

Zion Messenger

A Monthly Publication of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church--Elgin, ND

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August 2023

Blessings to you and your summer!

As most of you know, I took a little over a week off for vacation in June. My wife and our two dogs went camping for a week in the Turtle Mountains. It was very relaxing and a lot of fun. One problem I have is that I hate missing out on Sunday service with you. However, it did give my wife and me the opportunity to worship together. It also gave us the chance to spend a little time with our two youngest children who are counselors at Camp Metigoshe. The camp staff help lead worship and lead the singing at their worship service.

Even though the rest and relaxation was needed, I was glad to be back at worship with you on the 18th. It is a joy to be here with you. It has been over five months since I started here with you. In many ways, it seems like it should be longer because of the comfort level I feel while walking together with you. We are now into summertime worship and numbers are down a little, but I trust y'all are not just sleeping in. When you have the chance to be with family, I hope that you are able to have some good quality time together. I know I relish any time I can spend with my family.

On July 29th, my oldest son got married, and I presided at their wedding, which was a blessing all in itself. While I was gone, the Bluestems were here helping with music for our worship. I really wanted to be here for that service; unfortunately the only date they had open was the day after my son's wedding.

As we venture into the last month of summer, please do not forget to worship with us as often as possible. We are a faith community, and it is important to strengthen our relationships. Jesus was very big on maintaining and renewing relationships. I do not believe He took time off from His Father, even with His busy schedule.

There are many times that Jesus prayed out loud to the Father for the benefit of those present and for our

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Early Worship Added During August

On Sundays throughout August, there will be a worship service held at 8:30 am, in addition to our 9:30 service. The 8:30 service will be shorter since there will be no music. Holy Communion will be a part of this service as well.

Please note that the worship assistants on the calendar are for the 9:30 service. Assistants for the 8:30 service will be recruited from those in attendance. If you are scheduled for 9:30 worship but need to attend the 8:30 service, please find someone to fill in for you. Thank you!



**WELCOME BACK
KIDS!
RALLY SUNDAY - AUGUST 27**

Sunday School and Confirmation students should bring their school backpacks to worship for a blessing by Pastor Mike.

Confirmation students and their parents will meet after worship to go over the handbook and Confirmation requirements.

Zion to Host Women's Fall Gathering



Women, please reserve this date on your calendars—
Saturday, October 21, 2023!

More exciting details of the Gathering will be announced next month.

WELCA News

Serving - Group 3 serves next, then Group 1.

Pies in the Park - On June 23, WELCA sold pies at Hamburgers in the Park raising \$440, and we received another \$70 in cash donations. Expenses were \$22.50. We are grateful for all those who brought pies to sell, bought pie to eat, donated money, and worked at the sale. Thank you!

Cluster Fall Gathering - On October 21, Zion is hosting the Heart River Cluster Fall Gathering. Mark your calendar now to reserve the date to attend this event.

Next Meeting - Thursday, August 10, at 1:30 pm.

LWR Quilt and Kit Tracker Discontinued

The software Lutheran World Relief (LWR) used for the last ten years that enabled congregations to track the destination of their donated quilts and kits was obsolete and was discontinued. LWR plans to replace the software, but it may take an extended time.

LWR continues to provide general data to congregations. In the fiscal year ending Sept 2022, 462,262 quilts and kits were distributed to 19 countries. We believe Zion's school kits, which are distributed through the Minnesota shipping warehouse, went to Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Niger, and/or Tanzania.

Quilts and kits touch hundreds of thousands of lives in their darkest hours. They provide reminders of God's grace and love to our neighbors most in need.

WELCA has gathered the supplies to prepare personal care kits using some of the proceeds from this year's church dinner. We will soon be assembling the kits, with the goal of shipping them in October.

Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!

Hebrews 13:1-2

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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Elgin ND 58533

Annual School Kit Drive Underway

It's that time of year again! The perfect time to purchase school supplies because they are going on sale!



Can you help us out by purchasing some school supplies? Here is the list of school supplies that go into each school kit:

- 4 - Notebooks with 70 sheets each, wide or college-ruled paper (about 8" x 10½")
- 1 - 30-centimeter ruler (may have inch measurements on one side)
- 1 - Pencil sharpener
- 1 - 2½" eraser
- 1 - Blunt scissors
- 5 - Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- 5 - Ballpoint pens, black or blue (no gel pens)
- 1 - Box of 16 or 24 crayons

Don't like to or can't shop for the supplies? No problem! If you wish to make a monetary donation, WELCA will purchase the supplies for you. Just make sure your contribution is designated to school supplies or kits.

Last year, we donated 76 school kits to LWR, which was one less than the year before. Let's see if we can do 80 this year!

**Hate has talked so loudly
for so long. Greed has
talked so loudly for so
long. Liars have talked so
loudly for so long.
Love has got to stop
whispering.**

-Marianne Williamson

Offerings & Gifts - June		
	Undesignated	Attendance
June 4	\$1,223	30
June 11	1,506	45
June 18	3,089	63
May 28	1,593	75
Total Undesignated	\$7,411	Avg Sun Attend: 53
Bulletins	20	
Offerings & Gifts - July		
	Undesignated	Attendance
July 2	\$ 2,071	50
July 9	1,918	74
July 16	10,091	64
July 23	1,976	88
July 31	1,352	78
Total Undesignated	\$17,408	Avg Sun Attend: 71
Bulletins	20	
Initial Ofgr Env	8	
Luth World Relief	100	
Miscellaneous Inc	35	
Income & Expenses - Year to Date		
Income	Undesignated	Other
\$78,307	\$76,737	\$1,570
Expenses	Budgeted	Designated Funds
71,373	71,083	290
Income vs Expense		
6,934		

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes ...
Romans 8:26



Pastor's Message *(continued from page 1)*

benefit. He was trying to help us understand that being in relationship with God is important. This is taken from John, chapter 11. It is right after they have rolled away the stone from in front of Lazarus's tomb.

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

Jesus prayed out loud to reinforce that He came from the Father and also to teach us how to pray. When we are praying by ourselves, there are many ways to pray. We may have a favorite prayer that speaks to our heart and that we love. We may use silence as a prayer. We are each different, and there may be something special that just resounds within us and helps us to feel God's presence. It doesn't always have to be spoken, and it doesn't always have to be words. There are many times when I am in nature, and I can feel the power of God flowing through what He has created.

Anything that is living is because God's Spirit is giving it life. This reminds me of Psalms 46, verse 10.

*"Be still, and know that I am God!
 I am exalted among the nations;
 I am exalted in the earth."*

If you have the opportunity, just stop and sit outside in God's creation. Let it be quiet, no added noise. Feel the breeze, the breath of God, observe the plants and animals, listen to the sounds of creation, and relax. Too often, we no longer have that quiet time to stop and experience all that is around us that God has made. It is important to be connected with creation, we are part of it, and we were never meant to be separated from it. In one respect, our portable phones have taken some of that away from us.

I truly believe that it is very important to get connected and to stay connected with God in a personal way. It is also very important to strengthen our connection with one another and to build relationships. It is also very important to be grounded in the nature that surrounds us, for God flows through all of creation.

When I looked at the thermometer, it was 97° F outside. When it gets hot like this, please check on

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Sunday School News

Greetings!

I hope this newsletter finds you relaxing and enjoying summer. Sunday School and Confirmation classes are just around the corner, and we cannot wait for the beginning of a great year together!

In Sunday School, we use a rotational program. This means that students study the same story for four weeks and rotate to a new room each Sunday. Each week they practice new skills in different ways and dive deeper into the story. This allows them to benefit from repetition and repeated exposure. Students will spend one week doing cooking activities, one week in arts and crafts, and one week with bible stories/games. On the fourth week, we will have a large group lesson with a service project or music lesson. We will be starting our year studying the Lord's Prayer. With this story, all students will work on memorizing the Lord's Prayer.

Later this fall, Pastor Mike will be hosting First Communion classes for students and their parents. If you feel your child is ready for First Communion and is able to understand the importance and significance of Holy Communion, please visit with either me or Pastor Mike to get on the list for classes.

Mission Fest will be on September 17. Sunday School and Confirmation students will again be hosting a soup and sandwich meal for our congregation after church. Along with the meal, we will be hosting a 'non-perishable food' and 'personal hygiene product' drive for the local Country Community Cupboard. Some items collected will also be used to restock Madison Zimmerman's Blessing Box (located in her yard across the street from church). Examples of some needed products are: toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, socks, hats/mittens, canned goods, pantry staples, etc.

The first day of Sunday School and Confirmation will be August 27, 2023. Each week classes will start after the worship service concludes. During worship on Rally Sunday (August 27), Pastor Mike will be doing a Backpack Blessing for the students. Please have students bring their backpacks to church for a special blessing and join us in recognizing and praying for the students and teachers for the upcoming year. After worship, confirmation students and their parents will be meeting to go over the handbook and confirmation requirements.

Be watching your mailbox this month for a Sunday School registration packet! I'm excited for a great year,

and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments.

Here are a few dates you can mark on your calendar:

- August 27 – Rally Sunday
- September 3 – No Class (Labor Day)
- September 17 – Mission Fest / Meal

Kaci Ulrich
Sunday School Superintendent

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Pastor's Message

(continued from page 3)

your family, friends, and neighbors. I don't care if you haven't spoken in years - check on them to make sure they are okay. This is another way that we can live out our faith as we love one another. Please continue to pray for one another; we all need prayers. I believe now, more than ever, we are going to need one another. I cannot quite put my finger on it, but my gut feeling is telling me that we really need to put petty things aside and mend relationships.

Ask God for the strength you need to live into the person God knows that you can be. And pray for your pastor. I love being here with you, and I can use the extra prayers. I pray for y'all and want health and happiness for you. I also worry about your eternal soul, I hope that I can be an asset for this parish and the surrounding communities. Remember that Jesus knew that all of us were worth dying for.

May God Almighty bless you, heal you, inspire you, guide you, encourage you, and remain with you throughout your lifetime!

Rev. Michael S HarriSon

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something, and enter God's realm where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for His almighty power. Nothing is too small for His love.
-Corrie Ten Boom

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
June 11, 2023**

Present: Stephanie Lince, Terry Bentz, Sydney Richardson, Kayedenn Rivinius, Virginia Rivinius, Bridget Winkler, Kenny Friedt, Jim Zimmerman.
Absent: Pastor Mike HarriSon, Ronae Hochhalter, Tabitha Zimmerman, Brandy Fuchs, Doug Rivinius.

The meeting was called to order by Stephanie Lince, president.

Secretary's Report: It was moved by Terry and seconded by Kayedenn to approve the minutes of the May meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: It was moved by Bridget and seconded by Sydney to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: None.

Correspondence: Received a thank you from Pastor Amundson for use of the church for baccalaureate service.

Committee Reports:

1. **Constitution & Bylaws** – Meeting June 25th.
2. **Mission Endowment Fund** – Committee recommended that Grant County Sheriff's Department receive this quarter's \$1250.00 to put towards first aid kits in patrol cars. It was moved by Kayedenn and seconded by Kenny to disburse the money to the Sheriff's Department. Motion carried.
3. **Parish Education** – VBS registration is still open.
4. **Property** – Paul Wutzke said he would have some availability after Elgin Days but his scissor lift is too big to get in Church and the school's lift does not go high enough. Jim will check on the price of scissor lift rental from Bismarck. Clean up day is set for June 24th, will be put in bulletin. Projects needing to be completed during cleanup day are seal and paint cracks on west wing walls, finish soffit by sanctuary windows.
5. **Cemetery** – Ron Fischer has been cleaning the area, Rita Anderson will keep a list of any graves she notices needing repair when mowing and trimming.

Old Business: Still looking for ideas for God's Work, Our Hands project. Kaci Ulrich has agreed to continue as Sunday School superintendent.

New Business: Copier maintenance service agreement is up for renewal. It was moved by

Stephanie and seconded by Bridget to renew the service agreement with Fireside for \$94.50 quarterly. Motion carried. WELCA has priced out cleaning carpets through Service Plus in the sanctuary and other areas and was wondering if the church would pay \$333.00 out of the Maintenance fund for cleaning of the pew cushions. It was moved by Terry and seconded by Kayedenn to approve the pew cleaning. Motion carried.

Other Business: Stephanie was asked about the possibility of earlier service on Sunday. She will talk to Pastor Mike.

Adjournment: It was moved by Kenny and seconded by Jim to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Bridget Winkler, Council Secretary

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
July 9, 2023**

Members Present: Steph Lince, Pastor Mike HarriSon, Brandy Fuchs, Tabitha Zimmerman, Terry Bentz, Sydney Richardson, Kenny Friedt, Bridget Winkler. Absent: Jim Zimmerman, Doug Rivinius, Ronae Hochhalter, Kayedenn Rivinius.

Called to order with a prayer by Pastor Mike.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed, motioned to approve report by Tabitha and seconded by Terry, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed, something to be thinking about is that there are 2 CD's coming due in August, will table decision until August meeting. Motion made to approve report by Bridget and seconded by Tabitha, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Reviewed, motion made by Tabitha to approve Pastor's report, seconded by Sydney; motion carried.

Correspondence: None.

Committee Reports:

1. **Constitution & Bylaws** – Met 7-2 and will meet again 7-16 to update Constitution and Bylaws.
2. **Finance** – Committee met 7-5, we are over budget for snow removal currently.
3. **Mission Endowment Fund** – Fund distributed quarterly money toward first aid kits in Grant County Sherriff cars.
4. **Parish Education** – Plan to use same curriculum as last year.

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Council Meeting - July 9, 2023

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5. **Property** – Work day was a rainy day so outside projects did not get completed, blinds are up and wired in, there are still a couple light bulbs to be changed to LED. NE skylight was leaking on workday, discussed if it was from volume of rain or possible plugged drainage. Discussed different options for West Entrance wing walls, concern about paint holding up to weather. Soffit by sanctuary also still needs to be done due to rain on workday.
6. **Cemetery** – Trees have been trimmed, discussion on putting fence along tree row, council felt it would be a spot for debris to get caught, felt we could leave it as is without a fence.

Old Business: Discussed God’s Work, Our Hands project, no decision made.

New Business: None.

Other Business: Discussed possible earlier service or 2 services in the summer. Pastor Mike is open to 2 services. Also discussed moving council meetings to Wednesday evenings during the summer, decided to leave as is for now since it is already July.

Adjournment: Motion made by Tabitha to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Brandy; motion carried.

Bridget Winkler, Council Secretary

Funds Raised in Our Synod for CAR

(See article to the right)

Year	\$ to CAR
2022	\$ 8,816.11
2021	12,000.00
2020	7,945.32
2019	25,313.76
2018	25,150.00

Old Stone Church’s 125th Anniversary



Sunday, August 6, at 12 noon
Worship Service by Rev. Mike HarriSon
Pot Luck Picnic (German-inspired dishes) and Fellowship following Worship

63rd Street, Elgin (7 miles north of Elgin on Hwy 49, then 1 mile west)

Metigoshe Lutheran CAR Challenge

Excerpts from Synod’s August 2023 Gospel Seeds

Many gathered in the Cities for a Centennial Celebration of our partner church in CAR (Central African Republic). They worshiped together, attended workshops, heard a panel about being a youth in the African church, and much more. There was history about the early church in Africa and what they envision as we walk together in faith into the next chapter.

In November, Bishop Schweitzer plans to attend the centennial events in the Central African Republic. He will present your Synod Assembly resolution as a Certificate they can hang in their church offices, congratulating them as they mark 100 years of life in the Gospel, and recommitting us to future ministry together as companions in the common work to which our Lord calls us.

We are called to strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, and sharing of resources. Every year we raise funds for CAR, although in recent years we have seen a marked decline. (See chart to the left.)

We could list many heartbreaking statistics about this land-locked country with so many needs, where a quarter of the population is displaced by continuous instability, and where life is so much shorter. As church together, we are called to address the bodily needs. The church there has schools, clinics, and Bible Schools we can support to help do this. As Bishop Schweitzer listened to President Ngog on the live feed, it was clear to him that even as we support these needs, we are ultimately ministering to the spirit, to those who hunger to meet Jesus. With us walking by them, the church there is best placed to nourish the heart, to strengthen believers, and to help us learn what it means to follow Christ in the midst of struggles.

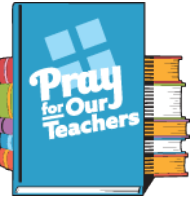

Metigoshe Lutheran would like to challenge you to match their \$7,500 fundraiser, about the number of miles from Metigoshe to Bangui in CAR. Acknowledging their blessings and all they have to share, Metigoshe Lutheran launched the “BRING US CLOSER” campaign to support our brothers and sisters of the CAR and give generously that they might be strengthened in God’s love through us.

What is it that inspires you to generosity? Is it meeting people’s physical and educational needs? Is it the thought of having our bishop there in person to greet them from you, or to help support their celebration of 100 years of hearing and sharing the Gospel? No matter what it is, each dollar sent is life changing and a rare opportunity to inspire them as they receive these gifts from Bishop Schweitzer’s hand on your behalf. Join Metigoshe Lutheran in this exciting challenge to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Central African Republic.

Abbreviations

- A - Acolyte
- AG - Altar Guild
- C - Communion
- L - Lector
- G - Greeter



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>August: the only month with no holidays. But still lots to celebrate— from friends to food to ... You name it!</p>		<p>1</p> <p>National Raspberry Cream Pie Day</p> <p>Clayton & Cyndy Z</p>	<p>2</p> <p>National Ice Cream Sandwich Day</p> <p>George & Chris G</p>	<p>3</p> <p>National Watermelon Day</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>AG: Kaci Delores</p>
<p>8:30 Worship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 12:00 Worship & Picnic @ Stone Church</p> <p>6</p> <p>A: Senora L: Eric C: Becky G: Marleen, Jackie</p> <p>National Friendship Day National Water Balloon Day</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Global Sleep Under the Stars Night</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Stephanie L Lance D</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1:30 WELCA Meeting</p> <p>National S'mores Day</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Ruby K Glenn & Kay R</p>	<p>12</p> <p>AG: Cassie Marie</p> <p>Marion G</p>
<p>8:30 Worship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Council Meeting / Fellowship</p> <p>13</p> <p>A: Axel L: Kay C: Steph G: Doug & Joleen</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Kalyssa L Blaine D Dale R Treyvn S</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Brandy F</p>	<p>16</p> <p>National Tell a Joke Day</p> <p>Presley F Leona R LeRay & Ramona W</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:30 Fellowship at Dakota Hill</p> <p>Brenda E Fred & Colleen E</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Grace F</p>	<p>19</p> <p>AG: Jackie Amber</p>
<p>8:30 Worship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship</p> <p>20</p> <p>A: Jace L: Yvonne C: Ronae G: Reuben, Virginia</p> <p>Joleen R</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>National Be an Angel Day</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>National Peach Day</p> <p>Vada F Blake U Mykayla W</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Melvin B Tabitha Z</p>	<p>26</p> <p>AG: Ronae Luann</p> <p>Christy F Senora S Axel S</p>
<p>8:30 Worship 9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship</p> <p>27</p> <p>A: Kade L: Patty C: Jill G: Chad & Joy</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>National Thoughtful Day</p> <p>Linda D</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Cassie & Andy R</p>	<p>30</p> <p>National Beach Day</p>	<p>31</p> <p>National Trail Mix Day</p> <p>Shelly S</p>		