

Zion Messenger

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August 2024

Happy summer to you!

I initially started writing this in June because I forgot we did not have a newsletter going out in July. So rather than completely rewrite it, I thought I would just add to it.

I walked over to church from where I am living, and the weather app says that it is 82° F; it feels about 10 degrees hotter to me. I am enjoying the warmth; I just cannot stay out in it as long as I would like to. This past weekend (June 21-23) we got about .80" of rain. The current heat and the recent rain got me thinking ...



One of the things I try to remember to pray for is the weather we need for a good harvest and healthy livestock. God can figure out that balance much better than I can. But I believe it is important to always ask for it. Our crops need the right conditions to grow well up to harvest. Our pastures need the proper weather to be at their peak condition. Our animals need the proper weather to be healthy and to thrive and grow. The other thing that I try to make sure we pray for is that God keeps our farmers and ranchers safe from harm.

We know how dangerous their careers can be. It only takes one mistake, and people can lose fingers, limbs, or their lives. I encourage everyone to keep them in your prayers. They are friends and family, members of our community, and some of them are members of our congregation. These people are all very important to us in many ways.

I would also like to mention some of the other people I include in our prayers of intercession during worship. I ask for God to strengthen and heal our military, our healthcare workers, our law enforcement, and our first responders. These people put their lives on the line for us in different ways, but they are all essential to the lives we are trying to live.

They, along with the farmers and ranchers and many other people with a variety of careers, help to keep our society going.

A few generations ago, we would have had to find our matches in order to light the candle or lamp in our home in order to see. Now we walk into a room and flip a switch to light the room without thinking about it. Most of us have indoor plumbing, and that is a blessing, especially in the bitter cold or the severe summer weather. Most of us have a reliable vehicle to get us where we need to go. We are very blessed by the amenities available to us.

I know that it is not all rainbows and sunshine. However, I do believe it is very important for us to remember those people who need our prayers—not just the people on our prayer list, which is very important, but these other people, too, because they help to make our lives much more livable. They do things for our benefit, and quite often they get little to no thanks.

Now I am writing from July. Something that has deeply impressed me was a conversation I had with someone about their parent who has died. They were telling me that they were always content with what

(continued on page 2)



Rally Sunday is August 25! Watch your mail for registration information for Sunday School. All students should bring their school backpacks to worship that Sunday for a blessing by Pastor Mike.

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

WELCA News

Serving - Group 2 serves next. Group 1 served the Julia Wutzke funeral.

Pies in the Park - On June 28, WELCA sold pies at Hamburgers in the Park raising \$441, and we received another \$40 in cash donations. We are grateful to Bonnie Kautz for gifting us the pie keepers and for all of you who brought pies to sell, bought pie to eat, donated money, and worked at the sale. Thank you!

Next Meeting - Thursday, August 8, at 1:30 pm.

Annual School Kit Drive Underway

Summer is flying right on by! It's back-to-school time already!

WELCA is doing the Lutheran World Relief School Kits drive again this year. 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 make a monetary donation, WELCA will purchase the supplies for you. Just make sure your contribution is designated to school supplies or kits.

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Contents not necessarily views of
Zion ELC or members.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Pastor's Message

(continued from page 1)

they had. They were not always dreaming about something bigger and better or something newer. They made due with what they had without complaining. And I found this refreshing. I have been guilty of wanting more, or newer, or better of a variety of things. I have realized that there are so many people who would be grateful to have half of what I have.

What concerns me most is that I cannot help but wonder if by not being grateful for what we have, are we disrespecting God, and are we saying that we have not been blessed enough? The last thing we should be is ungrateful, especially to God. I know there are millions of people who are below the poverty level. As of 2022 in the United States, we had 37.9 million people living below the poverty level. Around **700 million people** in the world live on less than \$2.15 per day, the extreme poverty line. That is \$15.05 a week, \$64.72 a month, and roughly \$776.58 a year!!!

I wonder if any one of us could live on that? I know I couldn't unless I was living on the land, hunting and gathering my food. I know we often think that they should just get a job. Unfortunately, not everyone is in a place where that is possible. Or maybe they come from a dysfunctional home and their lives are a struggle for them. Perhaps they are in need of medicine to help them think clearly or to physically be able to work. Without a job, there is no medicine. Sometimes it can become a vicious circle, and they can never get ahead enough to get it together and get a job, housing, insurance, and any number of other things so that they can get their heads above water.

God is the only one who can completely understand anyone's situation fully. So I encourage all us to think about what we can do to help ease the suffering of someone on this planet. I am open to hear suggestions of what we can do as a church to help those in need. I believe the last number I heard was that 60 families in our area need help. Many are too proud to ask for help.

So, please keep your eyes open and be kind. Do not embarrass them or shame them. But, when possible find out what they need, and let us see if we can make a difference, even if it is one family at a time.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Michael S. Harrison



Greetings! We hope this newsletter finds you relaxing and enjoying what is left of a hot summer! Sunday School and Confirmation classes are just around the corner, and we cannot wait for the beginning of a great year together!

In our Sunday School, we use a rotational Sunday School program. This means that students study the same Bible 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 out our year studying the story of Creation!

Later this fall, Pastor Mike will be hosting First Communion Classes for students and their parent(s). 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 Pastor Mike to get on the list for classes.

The first week of Sunday School and Confirmation will be on August 25, 2024. Each week classes will start around 10:30 a.m. or whenever the church service concludes. During church on Rally Sunday (August 25th), 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 church, 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! We are excited for a great year, and please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or comments. Here are a few dates you can mark on your calendar!

- August 25th – Rally Sunday / First Day of Sunday School and Confirmation
- September 1st – No Class (Labor Day)

Kaci Ulrich and Brittany Klein
Sunday School Superintendents

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

Offerings & Gifts - June

	Undesignated	Attendance
June 2	\$100	5
	977	45
June 9	270	8
	2,370	52
June 16	495	15
	1,370	52
June 23	386	12
	1,207	50
June 30	570	6
	1,482	59
Total Undesignated	\$9,277	Avg Sun Attend: 61
Bulletins	20	
Miscellaneous	1,749	

Offerings & Gifts - July

	Undesignated	Attendance
July 7	\$ 475	11
	1,191	55
July 14	680	14
	2,375	47
July 21	101	7
	944	40
July 28	525	10
	820	41
Total Undesignated	\$7,111	Avg Sun Attend: 56
Bulletins	20	
Miscellaneous Inc	200	

Income & Expenses - Year to Date

Income	Undesignated	Other
\$72,186	\$67,947	\$4,239
Expenses	Budgeted	Designated Funds
93,781	93,047	734
Income vs Expense		
-21,595		

Our thoughts are transferred into our biology, which means generosity, service, and altruism make us healthier from the inside out while giving us more joy in life.



@DRMARKHYMAN

Church Maintenance Items Completed

We have several maintenance tasks that we can take off the “to-do list”—some obvious, some not:

- AED and restroom signs were put up.
- Bulbs above the altar were replaced to make it brighter again.
- The church sign east of the parking lot was put back up with new posts after it was blown over during a spring storm.
- The cylinder on the east door was replaced because it leaked oil and didn’t work anymore.
- Leaky faucets in both bathrooms were replaced with touchless faucets, and the leaky faucet in the sacristy was replaced also. (Paid by WELCA.)
- A glide was put back on a drawer in the library, and a piece that was off the west inside door was put back on.
- Fire extinguishers were serviced.

Parking lot signs are on order and will be replaced because our current ones are very faded and not reflective anymore.

Fabric that will replace the faded fabric behind the altar cross has been purchased and sewn together, ready for it to be hung.

We are grateful to all who donated any of these items and/or did the work. *Many thanks to each of you!*

Redeeming “Wasted” Time

In *Just Like Jesus*, Max Lucado writes that the average American spends a total of six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, 18 months looking for items lost and five years standing in line. All the while, many of us grumble: “What a waste of time! I could be doing something much more important! *Where* are my keys?”

But Lucado suggests that we give these moments to God. Rather than whispering to ourselves, we can speak to God in prayer. “Simple phrases such as ‘Thank you, Father,’ ‘Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord,’ ‘You are my resting place, Jesus’ can turn a commute into a pilgrimage,” he writes. “You needn’t leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts.”

When we do this, “the common becomes uncommon,” Lucado adds. What’s more, “wasted” time becomes valuable; boring waits become meditative; the lost — your time, if not also your keys — is redeemed.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

For the month of August, we are looking for greeters, readers, communion servers, and ushers.

If you can help out, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex.

Thank you!

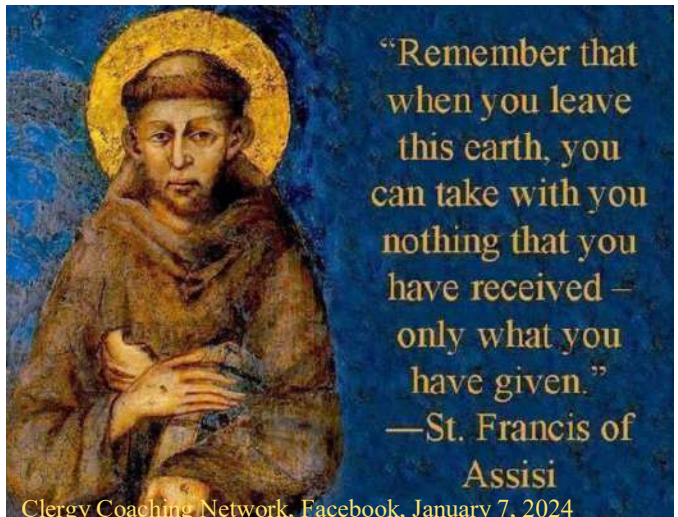
A Glimpse of Grace

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!” (Isaiah 55:1, NIV). I thought of this verse when I read about a seven-acre farm in Atlanta where people can pick fruits and veggies straight off the trees and vines, like a fresh-air produce market but bigger — and all free!

The Food Forest at Browns Mill, located amid a “food desert” in a city where one-fourth of the population experiences food insecurity, offers 2,500 edible and medicinal plants for anyone in need. People take only what they can use, and volunteers harvest extras to distribute in the community. It’s one of about 70 free-food forests in the United States. To me, it looks like a glimmer of God’s kingdom.

Imagine a world where everyone’s basic needs are met: food, clean water, shelter, clothing, health care, education, meaningful work, love — and the fulfillment of assisting and supporting one another. Isaiah envisions this reality coming true. Sometimes, even in our troubled world, we catch a glimpse of God’s abundant grace, tangibly lavished on all. Even better, sometimes we’re blessed with the privilege of helping it happen.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
June 9, 2024**

Present: Terry Bentz, Sydney Richardson, Rhonda Haas, Jackie Seibel, Travis Friedt, Kenny Friedt, Virginia Rivinius, Chris Gathright, Kayedenn Rivinius. Absent: John Schock, Brandy Fuchs, Blake Ulrich, Pastor Mike HarriSon.

Meeting was called to order by President, Terry Bentz followed with a prayer.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Kayedenn Rivinius to approve the May minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Kayedenn Rivinius and seconded by Rhonda Haas to approve the report. Motion carried.

- The church received a bill from Wayne Iszler for the blading he did in the church parking lot back in March. The bill came in at \$50. A motion was made by Travis Friedt and seconded by Kenny Friedt to pay Wayne Iszler the \$50. Motion carried.
- In December we paid out the mission money to the school in Carson and the school in Elgin but have found out the Carson school did not receive the check the church mailed. Virginia let the council know that there would be a \$30 fee to issue a stop pay on the check that is lost. A motion was made by Travis Friedt and seconded by Chris Gathright to issue a new check minus the \$30 fee for the stop pay on the old check. Motion carried.

Correspondence: The Church received a thank you letter from Lutheran World Relief for the donation.

Committee Reports:

1. **Mission Endowment Fund** – No update.
2. **Parish Education** – VBS will be June 24-27 at Hope Church in Elgin.
3. **Property** – Special meeting with the Congregation is scheduled for June 30th to discuss the projects needed to be done with the concrete slab, wing walls and drainage of the gutters.
 - West & East Entrance Wing Walls- one quote has been received and waiting to hear back on another. Putting extensions on the gutters is being looked into so we can keep the water drainage away from the walls which is causing the problems we have now.
 - Soffit by Sanctuary Windows- Doug's neighbor came and looked and said he wouldn't be able to fix it. Kenny will contact Marley Sprecher to see if the church could borrow his lift.

- Titled Concrete at East Entrance- two quotes came in to fix the concrete slab- Jim Nichols and ENG Curbing & Concrete.
- Altar Lights- Glenn Rivinius talked to Paul back in May. Paul has indicated he wants to come to the church and look at the lights as they are the wrong bulbs right now.
- Church Sign- the church sign out front was ruined from the wind/storms we have had. It is being looked into to get a new sign but for now the old sign will be put back up.
- Door Cylinder- the front door on the east entrance keeps slamming shut. Kenny will look into getting a new one to replace the current one.

Pastor's Report – Pastor gave a written report on what he had going on in the month of May. He continues to go to Dakota Hill for service, he has been helping with Meals on Wheels and continuing to get out into the community as much as he can.

Old Business

- Superintendent (terms ends June 30)- No update
- God's Work. Our Hands.- September 8, 2024 Ideas – Becky Imhoff will be coming to the July Council meeting to help with coordinating the Food Pantry Day with the day in the Park.

New Business

- Old Piano and Laptops – The church has 2 laptops and a piano to get rid of. Chris Gathright mentioned she would take the piano to put in her rummage sale to try to sell.

Adjournment – Motion made by Sydney Richardson and seconded by Chris Gathright to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Sydney Richardson, Council Secretary

Congregation Votes to Do Repairs

A special congregational meeting was held June 30 to seek input on the east entrance concrete and the brick disrepair at both entrances and to vote on whether to expend funds to remedy the situation.

The congregation was informed these projects could cost up to \$24,000 and that payment would come from the East Entrance and Church Renovations funds and a portion of undesignated Memorials.

It was a unanimous vote to move forward with the projects.

The council will consider the bids/quotes received at its July meeting. (July 9 council minutes on page 6).

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
July 14, 2024**

Present: Terry Bentz, Sydney Richardson, Jackie Seibel, Travis Friedt, Kenny Friedt, Chris Gathright, Pastor Mike HarriSon, Becky Imhoff. Absent: John Schock, Brandy Fuchs, Blake Ulrich, Rhonda Haas, Virigina Rivinius, Kayedenn Rivinius.

Meeting was called to order by President, Terry Bentz followed with a prayer by Pastor HarriSon.

Visit from Becky Imhoff re Country Community Cupboard – Becky Imhoff spoke to the council to help with better understanding what all the Food Pantry does.

Secretary’s Report: Motion made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Travis Friedt to approve the June minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Motion made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Sydney Richardson to approve the report. Motion carried.

Correspondence: The Church received a thank you card from the Elgin Alumni for allowing them to use the meeting room.

Committee Reports:

1. **Cemetery** – Ronnie Fischer has been making forms to fix gravesites out at the cemetery. Jim Nichel helped with finishing some of the forms. Ronnie Fischer asked if the church would be willing to give something to Jim for his time helping. A motion was made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Travis Friedt to give Jim Nichel a \$30 gift card to Our Place Café. Motion carried.
2. **Mission Endowment Fund** – No update.
3. **Parish Education** – No update.
4. **Finance** – This committee met last week Wednesday. The church is doing well and is on track as we are halfway through the year.
5. **Property** – A list of property items was completed at the church including replacing light bulbs, putting up the church sign, replacing the east door cylinder, AED & restroom signs put up, bathroom faucets replaced, library drawer track put on.
 - Soffit by sanctuary windows – Kenny will call Marley Sprecher to see if the church can borrow his lift.
 - Gutters and drainage – Terry has been in contact with Glenn Rivinius. Would like to look at getting a bid on putting more gutters up. Terry will contact Allan Bahm.
 - Parking signs – Signs need to be replaced outside the church. A quote was provided from Sign Solutions for the cost of new signs. A

motion was made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Travis Friedt to approve the quote from Sign Solutions. Motion carried.

- First extinguisher servicing – There are 6 fire extinguishers that need to be serviced. A motion was made by Sydney Richardson and seconded by Travis Friedt to approve the fire extinguishers to be taken to be serviced. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor gave some updates on his vacation days coming up and when he plans to be gone. He continues to go to Dakota Hills and the Care Center for services. He also continues to make visits with members. The 8 AM worship service is going well. It has been helpful for some people as this would be their only option for a service.

Old Business:

1. **Superintendent (term ends June 30)** – No response from Kaci Ulrich.
2. **God’s Work. Our Hands – September 8, 2024 Ideas** – Having it on a Sunday would be a better option so other churches can be invited to attend.

New Business:

1. **Consideration of bids/quotes** –
 - **Concrete** – Motion was made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Travis Friedt to accept the bid from Jim Nichel to complete the concrete work on the east entrance of the church. Motion carried.
 - **Brick Walls** – Motion was made by Jackie Seibel and seconded by Kenny Friedt to accept the bid from JJ Stone to repair both the west & east entrance walls. Motion carried.
 - **Brick Sign** – Motion was made by Travis Friedt and seconded by Chris Gathright to accept the bid from JJ Stone to repair the brick sign outside the church. Motion carried.
2. **Mission Fest** – Working on having someone come in from the Ministry on the Margins.
3. **Parsonage** – The Finance Committee brought up an idea of possibly getting a parsonage for our Pastor. The idea wanted to be put out there to think about and see if this is something we would like to move forward with.




Other Business:

- **Informational** – Arrangements are being made for Betty Hillius’s funeral, which may be held at Zion on August 10th with Pastor Bethany Haberstroh presiding.

Adjournment – Motion made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Chris Gathright to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Sydney Richardson
Council Secretary

AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Lord,</i> <i>May we be mirrors of Your love,</i> <i>reflections of Your grace,</i> <i>imitators of Your heart.</i> ~ Stacy L. Sanchez</p>				1 Clayton & Cyndy Z	2 George & Chris G	3 AG: Jackie S Ruby K
8:00 Worship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 4	5	6	7	8 1:30 WELCA Meeting	9 Stephanie L Lance D	10 AG: Jackie F Amber S
8:00 Worship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Council Meeting / Fellowship 11 Ruby K Glenn & Kay R	12 Marion G	13 	14 Kalyssa L Blaine D Dale R Treyvn S	15 Brandy F	16 Presley F Leona R LeRoy & Ramona W	17 AG: Brenda E Brianna R Brenda E Fred & Colleen E
8:00 Worship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 1:30 Worship at Dakota Hill 18	19	20  Joleen R	21	22 1:30 Fellowship at Dakota Hill	23	24 AG: Marleen K Linda K Vada F Blake U Mykayla W
8:00 Worship 9:30 Worship 10:30 SS / Confirmation Fellowship  Melvin B Tabitha Z 25	26 Christy F Senora S Axel S	27	28 Linda D	29 Cassie & Andy R	30	31 AG: Ramona W Leona H Shelly S