completed a membership contact information form. You can fill out the form on the church website, save it and send it as an attachment to office@zionstratford.org. Paper copies are also available in the church office.
2. The email has gone to your spam or promotions tab. You can fix this by adding office@zionstratford.org to your preferred sender list, marking it as not spam, or right-click move to tab "Primary," and select yes for future emails. This depends on who your email provider is and will be specific to them.
3. We could have made a typo when entering your email, or you did not indicate that you would like weekly emails. If you believe that you have returned a membership contact information form and have checked your spam and promotions folders, then send an email to office@zionstratford.org with your preferred email and we will make sure that you receive all future email communications.

If you have questions, contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstartford.org or.

Prayer Requests

Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the new 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.

Building Update 2022

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 7,950.30
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 1,349.70</u>
Balance of loan as of 06-17-2022	\$144,635.06

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **07-07-2022** \$ 7,682.25

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
04/05 & 04/22	\$152,585.36	\$3,100.00	\$457.87	\$2,642.13	\$149,943.23
05/06 & 05/20	\$149,943.23	\$3,100.00	\$449.91	\$2,650.09	\$147,293.14
06 & 06/17	\$147,293.14	\$3,100.00	\$441.92	\$2,658.08	\$144,635.06



Birthdays & 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.

This is to protect people’s privacy and not make it easier for scammers to have

access to this information. If you would like a complete monthly list to send out cards, please contact the office.

Zion Lutheran Church
213501 Legacy Street
Stratford, WI 54484-5908

www.zionstratford.org

We're on the web!

Phone: 715-687-4110

Fax: 715-687-3541

Email: office@zionstratford.org

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Stratford, WI
Permit No. 6

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm <i>Evangelism Meeting</i>	2 6:00 pm <i>Worship Meeting</i>	3 6:00 pm <i>Germanfest Meeting</i>	4	5	6
7 9:00 am <i>Worship/ Communion</i>	8 6:00 pm <i>Executive Meeting</i>	9	10 6:00 pm <i>Zion Book Club</i>	11	12 6:00 pm <i>Wedding Rehearsal</i>	13 1:30 pm <i>Wenzel/Multerer Wedding</i>
14 9:00 am <i>Worship/Communion</i> 12:00 pm <i>Boy Scouts</i>	15 6:00 pm <i>Council Meeting</i>	16 6:30 pm <i>Faith Formation Meeting</i>	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 am <i>Worship/Communion</i>	22	23	24 <i>Teacher Appreciation Lunch</i>	25	26	27
28 9:00 am <i>Worship/Communion</i> 12:00 pm <i>Boy Scouts</i>	29	30	31			
		<u>1 Peter 4:10</u> Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.				

2022 Zion Worship Schedules

Date	08/07/2022 Pentecost 9 9:00 AM	08/14/2022 Pentecost 10 9:00 AM	08/21/2022 Pentecost 11 9:00 AM	08/28/2022 Pentecost 12 9:00 AM	09/04/2022 Pentecost 13 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Riley Spindler	Terry Schoenherr	Dan Thompson	Brenda Huther	Casey Dasler
Reader	Riley Spindler	Terry Schoenherr	Dan Thompson	Brenda Huther	Casey Dasler
Acolytes	Reese Spindler Avery White	Jackson Dahlke Charlie Kolbeck	Lily & Colin Cournoyer	Charlotte Peirce Emmercyn Schiller	Garrett Smazal Jackson Spindler
Ushers	Jim & Cory Wiesman	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	Angie & Frank Guralski	Mark & Sandy Andersen
communion assistants	Riley Spindler Dan & Deb Wieland	Terry Schoenherr Brian & Darla Leick	Dan & Rhonda Thompson Sandy Andersen	Brenda Huther Lois Miller Brenda Castellano	Casey & Jill Dasler Brenda Garrigan
communion steward	Deb Wieland	Amy Grell	Wendy Spaeth	Wendy Spaeth	Rhonda Thompson
Fellowship	Nicole & Robin Curtis	Dan & Rhonda Thompson	Sharla Dreikosen		Rich & June Krueger
Host	Cory Wiesman	Robin Curtis	Amy Cournoyer	Lois Miller	Ray White
Media	Rodney Huther	Marge Kollmansberger	Marge Kollmansberger	Kevin Miller	Ted Dasler