



Zion Messenger

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

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November 2024

Peace be with you!

I know it might not seem like it, but winter is knocking at our doors. Soon we will be watching the weather and following the road conditions more closely. I encourage you to make plans with your family, friends, and neighbors to help with snow removal or to check in on one another. When the roads get bad, there may be people we know who need a ride. We may know people who need to avoid the icy conditions, and perhaps we could pick up their groceries for them. There are many ways to love our neighbors.



It is important for us to care for each other. It is good to give that help, and it is very important to allow others to help us. Many of us do not mind helping others, but we resist letting someone help us. It could be pride; it's hard to say. But if we really think about it, help is a two-way street. It is a give-and-take situation, because there is no shame in being helped by another person. Actually, we are giving them an opportunity to share God's love with us.

We are all beloved children of God. Through our baptism, we are united with Jesus, and we are all one family. We are sisters and brothers in Christ. Why wouldn't we look out for each other? I know that with my siblings, even if I'm upset with them, I still help them. We need each other, and it is important for us to put any differences that we have aside and listen to Jesus. He told us that we are to love one another the same way that He loves us.

Jesus knew that we would have difficult times when we would need to pull together. I have been encouraging us to be welcoming to new people coming to our church, and I have been told some very positive feedback from visitors and new people worshipping with us.

I think it is easier to remember that our church is also our home. How would you treat someone in your

home? I am guessing you would make sure they had a beverage, that they knew where beverages are, that they are not sitting by themselves. I bet we would even introduce them to other people. I think we just forget to be a host at times. I have enjoyed getting to know you.

I realize I have a long way to go yet, but you are good people and worth getting to know. I am still trying to get to know names. It is a constant battle for me. I do need to tell you that from what I have seen, you have all the makings for an even more amazing congregation. You do a lot of things very well, and I am truly proud to be your pastor. I am grateful to be with you.

I pray that God continues to bless our congregation and all the people we encounter in our daily lives. God has truly blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Michael S. HarriSon

Faith in Action: Our Call to Civic Engagement During the 2024 Election

God calls us to care for our neighbors and actively shape a just and compassionate society. [Civic engagement](#), including voting and public service, is a meaningful way we live out our faith in the public sphere. The ELCA encourages everyone to engage in the political process with integrity, advocating for justice, peace, and the common good.

Our efforts are resourced theologically by two key social teaching documents rooted in God's Word through the Bible. These are [Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy](#) and [Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective](#).

[Browse these and other resources](https://elca.org/civicingagement) ([https://elca.org/civicingement](https://elca.org/civicingagement)) that will educate and equip you as a disciple in a democracy.

WELCA News

Serving - Group 3 serves next.

Thank you! - We are thankful for Joy Ottmar and Pastor Mike helping us out by transporting the school kits and personal care kits to Midwest Motor Express. Midwest Motor Express takes them to a Lutheran World Relief distribution center in St Paul where they are distributed to wherever needed.

Heart River Cluster Gathering - Our speaker at the Gathering on October 19 was Rev. Gail Hagerty, pastor of Heart River Lutheran Church, which is on the grounds of the Youth Correctional Center, Mandan. She spoke on the change and needs of the incarcerated population and services for clients transitioning into society. Robin Bentz and Virginia Rivinius were installed as the Cluster's Discipleship Coordinator and Justice Coordinator, respectively, at the gathering.

Next Meeting - Thursday, November 7, at 1:30 pm.

Hungry for Jesus

Many residents of first-world countries avoid true physical hunger, grazing at the slightest stomach rumble. Spiritually, the opposite is common. Many people run on empty, unaware of or rejecting Jesus' free gifts of grace, love and abundant life.

In her Magnificat, Mary proclaims, "He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:53, NIV). To be filled with Jesus, first we must empty ourselves and hunger for him. But what does that look like?

At Bible.org, pastor Steven J. Cole writes, "Starving people aren't interested in new smart phones or computers, unless they can somehow sell them to buy food. Hungry people have one focus — where to find food. It consumes their whole existence. ... That's how we should hunger for God!"

Spiritual hunger leads to a feast of God's blessings. He generously gives us gifts that overflow into the lives of others. So let's share Jesus with people who are starving for him!

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"For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him."



THE CREED The First Article On Creation

*I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and
earth.*

What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.



What Your Heart Clamors To Do

We often speak of pastors as having a divine "calling." God gives them a strong sense of purpose for a specific holy role, like how Old Testament prophets were called to bring messages to God's people. But what about the rest of us? Is teaching, practicing medicine, being a plumber, writing or another non-church job also a "call"?

Martin Luther and others have said we should seek work that benefits others and for which God has given us talent. We should also treat any good work we do as a calling — be it cleaning a house or school, mending a broken leg or torn garment, or (as Luther mentioned a *father* doing — in the 1500s!) changing a baby's diaper.

Dorothy Sayers wrote that "work is not primarily a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do," and that "we should clamor to be engaged in work that [is] worth doing, and in which we [can] take pride." What work does your heart clamor to do? In other words, what is *your* divine call?

Offerings & Gifts - October

	Undesignated	Attendance
October 6	\$1,718	94
October 13	2,107	85
October 20	1,525	67
October 27	1,773	100
Total Undesignated	\$7,123	Avg Sun Attend: 87
Bulletins	40	
Missions	90	
Thrivent	50	
Sunday School	17	Avg Attend: 14

Income & Expenses - Year to Date

Income	Undesignated	Other
\$101,522	\$95,472	\$6,050
Expenses	Budgeted	Designated Funds
156,606	134,662	1,715 Repair Projs – 20,229
Income vs Expense		
-55,084		

Blessings to Shayli on Her Confirmation



Shayli Rae Rivinius publicly professed her faith during the Affirmation of Baptism service officiated by Pastor Mike on Reformation Sunday, October 27.

Congratulations, Shayli, on this faith milestone. We pray Shayli is renewed and strengthened by the

Holy Spirit as a disciple of Christ and a new confirmed member of our congregation.

Three Kinds of Giving

“There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, ‘I have to’; duty giving says, ‘I ought to’; and thanksgiving says, ‘I want to.’ The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God.”

—Robert N. Rodenmayer



eGiving - Secure and Convenient Giving

eGiving, or electronic giving, is a secure, convenient, and easy way to give your offering to Zion. It allows you freedom from worry or concern when you don't have cash or a checkbook with you or when you are out of town or on vacation. You can give a one-time donation or schedule and manage recurring donations. You can give using a credit or debit card or your bank information.

Access eGiving through either of the following options:

- **Online** – Go to zelcelgin.com and click on “eGiving.” This will take you to a secure page on our vendor's (Vanco) website where you can begin entering your information.
- **Mobile app on your smartphone** – Search for “Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement” in your App Store or Google Play and download it to your smartphone. Open the app, and you will be prompted to find our church by zip code (58533) or by name (Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church). You will be prompted to log in if you already have an account or to sign up for an account. Vanco Mobile is also secure.

If you have questions or need assistance with electronic giving online or with the mobile app, please call the church office at 584-2902.



Saturday
November 9
8:00 am

Honoring Our Veterans

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel.

It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when “nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4, NIV).

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
October 13, 2024**

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

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

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

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

Correspondence: The church received a thank you card for the picnic in the park the church put on for the community.

Committee Reports:

1. **Cemetery** – The work of the brick pillars will be put off until next spring/summer.
2. **Finance** – Committee met to go over Q3 expenses and where the church is sitting compared to the budget.
3. **Mission Endowment Fund** – No update.
4. **Parish Education** – Committee met last week. There are 17 Sunday School students and 8 students in confirmation. There will be one student getting confirmed this year. Six bibles were purchased this year through the Education Funds for students that don't have one. Going forward, students will receive a bible when they enter Kindergarten.
5. **Property** –
 - Soffit by sanctuary windows – This project has been completed.
 - Gutters and drainage – All gutters and drainage were completed by Bammer's. Glenn Rivinius still needs to complete his part for the drainage.
 - Paint the bell tower – Will need to be sandblasted and painted. This will be a later project.
 - Paint the south and northeast doors – Will need to be sandblasted and painted. This will be a later project.
 - South entrance concrete – Terry contacted Jim Nickel about the south entrance. Jim will be getting the church a quote for the repair.

Pastor's Report: Pastor will be gone November 15-18. Pastor is starting to get the confirmation kids involved in helping lead the church service. He is also looking at getting adults to help.

Old Business:

- God's Work. Our Hands. Picnic in the Park Recap - Went over very well. The church was able to serve a great number of community members.
- Stewardship Committee – Currently Eric Friesz and Travis Friedt are on the committee. Ryan Rivinius has also agreed to serve on this committee. A motion was made by John Schock and seconded by Kenny Friedt to approve the acceptance of Ryan Rivinius on the committee. Motion carried.
 - ◊ A motion was made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Chris Gathright to approve the acceptance of Sherri Rafteseth on the committee pending her decision. Motion carried.
- Nursing Room Update – Kaci Ulrich received a \$250 Thrivent grant. She will be purchasing a rocking chair and a changing table to put into the room. It is also being worked on to get signage put up.
- Work Day – Inside of the church is needing cleaning done. November 9th starting at 8:00 AM. A motion was made by Pastor Mike and seconded by Sydney Richardson to approve the date. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Renewal of CD #3531 (General Fund) & #2430 (General Fund)
 - ◊ #3531 – A motion was made by John Schock and seconded by Travis Friedt to renew \$40,000 at 3 months - 4.70% and put \$1,235 into the savings account. Motion carried.
 - ◊ #2430 – A motion was made by John Schock and seconded by Travis Friedt to renew \$50,000 at 3 months - 4.70% and put \$1,518.75 into the savings account. Motion carried.
- Use of Church - June 21, 2025 – The Class of 1975 would like to use the fellowship hall for their 50th class reunion. A motion was made by Kenny Friedt and seconded by Jackie Seibel to approve the use of the church. Motion carried.

Other Business:

- Piano – Looking to sell the piano in the back room.
- Grief Support Group – Weekly sessions of grief support will take place at the church on Sunday afternoons. A motion was made by Pastor Mike and seconded by John Schock to approve the use of the church for grieving group. Motion carried.
- Cemetery Fund – A motion was made by Pastor Mike and seconded by Kenny Friedt to put \$10,000 of the cemetery funds back into a 7 month CD. Motion carried.

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

Sydney Richardson, Council Secretary

Abbreviations

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>"Prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God."</i> ~ Teresa of Avila</p>					<p>1</p>  <p>ALL SAINTS DAY</p>	<p>2</p> <p>AG: Cyndy Z Delores S</p>
<p>9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Constitution & Bylaws Committee Meeting / Fellowship</p> <p>A: Landon E L: Eric C: Joy G: Chad & Joy</p> <p>Kip H</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Gloria S</p>	<p>5</p> <p>ELECTION DAY</p> <p>Vote Faithfully</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:30 WELCA Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Janet D Mildred R Mason & Laura Z</p>	<p>9</p> <p>AG: Kay R Brittany K</p> <p>8:00 Work Day @ Zion</p>
<p>9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Council Meeting / Fellowship 1:30 Worship @ DH</p> <p>A: Axel L: Nicole C: Shayli G: Jim & Patty</p> <p>Ronae H</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Honoring ALL WHO SERVED THANK YOU VETERANS</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:30 Fellowship at Dakota Hill</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 Confirmation</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Allie F Danielle H</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Pastor Mike gone</p> <p>Gen B</p>	<p>16</p> <p>AG: Joleen R Connie H</p> <p>Shayli R</p>
<p>9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship</p> <p>A: Clay L: Jace C: Sydney G: Glenn & Kay</p> <p>Pastor Mike gone</p> <p>Mingo K</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Elijah F</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Patty Z</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Tucker F Joel K</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Alan A Darvin B</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Cheryl W Dale & Arla R</p>	<p>23</p> <p>AG: Robin B Chris G</p>
<p>9:30 Worship 10:30 S School Confirmation / Fellowship</p> <p>A: Shaylee L: Evan C: Kylor G: Quincey, Reuben</p> <p>CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Sherry F</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00 Community Soup/Bread Meal at Immanuel, NL 7:00 Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Immanuel, NL</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Justin L</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bree R</p>	<p>30</p> <p>AG: Nicole B Ashley L</p> <p>Brady F</p>