

Zion Messenger

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May 2024

Greetings and God's blessings upon you!

As the weather starts to get warmer and more birds come back for the summer, I am convinced that spring is here. There are more opportunities for us to be outside with work and with play. Take advantage of these opportunities every chance you get. We all know how precious good weather is, and we need to enjoy it and be thankful for it.



We will be having an 8:00 am service along with our 9:30 am service on Sundays from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends. This is to give you another option to worship with us during the summer months. If you are not able to be with us, the sermon will be posted on our Facebook account on Sunday. Please try to stay connected with your church family. We are important to each other, whether we realize it or not.

Sunday's Gospel was taken from John 15:1-8. In it, Jesus uses the analogy of a grapevine. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. In order to properly grow productive grapevines, there is a lot of pruning that has to happen. This may appear to look pretty harsh at times, but it is necessary. When properly pruned, the vine will produce a good harvest. Something I recently discovered is that there are branches on the vine that do not produce any fruit. If they are left intact and allowed to grow, it can have a negative effect on the quality of the fruit.

Many of us might be aware of the pruning that is done in the winter when the plant is dormant. However, there is also a need to prune the plant after it starts growing. If there are vines that are not producing any fruit, they need to be cut close to the thick part of the vine. Proper pruning during the growing season allows sunshine to get through and improve the fruit as well as controlling disease.

The people in Jesus' time would have known this better than us. When we think about it, this does

make sense. When we are contributing to Jesus' mission in this world, honestly doing the best we can, then we produce fruit. We spread the love of Christ to other people around us and/or in the world. If, on the other hand, we are just out for ourselves, not caring about anyone but our own self-interests, are we working for God?

Together as the body of Christ, we can have a positive affect on so many people in our communities, in our state, in our country, and in our world. As the branches, we draw our strength from the vine, Jesus Christ. When we try our best to live as Jesus taught us to live, then we are able to have a positive impact on our world. Together nourished by our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we *can* make a difference. Even if we start out small, everyone who is touched by our congregation will feel the love of Jesus through us.

There are many people who need our help as a parish and as individuals. Prayerfully ask God to guide us as to how we can help. We can show our children and our grandchildren how to live as Jesus taught us to live, through our own example, by loving one another the same way Jesus loves us. By this we will teach them how to truly be a Christian, by our love.

I hope and I pray that you all have a great, safe, productive, and fun summer! Please remember your church, because without you, it is just another building.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Michael S. Harrison

Graduate Recognition and Potluck, May 5

Our graduating high school seniors will be recognized during worship and with a reception during fellowship.

We will have potluck dinner after classes and fellowship with ham, meatballs, and potatoes provided by WELCA. Everyone is invited to stay!

WELCA News

Serving - Group 1 serves next.

We are blessed! WELCA is very grateful to every single one of you who helped make our annual dinner a success—those who helped with publicizing it, donations of money and food, serving, cleaning up, and even eating! All of us working together makes our dinners successful. Thank you for being a blessing to us so that we may be a blessing to others.

We served about 220 people. After all bills are received, we are donating half of the proceeds to the Country Community Cupboard and a quarter to Ministry on the Margins.

Synod Women's Convention - June 21 & 22 (Friday-Saturday) at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck. The theme is Peace Like A River.

Next Meeting - Thursday, May 2, at 1:30

We Welcome A New Sister in Christ

Pastor Michael HarriSon baptized Willow Casey Koeplin on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. Willow is the daughter of Kasey and Brittany Koeplin. Her sponsors are Vivian and Roland Jaramillo and Brandy and Jack Fuchs.

We welcome her into the Lord's family and pray that He blesses her and guides her in His way.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental illness is an uncomfortable topic for most people:

- Some may not have had interactions (at least, to their knowledge) with people living with mental illness.
- Misinformation abounds in our society about causes and symptoms of mental illness.
- Stigma remains around mental health struggles.
- Some people tend to avoid any discussion of mental health struggles.

It is reported that more than 20 percent of people live with diagnosed mental illness.

In recent decades, our society has become more open in talking about mental health care. One example is that increasing numbers of young adults are comfortable sharing that they visit a therapist. However, we're still not in a place where everyone feels safe and comfortable with this subject.

Gather Magazine has made a devotional available. If you wish to go through this individually, you may watch the [Introduction to Mental Health video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00qGS-2UYDE) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00qGS-2UYDE>). The [devotional text](#) and related articles can be found at gathermagazine.com. The devotion includes people in the Bible who had mental illness. Jesus' earthly life of compassion, service and healing is our model for addressing mental health.

Get Your Cards and Gifts in One Place!

WELCA has Mother's Day cards available for sale (50 cents), along with some really nice gift ideas.

If your mother's or your grandmother's dish towels are holey, drab, or stained or her knives are worn, you may want to consider gifting new ones. We have individual pieces and some sets of both embroidered towels and Rada cutlery and utensils.



Save the Date

ELGIN/NEW LEIPZIG VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 24-27, 2024 ~ 3:30-5:30

HOPE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - ELGIN


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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
400 2nd AVE NE
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Offerings & Gifts - April

	Undesignated	Attendance
April 7	\$2,509	80
April 14	1,933	97
April 21	1,670	83
April 28	2,114	90
Total Undesignated	\$8,226	Avg Sun Attend: 88
Initial Ofrg Env	7	
Parish Education	200	
Thrivent Choice	176	
Sunday School	104	Avg SS Attend: 20

Income & Expenses - Year to Date

Income	Undesignated	Other
\$42,372	\$39,723	\$2,649
Expenses	Budgeted	Designated Funds
57,478	56,785	693
Income vs Expense		
-15,106		



*... for your
dedication to
teaching God's
children of His love
and grace.*

Only 50 Cents Each! Get Them Here ...

WELCA has beautiful graduation cards for just 50 cents each!! Boxed cards are priced as marked. Cards can be found in the Library. Make your selection and leave your payment in the box in the southwest corner.



We also have a nice selection of Thank You cards from which to choose. Boxed cards can be found on the west counter in the Library; individual thank you cards are on the shelf near the copy machine.

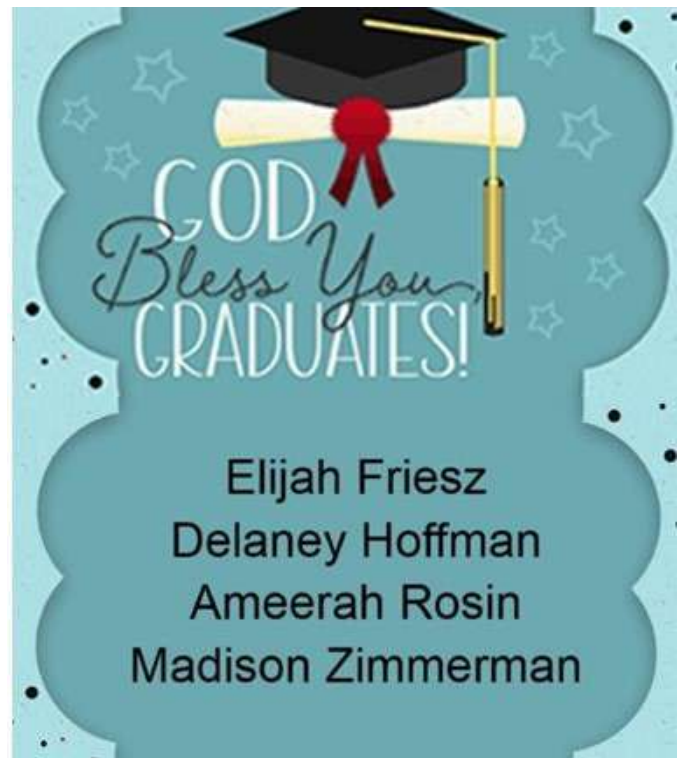
Worship During Summertime

From May 26 through September 1, there will be two worship services each Sunday—at 8:00 am and at 9:30 am. The council made this decision so that people are able to attend worship before they leave town for the many activities on Sundays in the summertime.

Since we do not know who will attend which service on a given Sunday, we are asking for your help with worship assistants. A signup sheet was started for May 26 through the month of June. On the sheet, there are spaces for the various jobs. Please give consideration to how you can help, and sign up for the job(s) you prefer for the worship service(s) you think you will attend.

The signup sheet will be left on the narthex table. So if you need to change when you're signed up for a job, that's okay. Circumstances arise that require us to occasionally miss church. You can also see if there is someone with whom you can switch or get someone to take your place.

Thank you for your participation, cooperation, and patience. And have a blessed summer!



Please join us Sunday, May 5, when we honor our graduates during worship and at fellowship. Cake and refreshments will be served at fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join the celebration and wish them well in the next chapter of their lives!

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

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

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

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Rhonda Haas to approve the March minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Jackie Seibel and seconded by Sydney Richardson to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Will be on vacation June 3-17.

Correspondence: Received a Thank You from Dakota Hill for the donations that were given. There were requests for donations from World Hunger & Lutheran Disaster Response, those will be given to the Mission Endowment Fund committee. It has been pointed out there is a conflict in the Constitution and Bylaws regarding the council president's role and voting on the Mission Endowment Fund committee.

Committee Reports:

1. **Finance** – Committee met on April 10th to go over the Q1 expenses. Recommendations were brought up for the \$81,000 sitting in the Parsonage Fund account.
2. **Mission Endowment Fund** – Haven't met yet.
3. **Parish Education** – Kaci Ulrich met with the churches for VBS this summer.
4. **Property** – Committee is planning to meet April 21st to go over different projects needing to be done.

Old Business:

1. **Committees** – Not many changes were made to the committee listing. Pastor does still need to contact a few people. Motion made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Rhonda Haas to approve the committees. Motion carried.
2. **Synod Assembly Delegates** – Pastor is needing to reach out to the couple about this.

New Business:

1. **Summer Worship** – Motion made by Rhonda Haas and seconded by Travis Friedt to start summer worship Memorial Day weekend and go through Labor Day weekend. There will be 2 services, one at 8:00 & the other at 9:30. Will do checking with Todd to make sure this will work for him. Motion carried.

2. **Signer(s) for Thrivent Accounts** – Motion was made by Jackie Seibel and seconded by Travis Friedt on adding the Treasurer and President as signers on this account. Motion carried.

Other Business: None.

Adjournment – Motion made by Sydney Richardson and seconded by Travis Friedt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Sydney Richardson, Council Secretary

*Next to the Word of God,
music deserves the highest praise.
The gift of language combined with the gift
of song was given to man that he should
proclaim the Word of God through music.
~ Martin Luther*

A Gift of Music in Memory of Janice

The family of Janice Kauffmann gifted us with her beautiful Baldwin piano in March. We are grateful for this gift in Janice's memory.

We are currently learning another liturgy using piano and are eager for the piano to be used for other activities involving music as well.



Abbreviations

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Oh, be swift to love, make haste to be kind!</i></p> <p><i>~Henri-Frédéric Amiel</i></p>			<p>1</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:30 WELCA Meeting</p> <p>Doris F Josh & Gwen R</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AG: Jill F Virginia R</p> <p>Sisco M</p>
<p>9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Grad Reception / Fellowship 11:30 Potluck</p> <p>5</p> <p>A: Trevyn L: Eric C: Jill G: Ruby, Fred</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Josh R</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AG: Julie S Kay R</p> <p>Kay R</p>
<p>9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Council Meeting / Fellowship</p> <p>12</p> <p>A: Terrin L: Lance C: Becky G: Shelby, Jackie</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Evelyn A Wayne N Gracelynn U</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 Baccalaureate at Zion</p> <p>Trevor R</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:30 Fellowship at Dakota Hill</p> <p>Hadley K</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Debbie M</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AG: Doris F Lorele L</p>
<p>9:30 Worship 10:30 Worship Comm Mtg / Fellowship 1:30 Worship at Dakota Hill</p> <p>19</p> <p>A: Sloan L: Kaci C: Steph G: Doug & Joleen</p> <p>Wyatt D</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Rocky U</p>	<p>21</p> <p>John S Haylee S</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>LeRoy W</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Byris H Reuben Z</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AG: Luann D Patty Z</p>
<p>8:00 Worship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship</p> <p>26</p> <p>8:00 A: L: C: G: Marleen, U: Thelma, Glenn</p> <p>Sidh H Jackie S</p>	<p>27</p> <p>A: Senora L: C: G: LeRoy & Ramona U:</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>Bill & Cheryl W</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Terry & Nicole B</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Shannon H Kylor R</p>	