



Zion Lutheran Church

The Messenger

October 2024

A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :

October is here with a chill in the wind, showers of colorful leaves, apple cider and setting back our clocks. October also brings a “BOO” factor. We celebrate Halloween (All Hallows Eve) and the Mexican Day of the Dead by decoration with skeletons, witches and jack-o-lanterns. We frighten ourselves with scary movies, relieved when the lights come back on.

For Zion this can also be a scary time as we embark on the next step in our Affordable Housing Project. On Sept. 22nd the congregation voted 57 to 2 to move forward with the next step in the project. That was a brave step and I want to thank all those who made that decision as well as those who helped with the voting, Kandie Wilz, Gail Hunter, Tommy Meltz, Ray Pittman, Tom Sutter, Gene Wiese, John Korzilius and Bonnie Arps. The Council and the members of the Selection Team assure everyone that Zion’s interests will be protected and we will provide timely updates on the progress; the effect of “turning the lights on at the end of the scary movie”.

There are also bright spots to highlight. Rally Sunday marked the beginning of a new Sunday School year under the direction of Pennie Reis and confirmation directed by Stephanie Draheim. Thanks for all the work you put into these vital programs of Christian education. It is also uplifting to hear the “voices” of our littlest members. While some may look upon this as a distraction, we need to remember Jesus’s words in the gospel of Mark; “Let the children come to me, do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these”. Instead let’s welcome these little children to God’s house and rejoice in hearing the voices of Zion’s future.

On October 27th we will celebrate Welcome Home Sunday, a time to welcome several new members and reacquaint ourselves with members whom we have not seen recently. There will be a reception following the service which will give us a chance to share renewed fellowship. Please mark your calendars for this date.

Like October, this is a time of transition for Zion which can be unsettling and sometimes scary, but most of all we continue to be a community of faith. We must remember: “Let your faith be greater than your fear”.

-Sue Bunkert



The Vicar's Views



**“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity” ~
Ecclesiastes 3:1**



One thing can be certain, and that is change. The changing seasons show us a tangible expression of the sovereignty of God: “He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning (Daniel 2:21).” This scriptural reference refers to the authority of God in creation and all of life.

God has certainly given wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning (and they are not the same thing!) at Zion Congregation. You have been asked on a number of occasions for your input on how we worship, pray and sing. You have been asked to vote on how we proceed as a congregation in the future. There are meetings every month that plan and discuss how we will minister to others and conduct the business of the congregation. As both a ministry and a business, we balance the workload and the budget to remain a vital faith community on the corner of N. Oneida and Winnebago.

We have been a cornerstone in this community/neighborhood for 141 years and we expect to continue to be here for many years to come. Some of our members have seen many changes over the years--pastors, programs and people who have come and gone. And yet, we remain faithful and strong in our commitment to being a vital faith community. In the midst of all the changes, one thing remains the same: our Savior, Jesus Christ is here for us and walks with us through the peaks and valleys of our lives and the seasons of this faith community.

As we enter the Season of Autumn, let us remember the words of The Book of Ecclesiastes: “there is a time for every activity under the heavens.” May the Worship, education programs, scripture study, volunteer opportunities and fellowship at Zion enrich and encourage your life for all the changes that we can expect in the future.

Your Brother in Christ,
Vicar Jake



Zion Lutheran Church

October 2024

Monday, October 14, 2024

Submissions due for November's calendar

Wednesday, October 2nd

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Sunday, October 6th

Lectionary 27 (Pentecost 20)

Gen 2:18-24, Ps 8

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Heb 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Assisting Ministers: Grace Van Eyck

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:40 am

Reader: Jodi Hoesli

Worship Service 9:00 am

Acolyte: Charlee Weiland

followed by

Musician: Heather Watney

Coffee Hour

Opens/Closes: Jim Schley

Sunday School & Confirmation

Tuesday, October 8th

Zion Mutual Homes Meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, October 9th

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Sunday, October 13th

Lectionary 28 (Pentecost 21)

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Ps 90:12-17

Pastor Karen Jewell

Heb 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:40 am

Reader: Sue Joosten

Worship Service 9:00 am

Acolyte: Lily Gruselle

Followed by

Musician: William Surtees

Coffee Hour

Opens/Closes: Greg Pettigrew

Sunday School & Confirmation

Monday, October 14th

Zion Roundtable Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 16th

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Thursday, October 17th

Lunch Social 11:30

Sunday, October 20th

Lectionary 29 (Pentecost 22) Baptism of Eliza Jenson

Isa 53:4-12; Ps 91:9-16

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Heb 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Assisting Minister: Tricia Kasten

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:40 am

Reader: Pennie Reis

Worship Service 9:00 am

Acolyte: Alexa Rusch

followed by

Musician: William Surtees

Coffee Hour

Opens: Gene Wiese

Sunday School & Confirmation

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Monday, October 21st

Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm

Wednesday, October 23rd

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Sunday, October 27th

Reformation/Rally Sunday-Jazz Music

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 46

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Rom 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:40 am

Reader: Paula Staedt

Worship Service 9:00 am

Acolyte: Freya Budde

followed by

Opens: Gwen Schwandt

Coffee Hour

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Sunday School & Confirmation



Zion Council Minutes

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2024

Present: Sue, Karen F., Ray, Vicar Jake, Tom M., Kandie

Absent: Gail, Tammy, Kyle

Guest: Arnie Carlson

Opening devotion by Tom Meltz at 7 pm (Meeting start time was pushed back to allow all to join)

Approval of the Agenda: Motion was made and Approved

Approval of the Minutes: Motion was made and Approved for the July minutes

Administrators report: Discussion about renting the Parsonage to FSM (Fabricating Something More), a non-profit in Appleton. They work with Veterans and kids who have gone through trauma to name a few, and help them process through art. Motion made to rent the Parsonage pending Developer agreement. Bats were found in the belfry and also noticed in the sanctuary and school. The Santurary lift is working, thank you Gary! He is now working on the lift by the Chapel.

Finance: Discussed using designated accounts Kingdom for Kids and Nursery to be used for the Sunday School. Motion was made and Approved

Discussed the amount of money that is in the Checking account that is not earning that much interest. Recommendation from the credit union to move some of the money into the Savings account where it will earn more interest. This is looked at for Zion Mutural Homes (ZMH) to also put some of their money from the checking account into a money market account to accrue more interest

Affordable Housing Selection Committee meeting tonight

August 27th is PorchFest: Vicar Jake seeing if there is a group available to have a booth to make brats, hotdogs and hamburgers this year. If we don't have the manpower we will pass for this year and he will notify the organizer of such.

Volunteers in the office, Personnel committee going over reviews, Karen is meeting with the staff to discuss volunteers and their duties when filling in during office hours. We are very grateful to the volunteers and their continued support.

Proposing to be open on Friday's in the office but closed on Wednesdays due to Kimberly's upcoming school schedule. This could work out ok with Vicar Jake being available during Wednesday's.

Welcome Sunday- sending a mailing out to get members and neighborhood members to come back.

Sept 9th there will be a Worship Survey. This will help direct the Worship committee in preparing for Sunday services

ZMH: Overview of a letter to the residents of ZMH related to political signs. Since it is a part of the church, no political signs can be publicly displayed

Old business:

Affordable Housing meeting

Event Coordinator position: Wendy and Vicar Jake discussed funds to use as salary. They will discuss more, and the Personnel committee will be meeting on 8/28 and can discuss this position more

New business:

Pastor Dara agreed to do a 3 year strategic plan. Pros and Cons were discussed about the plan only being 3 years and not a long range plan.

Motion to dismiss at 8:02 pm

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

These minutes have not yet been approved.

Respectfully submitted by Kandie Wilz



Office Hours Update



The updated office hours for September 3rd-December 13th will be:

Monday-Tuesday: 9:30am-2:00pm

Wednesday: Closed

Thursday-Friday: 9:30am-2:00pm



Additionally, Office Administrator Karen Farlow's updated hours will be 9:30am-2:30pm two days per week on a two week rotating schedule. [either Wednesday/Thursday (weeks of Oct. 7th and 21st) or Monday/Tuesday (weeks of Oct. 14th and 28th)]

Affordable Housing Project Update

Team Meetings:

September 8th, Panel Presentation to Zion Congregation; September 9th, Roundtable Meeting; September 22nd, Zion congregation voting; September 23rd, Development and Planning Teams.

Meetings with Key Individuals/Organizations:

Carrie Sanders, Hope Community Capital. Faith in Place. Appleton Townmakers. Dan Beres, Impact Seven.

Important information:

- Our biggest news is that the Zion Congregation overwhelmingly voted to support the housing project! Those present last Sunday voted in favor of proceeding with the housing project and allowing the various Teams to proceed with their work on behalf of the project.
- More details were shared with regard to how the developers are conceiving of the project. This included a tentative proforma, timeline, and more. It is important to note that WHEDA has not yet released all of the necessary information for the developers to move forward with presenting our project, so we have to bide time until that happens.
- Appleton Town Makers will meet on October 9th. Zion Lutheran Church will be hosting the Town Makers meeting so we intend to use that opportunity to showcase our project in hopes of building some helpful collaborations among the people attending.

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, October 14th, Roundtable Meeting, in person at Zion Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall at 4:30-6 pm. Anyone may attend to hear updates on the affordable housing project.

A Ministry Update on Zion Lutheran Church's Housing Project

Last year FELC's annual giving appeal included an initiative to support Zion Lutheran Church as they explored options to provide affordable housing. Bonnie Nussbaum was hired to work with a dedicated group of volunteers from the church. Recently, Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer came back to lead the congregation and support the work that has already taken place.

They have solicited input from the neighborhood, the city and members of the faith community. They have explored the financial viability of commercial space, intentional communities and daycares. I have been amazed at the willingness of the steering team to dig in and explore options, to research the availability of outside funding and to modify their vision as they dealt with the realities of grant proposals and the interest of developers. In mid-September, the congregation voted on a proposal to move forward with a developer who plans to build 75 units of housing by renovating the two schools, razing the parsonage and replacing it with a new building, and putting up a new three-story building on the same block as Zion Place*. Their hope is to have a proposal in to receive a loan from the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development



Authority (WHEDA) by the deadline on Dec. 6.

Why are they working so hard? Because they have caught hold of a vision to be a church of Jesus Christ embedded in the community in a way that brings wholeness and life to many. They are determined to save and revive the church in a way that

makes it sustainable into the future and will give them an opportunity to share the grace and love of Jesus. There are still no guarantees that this particular project will be successful, but it is clear that there is a sense of excitement in doing something so meaningful. In September, First English was able to share with those at Zion \$5,000 toward their project. They are thankful for our willingness to be mutually supportive and not competitive - it is such a blessing to know that we share a mission to see faith in Jesus Christ last into the future.

I am so thankful to all of you at First English and your willingness to look beyond our walls and be a blessing to others. Thank you for joining together as "The grace of Jesus moves us to fearlessly join God in loving the world!"

~Pastor Mary

The lead article in the First English News is about Zion's "Affordable Housing" project. We are loved and supported by the people of First English through their encouraging words, participation in Round Table meetings and financial gift. The following article written by Pastor Mary Bauer from First English Lutheran Church, Appleton, is printed below. Thanks be to God for their sharing in our mission.

*The results of the vote were unknown at the time of printing.

Faith Formation

It's that special time of year where we gather to celebrate the start of faith formation for our Sunday School and Confirmation students.

Sunday School is open to all students who will be 3 years old by September 1st - 5th grade. Confirmation is typically for students who are currently in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, but high school students who are not confirmed have also joined in the past. If you have a student who would like to join our faith formation program, please email childfaithformation@zionappleton.org and we will help you get them enrolled.

Sunday, December 8th - Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15th - No Sunday School. Confirmation Class will be held.

Sunday, December 22nd - Christmas Break - No Sunday School or Confirmation Class.

Sunday, December 29th - Christmas Break - No Sunday School or Confirmation Class

Sunday, January 5th - Epiphany Walk (Special event for Sunday School and Confirmation).

Sunday, January 12th - Sunday School and Confirmation classes resumes as normal

Sunday, March 23rd - No Sunday School or Confirmation classes. Spring Break

Sunday, April 13th - Palm Sunday (Special event for Sunday School and Confirmation classes)

Sunday, April 20th - Easter - No Sunday School or Confirmation classes.

Sunday, May 18th - Confirmation Sunday. Last Day of Sunday School.

Stewardship Notes: Trusting God with Our Resources



Stewardship is not just about managing our resources; it's about trusting God to provide for our needs. As we reflect on our blessings, we remember that God is the source of all we have. This month, let's deepen our trust in God's provision and guidance.

Reflect on Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." How can you trust God more fully in your stewardship?

Memorials Gratefully Received

Donation from Jim Westphal & daughters in memory of Janice Westphal
for the general operating fund

Life Passages and Celebrations



**Vera Rose
Brossman,
daughter of
Evelyn Kasten &
William
Brossman was
baptised on
Sunday, August
25th**

Lunch Social Group



Come join the Lunch Social group. We get together every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30am. We change locations every month. Check the clipboard in the narthex to find out where we are going for the month. Please sign up or at least let Colleen know you are coming so she knows about how many are going to be there. Hope to see some new faces join us. No age limit.

Thank You From Zion

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

Thank you to Pennie Reis and Stephanie Draheim for their leadership in Sunday School/Confirmation.

Thank you to Vicar Jake and Pastor Karen Jewell for preaching/presiding over our services

Thank you to those who have served as assisting ministers and readers during September

Thank you to those who assist with fellowship after service

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

Thank you to our amazing office volunteers, Lynn Walter, Janice Staedt, Grace Van Eyck and JoAnn Salm-We are grateful for your service!

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

Thank you to all those who donate to the blessing box which continues to be an important resource for marginalized members of our community.