



Zion Lutheran Church

The Messenger

July 2024

A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :

It's July; fireworks "bursting in air", flags waving and people celebrating our country's 248th birthday. In that spirit of celebration, Zion welcomes back Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer as our SAM (Synod Approved Minister). It is nice to have him leading our worship once again. Welcome back Vicar Jake. (Vicar is his Synod designated title).

While we have cause to celebrate, Zion still faces challenges just like our country faced in 1776 and continues to face in today's world. To that end, we are proceeding to look at options to replace the loss of income, a major portion of our annual budget, when the Appleton Bilingual School leaves on August 31, 2025. Hopefully we will have information on Affordable Housing proposals from various developers by month's end and can present this to the congregation.

In the meantime, we continue as people of faith to reach out into our community. Thanks to a generous group of volunteers, we are again serving meals to the builders at Habitat for Humanity sites. These dedicated Habitat volunteers are truly doing, "God's work, their hands". Anyone who would like to participate in this outreach, please feel free to contact Sue Bunkert, 920-734-5138.

We enjoyed our church picnic at the end of June. True to Wisconsin's weather, last year we were sweating and this year, shivering. However, it was a wonderful day of meaningful worship and delicious food. Thank you to Deb Reis and the Worship and Music Committee for all their work as well as to Heather Watney and the Swinging Quigley Gospel Band and for the stirring music during worship and the meal. As we look ahead in July, we will again celebrate "Christmas in July". As a part of that celebration, Jon Meyer and the Stewardship Committee has the following message:

Our Christmas in July Sunday is coming up on July 28th. The hymns and carols will remind us of the "cool" season (certainly opposite of heat and humidity!) and also of the sharing and gifting that takes place at that time. We will have the opportunity to make some gifts to Zion in the form of minor repairs and also to the community through gifts to the Blessing Box. The format will be similar to what we do at Christmastime with the gift envelopes on the tree for ABS and Columbus Schools. You may choose an envelope from the tree and bring that gift back to the church. For example, in the case of minor repairs, you might choose to give the full amount of money right now or spread it out over the course of five months so that the task is completed by the real Christmas season. For the Blessing Box, there will be suggestions of items to bring to place under the tree. Either way, it's a chance to share with Zion or the community (or both!). Look for the tree to show up in July!

Moving forward and facing our challenges, take time to celebrate the summer, the Fourth of July, warm sunshine and even "Christmas" when God gave to us the most precious gift ever given, His only Son. As Tiny Tim so aptly said, "God Bless us Everyone!"

Sue Bunkert
Council President

A Message from Vicar Jake

HOME COMING

I am grateful to return to Zion and serve this faith community again after a long break. It felt like a Homecoming as I was greeted by all your welcoming smiles, handshakes and hugs.

Thank you for your hospitality!

This is not unlike the experience that many people have when they return to Zion for a holiday, wedding, baptism or funeral. When we celebrated our 140th Anniversary last year, we witnessed the joy of many people who returned to remember and celebrate the memories of their time together at Zion. They spoke of the baptisms, weddings, first communions, confirmations, weddings and funerals celebrated in the church. They recalled stories of the pastors who were called to serve this faith community over the years.

For those of us lucky enough to be together every week, we experience this sense of family when we gather for worship and fellowship. We experience the support and friendship of being a part of a faith community as we go through all the peaks and valleys of life.

As we continue to discern what God has in store for Zion, we can rest assured that the abiding love of God and the presence of His Spirit are with us. We can take strength in the passage from Psalm 20:2: "May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion".

Let Us Pray---Loving God, may our homecoming to you be an experience of hospitality and hope.

May all who walk through the doors of Zion know and feel your love and presence.

May no one feel like a stranger for all are members or guests of this loving faith community.

May the life celebrated in this church give honor and glory to you, O God. Amen.

God's Blessings,

Vicar Jake



Zion Lutheran Church

July 2024

Monday, July 8, 2024

Sunday, July 7

Ezek 2:1-5; Ps 123

2 Cor 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Submissions due for August's calendar

Lectionary 14 (Pentecost 7)

Pastor Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Greg Pettigrew

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Tuesday, July 9

Zion Mutual Homes Meeting 10:00am

Sunday, July 14

Amos 7:7-15; Ps 85:8-13

Eph 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

Worship Service 9:00 am

Followed by

Coffee Hour

Lectionary 15 (Pentecost 8)

Pastor Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens: Jim Schley

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Monday, July 15

Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm

Sunday, July 21

Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23

Eph 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Lectionary 16 (Pentecost 9)

Pastor Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Grace Van Eyck

Musician: Pam Keane

Opens and Closes : Gwen Schwandt

Sunday, July 28

2 Kings 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-18

Eph 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Lectionary 17 (Pentecost 10)

Pastor Karen Jewell

Assisting Minister: Tom Meltz

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens and Closes: Gwen Schwandt

Zion Council Minutes

5/20/24 The Meeting started at 6:32 pm

Present: Sue, Tammy, Kyle, Karen F., Tommy, Ray, Kandie

Excused: Gail

Guests: John K. and Arnie C. representing Zion Place

Devotional: by Kyle

April minutes were reviewed, a motion was made to approve minutes and passed

Zion Place Report

John K. began the meeting by discussing the affordable housing project and report created by GLCI. There was an unintentional error in the GLCI report about the finances of Zion Place. This was discussed and clarified. Rent increases were discussed and the fears about large increases were discussed. Earlier this year there was a 25 dollar increase for the rent at Zion Place, this was the first rent increase in 10 years. Through the discussion it was agreed upon that the representatives of Z.P. will look at yearly rent increases to offset increased costs of utilities and running Z.P. as well as the increases with inflation. These increases will not be unreasonable amounts as it will still keep the housing affordable and considerably less than other rents across the Fox Cities.

The rental structure of Z.P. was also discussed. There is one 1 bedroom and the rest are 2 bedroom apartments, the square footage is the same for all apartments. Each unit is \$620, there is a garage stall for each apartment which is \$30/month and those are all rented. There are 5 life leases yet and the money to be able to pay those out as needed is in a separate account. It was also discussed that there was a 60 person waiting list for the apartments. Fears were expressed about utilizing vouchers (section 8) and what that might entail. It was discussed that if the current structure is working then it will remain as is.

Also discussed was the elevator project that was coming up and the majority of it will be paid for by funds already available. Once the elevator is fixed Z.P. would be able to give a monthly amount of approximately \$2,500 back to help support the church.

Administrator Report

Karen reported on the many things that she is working on.

City of Appleton An inspector from the city came in to inspect the Parish house to give us the information we needed in order to rent that to provide an income for the church. It was said that a sprinkler system would need to be installed if we want to utilize the house for any type of housing where people would be sleeping overnight, and the doors on the bathrooms would need to be widened for wheelchair accessibility.

New Voices This is a group that was looking to rent an office because they will be losing their current office space in a few months. Karen has not yet heard back from them.
Ad to rent office space Karen discussed putting an ad out on Loop Net to inform other Non Profit organizations that we have this space for rent for offices. Again this would be a way to provide an income to support the church.

2 Lifts, Sanctuary and Chapel Initially it was mentioned that we would need to completely replace both lifts. The initial discussion with Gary Neuman was that it is because parts are not even available any more for these models of lifts. His thoughts were if we completely replaced the Sanctuary lift, he could utilize parts from the old one to fix the Chapel lift. That way we would save money at this time by not having to replace 2 lifts. Karen has since spoken to the lift company and they had mentioned that there is a great possibility that the parts needed for both could be fabricated to fix it.

May 29th from 4:30-5:30 there will be a kids block party

August 5-8 Missions Church downtown wanted to have their Arts Camp here and utilize the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and possibly the gym.

Olson Solar- they were contacted to discuss the possibility of installing solar panels on Zion Mutual Homes and what that would look like for cost as well as benefit for the residents. If installed there would be no way to separate the common areas bill for the residents. Therefore, it would need to be included into the rent cost.

The East Central Synod gave \$1,000 for the Affordable Housing Project

Approximately \$1,600 was collected at our Good Friday service for the Affordable Housing Project.

An anonymous donor gave \$550 in the collection plate on Mother's Day. What a joy and generous gift!

The Finance report was reviewed

A motion was made and passed to send \$100 donation to the Synod for the conference that was attended by our two congregation members. This was the suggested donation amount so that will be mailed out to the Synod.

Linda Wirtz will step into the Zion Foundation Board, to help fill the spot where Chris Neuman had been a member. All of the Councils' thoughts and prayers go out to the Neuman family for the loss of Chris. Chris was a very important part of Zion for many years.

June 17th at 6:30 pm will be the next meeting

Ray P. will do the devotion

Motion to dismiss was at 7:56 pm

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Kandie Wilz

Affordable Housing Project Update

July 2024

Team Meetings:

June 3, 2024 Planning Team Meeting; June 10, 2024 Roundtable Meeting; July 10, 2024 Neighborhood Advisory Team Meeting

Meetings with Key Individuals/Organizations:

WisconSibs; Kevin Englebert, Director of Development and Land Services Outagamie County; Harriet Redman, WisconSibs; Mary Anne Oemichen, Home of our Own (Prairie House)

Important information:

-Developers are beginning to follow up with Bonnie regarding our Request for Proposals (RFP) and several have indicated they do plan to submit proposals.

-Karen Farlow, Church Administrator, has drafted a letter to be forwarded to area non-profits describing the parsonage and what exactly is for rent.

-WisconSibs is a local group which, for more than 20 years has been serving siblings and others who support people with disabilities along their lifelong journey through peer support programs, education and networking opportunities, leadership development, and more. Bonnie discussed with WisconSibs the difficulties inherent in finding housing for adults with disabilities and how the Zion housing project might be an ideal opportunity for those individuals and other disenfranchised people to find a community that is welcoming and supportive so they are able to live more independently.

-Kevin Englebert indicated the only time the County has been involved with funding housing was during the time they had ARPA funds which have been exhausted at this point. He gave Bonnie information on a potential expert in community kitchens which may be useful if the local business part of this project moves forward. He also shared potential funding opportunity through the Public Finance Authority for us to check out.

-Bonnie is on vacation from Sunday, June 16th to Friday, June 28th with limited access to email.

Upcoming Meetings:

July 10, 2024 Neighborhood Advisory Team Meeting

July 16, 2024 Selection Committee Meeting (by invitation only)

July 22, 2024 Roundtable Meeting (Anyone may attend to hear updates on the Affordable Housing Project)



Life Passages and Celebrations

Joan Hawkins died on Sunday, June 16th. The funeral was held at Zion on Saturday June 22th. Please keep the family of Joan in your prayers.

Memorials Gratefully Received

Gary Neumann in memory of his wife-Christine Neumann for the Organ Loan Fund

Cheryl & Jon Meyer in memory of Christine Neumann for the Organ Loan Fund

JoAnn Salm in memory of Christine Neumann for the Organ Loan Fund

Sandy Gitter in memory of Chris Neumann for the Organ Loan Fund

Ken & Kay Scheuer in memory of Chris Neumann for the Organ Loan Fund

David & Karen Kuhn in memory of Chris Neumann for the Organ Loan Fund

Ellen Gast in memory of Chris Neumann for the Organ Loan Fund

Earl Miller in memory of Janet Ann Miller for roof repairs

David & Janice Weber in memory of Chris Neumann for the Organ Loan Fund

Gene & Judy Wiese in memory of Joan Hawkins for the Organ Fund Loan

Dar Roehl in memory of Cheryl Roehl for the Scholarship Fund

Harvey & Marlene Miller in memory of Joan Hawkins for the general fund

Mary Gammelin in memory of her mother Dorthea and in honor of her brother Reverend Paul for the general fund

Thank You From Zion

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help water flowers and assist with groundskeeping tasks this spring/summer and those who assist with ongoing building maintenance.

Thank you to all the pastors who have served during the past month: Pastor Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer, Pastor Mike Dismer, Pastor Karen Jewell

Thank you to those who have served as assisting ministers in June

Thank you to the members of our handbell choir and to our other musicians, and choir members

Thank you to all those who have helped with building security for worship services.

Thank you to our office volunteers who have helped in the past months, Lynn Walter, Janice Staedt, Grace Van Eyck and JoAnn Salm

Thank you to all who have served as ushers or volunteered in any way to serve our congregation.

Thank you to all who helped make the church picnic a success!

Thank you to all those who donated water or other items for the blessing box which continues to be an important resource for marginalized members of our community.

Church Picnic

