



Worship Schedule

Sunday, August 6

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Sunday, August 13

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Sunday, August 20

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Sunday, August 27

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion



In July, Zion once again hosted vacation bible school in conjunction with the Mill Church. The theme this year was “Interstellar,” and through the efforts of many volunteers and the generosity of many in the community, the week was a great

success! We even tried an experiment this year. Noticing that the attendance was dropping off as children grew older, we tried to think about what would cause this trend: lots of other activities scheduled, programming not mature enough, families unable to commit to an entire week of evenings... these were just a few of the possibilities, and I’m sure you can think of more.

“What if we had just one evening for the older elementary students?” we wondered. And what if we took the overall theme, but tweaked it to a slightly higher education level?

Guess what? It worked! Not only did we have a wonderful VBS with The Mill, but we were also able to connect with the older kids in a way that met their needs as well as the needs of their families.

When we told the students this was an experiment and we were wondering if we should do it again next year, we received a solid thumbs up.

In the process, we were able to connect with congregations of other denominations in the area and share resources and ideas.

This is how God likes to work in our lives—in partnership, in fellowship, in a relationship. The service we offer to God is expected to be lived out in loving and compassionate actions to and with all people no matter what.

Please pray that we might continue to reach out to our community as proclaimers of God’s love!

For just as each of us has one body with many members... so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

-Romans 12:4-6

Summer Outdoor Worship Services



Summer Outdoor Worship

This summer Zion started having outdoor worship on the second Sunday of each month. The first worship service was on June 11th which turned out to be a very cool morning. Members braved the cool morning air and enjoyed a wonderful time of worship on the green space. July 9th was the next worship, and this was met with a warm summer morning. A llama came to worship that morning, compliments of Floyd Zopfi. Evangelism Team members hosted a coffee fellowship for all to enjoy. August 13th will be the next outdoor worship service. Zion looks forward to seeing you there.



Military Care Packages



Zion's Evangelism Team organized Military Care Packages for the military personnel that are members or members who have relatives that serve in the military. Monetary donations were collected from the generosity of the congregation.

Thank You

Dear Zion, I don't know where to begin! The packages you guys sent are so amazing and the best thing we could've ever thought to receive. Thank you so much to all and we look forward to visiting Zion and seeing friendly faces the next time we are in town.

Tanner & Julianne Oertel



Thank you for the thoughtful care package. All of the snacks will be great to eat while training in the field. The best part was the cheese and beef sticks. We appreciate the support and prayers from everyone.

Spenser & Julia Papini

Upcoming Worship Series



Are Your Ears Awake?

*Sundays, Aug 6 through Sept 3rd
(5 weeks)*

August 6 - Revelations 4:1-11;
John 17:1-5

August 13 - Revelations 5:1-14;
John 1:29-31

August 20 - Revelations 7:9-17;
John 14:1-4

August 27 - Revelations 13:1-18;
John 12:30-32

September 3 - Revelations 21:1-6; John 16:20-22

Vacation Bible School

We had another great year partnering with the Mill Church for Vacation Bible School, with 45 youth attending our Stellar-themed week. Our special Sunday night session, led by Pastor Amy had 12 youth in attendance for " Faith in our Stars" The space theme decorations included a rocket ship photo booth, land rover, northern lights backdrops, and a galaxy wall with bible verses. Families enjoyed dinner each night, with radio station 89Q grilling brats for everyone in our parking lot on Wednesday night.

It takes a lot of volunteers to make this four-night event a success. Thanks to the planning committee for all of their work; Kathy Ballerstein, Amii Kreft, Jill Dasler, Lindsay White, and Pastor Amy. And thanks to so many Zion members who helped that week; Wendy and Jasmine Grell, Alison Murphy, Dan and Deb Wieland, Darla Leick, Ken Strutz, Sharla Dreikosen, Janet Schoenherr, Casey Dasler, Olivia Ballerstein and Sierra Kreft





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 (the 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

Don't Forget Your Offering

While you're enjoying your summer plans and spending time out of town or involved in sports and camp activities, our congregation will still be working hard to support your faith journey, respond to your pastoral needs, and plan for educational and worship opportunities for the rest of the year. We know that summer can become so busy that we forget to continue our monetary support. Make it easy for yourself (and for us) by signing up for Simply Giving. Through Simply Giving, you can "set it and forget it" when it comes to donating to Zion's ministry. Your donation will automatically come out of your account in whatever amount and on whatever schedule is best for you. Forms are available just outside the worship space and can be completed and returned to the office. Or just give Kathy a quick call in the office and she will be happy to help you out.

Building Update 2023

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total monthly principal payments | \$ 9,883.93 |
| Total monthly interest payments | <u>\$ 966.07</u> |
| Balance of loan as of 06-30-2023 | \$85,929.26 |

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **07-06-2023** \$ 8,274.06

| Payment Bi-Weekly | Start Balance | Payment Amount | Interest Paid | Principal Paid | Ending Balance |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 04/07 & 04/21 | \$95,813.19 | \$3,100.00 | \$286.64 | \$2,813.36 | \$92,999.83 |
| 05/05 & 05/19 | \$92,999.83 | \$3,100.00 | \$278.16 | \$2,821.84 | \$90,177.99 |
| 06/02 & 06/16 | \$90,177.99 | \$3,100.00 | \$269.65 | \$2,830.35 | \$87,347.64 |
| 06/30 | \$87,347.64 | \$1,550.00 | \$131.62 | \$1,418.38 | \$85,929.26 |

Tuesday morning Bible Study

We're getting the gang back together to study the bible beginning **Tuesday, September 12** at 10 am, but we'd like to include new people too! This year, we will study essential bible stories each week. I have a list of 40 stories, so there will be plenty to do! Come join us and find out more about:

Hagar and Ismael

Dry Bones

David and Bathsheba

The Good Samaritan
The Upper Room
Peter and Cornelius and more!

And if you'd like to participate in a bible study at a different time, let the office know. We can always add time or work together online.

"The Chosen"



The Chosen Watch Parties Are Back on **September 10!**

If you're interested in binge-watching a few episodes of The Chosen, be sure to join us at 5:30 pm on Sunday, Sep. 10. Bring a bible if you like, some snacks to share, a snuggly blanket, and something to drink.

"A charismatic fisherman drowning in debt, a troubled woman wrestling with real demons. a gifted publican ostracized

by his family and his people. A religious leader struggling with his beliefs. See Jesus through the eyes of those that met him." - from angel.com/watch/the-chosen/about#departments.

We finished season one last year and just barely got started on season two, but you can join the story at any time, and we'll help you get caught up on who's who and what's what. You can also get caught up on your own by clicking the following link: angel.com/watch/the-chosen or downloading the app on your phone. The episodes are 30-45 minutes, leaving lots of time in between for snacks and discussion. Bring your kids (middle school and high school ages especially) and invite your friends!

Funeral

There will be a Funeral service for Robert Ulrich at Zion Lutheran Church on September 9, 2023. Visitation will begin at Zion at 10:00 am. The funeral service will begin at 12:00 pm, the Committal service will follow the service at the Cemetery on 153. Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bob Ulrich.

Faith Formation for All Ages

Little Lutherans/J-Team

Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will be focusing on various aspects of Worship this year with games, crafts, and Bible stories. 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. Information and calendar can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>.



Disciples in Christ

Disciples for Christ will begin again in September. All the children that will be entering the 10th grade will soon receive in the mail information regarding Disciples for Christ with information about picking your mentor for the year. Prayerfully consider whom you will ask to be your mentor. Zion is looking forward to seeing you all this fall to continue your faith journey.

Confirmation

Confirmation Students Need You!

You may have no idea how valuable you are to Zion's young people, but they do know, and they want you to be part of their faith journey. How? Here's a list:

- Attend occasional confirmation classes.
- Pray for the students.
- Help with their Advent dinners.
- Be a media tech for class (or attempt to teach Pastor more about it)
- Act as a Lenten mentor if asked.
- Help students plan and prep for mid-week worship services.
- You could also teach one of the electives classes.

Take a look at the sessions below and let Pastor Amy know if there's one that you would like to know more about. The pastor will not leave you high and dry but will work with you on developing a lesson plan. Here's the list of electives being offered this year:

- Noah, You Forgot the Dinosaurs!
- Crazy Bible Stuff
- Teach Us to Pray
- End Times

If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to consider any of the above ways to accompany our young people on their journey of faith, talk with Pastor Amy or any member of the Faith Formation team or Church Council, or give Kathy a call in the office.

You'll find that your own faith will grow simply by being around these amazing younger Zion members! Please watch announcements, emails, or mailed letters for registration information and more details. To keep up to date on upcoming opportunities visit <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/7th-9th-grade/>.

Serving Our Savior Opportunities

Calling All Yarnies

Do you like to knit or crochet? Maybe you enjoy sorting and distributing? Or making tassels? Maybe you have unwanted yarn sitting around your house? Then we have got a project for you! We are calling for hats, mittens, scarves, lap blankets (3' x 4' max), and headbands/ear warmers in all sizes to be distributed during the Trunk or Treat event and the Christmas in the Park event. These items will be free for whoever needs them.

We also need that yarn you don't know what to do with, or that you were planning to throw out.

Drop-off bins for completed items and for yarn donations will be located at the entrance near the offices. Please note if an item is made of wool or a wool blend, and please wash all items before dropping them off.

We will begin collecting items on September 1.

If you have questions or want to help in some way, please contact Marsha Sipple, Pastor Amy, or the church office.

Coffee Fellowship

Come join us in fellowship following worship each Sunday. If you wish to host a fellowship, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship area. There are no longer restrictions on only bringing pre-packaged food. Feel free to bring homemade goods. See you at the fellowship.



Monthly Newsletter Deadline

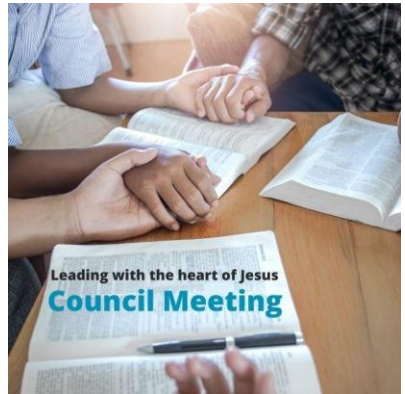
The deadline for the September newsletter is **August 21**. To submit an article about an upcoming ministry opportunity, please email the church office at office@zionstratford.org. Thank you.

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 Pastor Amy Heinz

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, and complete a wedding information form available at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>.

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.

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.

Blood Donations Save a Life

Please Donate Blood Location: Stratford VFW Hall

August 22, 2023 Time: 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Worship Duty Signup via Signup Genius

Please take a moment to sign up to participate in our worship service as an usher, reader, acolyte, media, communion assistant (server), or assisting minister.

Sign up by August 17 for September 2023

[Zion Lutheran Church Stratford: September 2023 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Sign up by September 17 for October 2023

[Zion Lutheran Church Stratford: October 2023 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Thank you!
Brenda Huther

Serving in Worship Substitutions

On vacation? At a sporting event? Family wedding? If you are scheduled to serve in worship as an assisting minister, acolyte, communion server, reader, usher, etc., and are unable to serve on that date, please look at the calendar and contact another person to switch with you. Thank you.

United Way Backpack and School Supply Drive

Collection Dates July 24th – August 7th

Donation Drop Off Locations: Zion Lutheran Church, Baltus, Community Financial Bank, Partners Cooperative, Cenex, Mill Church, Partners Bank, Stratford Family Foods, The Cellar Bar.

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, and 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/>.

August 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 <i>7pm Faith Formation Team Meeting</i> | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 <i>9 am Worship/ Communion</i> | 7 | 8 | 9 <i>6 pm Trust Fund Team Meeting</i> | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 <i>9 am Worship/ Communion Outdoor Service</i> | 14 <i>6 pm Executive Team Meeting</i> | 15 <i>Pastor Amy at Boundary Training</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 <i>9 am Worship/ Communion Congregational Meeting</i> | 21 <i>6 pm Council Meeting</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 <i>9 am Worship/ Communion</i> | 28 | 29 <i>6 pm Evangelism Team Meeting</i> | 30 <i>Teacher's Dinner</i> | | | |

2023 Zion Worship Schedules

| Date | 8/06/2023 Pent 10 9:00 AM | 8/13/2023 Pent 11 9:00 AM | 8/20/2023 Pent 12 9:00 AM | 8/27/2023 Pent 13 9:00 AM | 9/3/2023 Pent 13 9:00 AM |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Assisting Minister | Dan Thompson | Carmella Moon | Dan Thompson | Brenda Huther | Terry Schoenherr |
| Reader | Wendy Grell | Janet Schoenherr | Rhonda Thompson | Brenda Huther | Terry Schoenherr |
| Acolytes | Charlotte & Nolan Peirce | | Ella Schultz Lily Cournoyer | Abby & Hudson Ballerstein | Sierra Kreft Anika Weber |
| Ushers | Tom & Nancy Schoenherr | Rod & Brenda Huther | Phil & Kerri Schultz | Ray & Lindsay White | Frank & Angie Guralski |
| communion assistants | Dan Thompson Kevin & Lois Miller | Carmella Moon | Dan & Rhonda Thompson Brenda Castellano | Lois Miller Brenda Huther Sandy Andersen | Terry Schoenherr Carmella Moon Tadd Schoenherr |
| communion steward | Wendy Spaeth | Amy Grell | Jill Dasler | Sandy Andersen | Rhonda Thompson |
| Fellowship | Sharla Dreikosen | Evangelism | Gary & Mary Wussow | Pat Emon, Angie Guralski, Amy Reno | Looking for Volunteer |
| Host | Stewardship Amy Cournoyer | Worship Brian Stroetz | Faith Formation Ray White | FF Youth Casey Dasler | President Dan Thompson |
| Bell Ringer | Tom & Nancy Schoenherr | Brenda Huther | Phil Schultz | Ray White | Frank Guralski |
| Media | Rod Huther | | Marge Kollmansberger | Kevin Miller | Connor Kreft |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | OUTDOOR SERVICE | | | |