

# Zion Messenger

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

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October 2023

God be with you!

My prayers are with you! It seems like I have been with you longer than I actually have been. I have enjoyed being here and feel like this is my home. You have been kind and supportive, and I greatly appreciate it. I know that it can be difficult to let someone new into our lives, and trust between people takes time to build. I feel like the Spirit is working extra hard here and God is more active in our midst than we may realize.

I have felt like we were meant to be together. I can't explain it, but it just feels right. Mind you, I know that I am far from perfect, and I can just keep trying to walk with you to the best of my abilities. As I have told you before, I rely heavily on the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told the Apostles that He would ask the Father to send the Spirit of Truth to help us.

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. (John 14:15-17)

<sup>25</sup> "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me, <sup>31</sup> but I do as the Father has

*commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. (John 14:25-31).*

We are not alone, and we don't ever need to be, unless we choose to be alone. Leaning on the Spirit is not a sign of weakness—it is our source of strength. Anytime we are troubled, concerned, anxious, sad, in crisis, struggling, (just to name a few reasons), it is our good fortune to have the Holy Spirit to help us. When we find ourselves in need, take a few moments to ask God for help. Ask Him to send the Spirit to help you and support you, and most importantly, *believe that you will receive that help!* Try to remember when you were a child and some of the things you believed in beyond the shadow of a doubt.

Believe in God's power and God's desire to help you, believe with the faith of a child. Ask in Jesus' name and place your trust in God, *trust is faith!* Jesus is incapable of lying. Know that everything that Jesus taught us was for our own good. He truly wants us to succeed, why else would He prepare a place for all those who love Him?

<sup>1</sup> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:1-3).

I have included the scripture so that you will understand that I am not making this up, but I am

*(continued on page 3)*

## WELCA News

**Serving** - Group 2 serves next.

**School Kit Drive** - Thank you to those who donated school supplies or money to purchase school supplies. The Sunday School kids are currently packing the bags with the supplies. And we are anxiously waiting to see how many kits we end up with!

**Personal Care Kits** - With proceeds from our annual dinner, we purchased supplies and assembled 103 kits to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief.



**Cluster Fall Gathering** - October 21 here at Zion. See more information below and on page 6.

**Next Meeting** - Monday, October 9, at 9:30 am

### Fall Gathering RSVP Due October 16

Zion is hosting the Heart River Cluster's Women's Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 21, from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm MDT. Mark Meier, Executive Director of Heavens Helpers Soup Café in Bismarck is the speaker.

**RSVP by October 16 by contacting Doris Friedt at 584-3726 or [doris.friedt@yahoo.com](mailto:doris.friedt@yahoo.com).** The registration fee is \$10 and includes lunch.

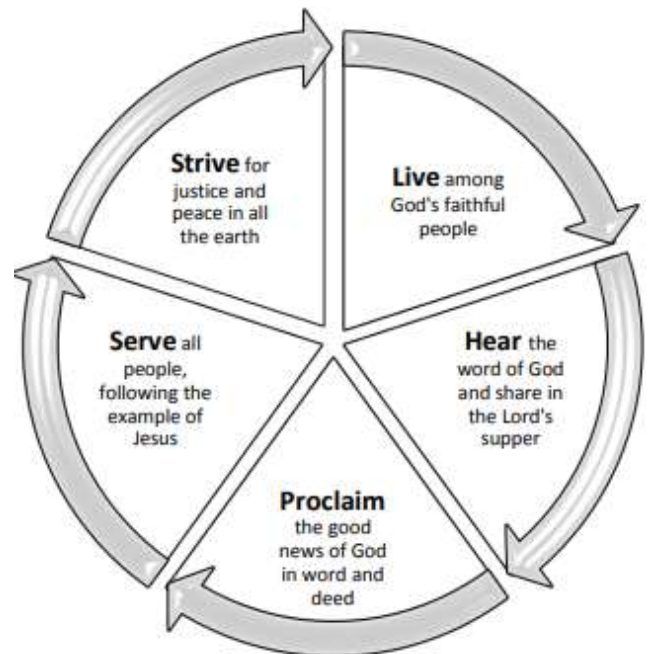
See the flyer on page 6 for more information.

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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## Living Our Baptism ... *Five Gifts of Discipleship*

On October 29, two of our confirmation students will be affirming their baptism. They will be asked if they intend to continue in the covenant God made with them in Holy Baptism: to **live** among God's faithful people, to **hear** the word of God and **share** in the Lord's supper, to **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to **serve** all people, following the example of Jesus, to **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth.

The five gifts of discipleship help guide us in living out our baptism. Each of the gifts has the potential to deepen our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit provides these gifts of discipleship with each of the five gifts flowing and overlapping with the others. On a daily basis, we are called and gathered to live among God's faithful people and hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper; then we are sent out to proclaim the good news of God in word and deed, serve all people following the example of Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth—all in the name of Christ. God guides and shapes us in the living of our baptism in the newness of life in Christ as we practice our faith each day. These five gifts help us to practice our faith and serve as a reminder of who has claimed us in baptism.



If we do not practice faith, it is easy to get confused, complacent, chase other dreams, lose focus, and wander away from God's calling—not reflecting our new life in Christ and the love of God. It is God's work, but our hands as we are sent out into the world to be a visible witness to the love of Christ.

<b>Offerings &amp; Gifts - September (to 9/27/23)</b>		
	<b>Undesignated</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
September 3	\$2,182	69
September 10	2,222	92
September 17	2,686	112
September 24	1,581	78
<b>Total Undesignated</b>	<b>\$8,671</b>	<b>Avg Sun Attend: 88</b>
Missions	110	
Desig Ofrg-Non Mission	500	
God's Work Our Hands Fund	25	
Sunday School	22	Avg SS Attend: 22

<b>Income &amp; Expenses - Year to Date</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<b>Undesignated</b>	<b>Other</b>
\$96,608	\$94,326	\$2,282
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Designated Funds</b>
93,611	91,786	1,825
<b>Income vs Expense</b>		
2,997		

### **Pastor's Message**

*(continued from page 1)*

sharing what Jesus taught us. He did not go through 33 years here on earth teaching, healing, loving, and dying for us just to leave us hanging. He truly cares for us, and He truly loves us! Place your trust in our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!

Please also continue to pray for farmers and ranchers, asking God to keep them safe from harm, and anyone else who may be at risk of being seriously hurt.

As you go about your daily lives, be a reflection of Jesus' love for us. We can change the world, a little bit at a time. Begin with the people you encounter, and watch the love's ripple effect spread.

It is my honor to be walking with you on your faith journey! Pray also for God to guide us on our journey together!

May Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit bless you!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Michael S. Harrison*

### **Scarcity or Abundance?**

Are you like me-- doing the math as you store away those jars of tomatoes or applesauce? Calculating and asking yourself, "Should I do more?" Focused more on scarcity than abundance?

I've been thinking about how often we think what we need is scarce, and life is this grinding contest to get our share of those scarce resources.

For many that is a reality. And I'm not talking about REAL scarcity.

I'm talking about when we truly have enough-- NO! MORE than enough. But STILL hang onto the "scarcity lie."

That mindset leads to fear, anxiety, resentment, overwork, competition, hoarding. Those thoughts prevent us from enjoying life.

The Boston song, "Peace of Mind" runs through my head-- "People living in competition, all I want is to have my peace of mind."

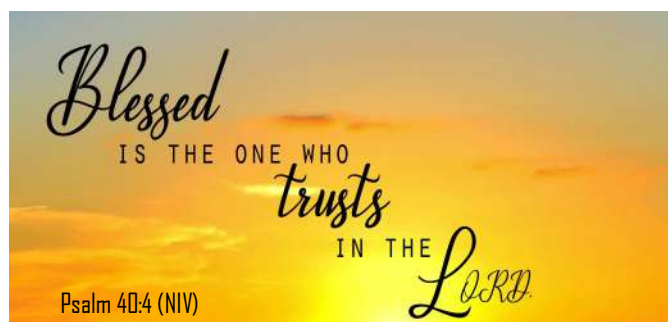
Back in the day when you couldn't look up the lyrics on the internet, I thought those lyrics were: "People living in competition, all I want is to have my PIECE OF PIE!"

Scarcity mindset? I would say!! The scarcity mindset is not only a lie-- it's a self-fulfilling prophecy. Focusing on scarcity makes it a reality.

Abundance comes when I break free from the lie. Abundance comes when I focus on what I have-- truly APPRECIATE what I have and remember, "I have what I need." And "I don't need everything I want."

Abundance comes when I really ask myself-- "How much is enough?" And there it is-- PEACE OF MIND. I really don't need that PIECE OF PIE! Enjoy!

Facebook, 25 Sept. 2023, facebook.com/ PrairieRoadOrganicSeed





**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
September 10, 2023**

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

Meeting called to order by President, Steph, with a prayer from Pastor Mike.

**Secretary's Report** was reviewed individually, motion by Tabitha, seconded by Doug, to approve the report. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** was reviewed, motioned by Tabitha to approve the report and seconded by Bridget. Motion carried. Discussion was held on what to do with approximately \$50,000 in savings. For example, money market, brokered CD's or regular CD's. We also have some other CD's coming due in December and there may be other options with better interest rate for us. Brandy and Sydney are going to look in to further.

**Pastor's Report** was given, he is in the process of moving into a house from the apartment. He has attended a basketball game and plans to do more. He will use some vacation toward the end of the month or beginning of October.

**Correspondence:** Thank you note from ELCA for donation toward disaster response.

**Committee Reports:**

1. **Constitution & Bylaws** – Documents distributed for review, will discuss further next meeting.
2. **Mission Endowment Fund** – Discussed recommendations for disbursement of funds, we have last quarter to give as well as current quarter. Different options discussed by committee were Disaster relief, AED's, Vet, school lunch, Soup kitchen in Bismarck.
3. **Parish Education** – Sept 20<sup>th</sup> will be first Wednesday confirmation class.
4. **Property** – Oct 7<sup>th</sup> is cleanup day.
5. **Cemetery** – Child's grave moved to Heil Cemetery.


**Old Business: God's Work. Our Hands.** – God's work our hands picnic discussed. Motioned by Brandy and seconded by Tabitha to donate leftover hotdogs to Dollars for Scholars to use at demolition derby. Motion carried. Lions donated chips leftover from burgers in the park. There were also some donations from Thrivent and other sources to use for food and supplies.

**New Business:**

1. **Selection of Health Benefit Option for Pastor** – Benefits cost increasing for Pastor approximately 3.7%. Motioned by Terry and seconded by Brandy to stay with Gold plus package despite cost increase. Motion carried.
2. **Request to Use Fellowship Hall** – Dakota Hill has requested to use Fellowship Hall on October 7<sup>th</sup> at approximately 3:30 for their Family Picnic. Motion made by Doug to allow Dakota Hill to use Fellowship Hall and seconded by Tabitha. Motion carried.

Motion made by Tabitha to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brandy. Motion carried.

Bridget Winkler  
Council Secretary



Reformation  
Sunday

October 29

9:30 Worship with  
Affirmation of Baptism Service

Elijah Ottmar and Gavin Ottmar will affirm their Baptism and make a public profession of their faith.

Everyone is welcome to join in refreshments, cake, and fellowship in their honor following worship.

**A Prayer That I May Do God's will**

The following is the Third-Step Prayer in Alcoholics Anonymous. It's surely a prayer we all can make, that God's will — not ours — may be done and guide our lives.

God, I offer myself to thee  
to build with me and to do with me as thou wilt.  
Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will.

Take away my difficulties,  
that victory over them may bear witness  
to those I would help of thy power,  
thy love and thy way of life.  
May I do thy will always!

## Youth Served Mission Fest Meal

On Sunday, September 17, the Sunday School and Confirmation students served a meal of soup, sandwiches, and bars. They also collected non-perishable food and hygiene items for the Country Community Cupboard, and thank everyone for contributions.



*As our Heavenly Father has in Christ freely come to our aid, we also ought freely to help our neighbor.*

*~ Martin Luther*

## “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Picnic in the Park

We served about 105 people a free meal of hot dogs, chips, baked beans, bars, and lemonade on Wednesday, September 6. The meal was made possible through a donation and a Thrivent Action grant.







# HEART RIVER CLUSTER FALL GATHERING

*“Sharing the Bounty”*

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
400 2nd Ave NE, Elgin, North Dakota

8:30 a.m. MDT — Registration & Coffee  
9:00 a.m. MDT — Program Begins

**Speaker: Mark Meier, Executive Director  
Heavens Helpers Soup Café**

No charge for attending the program; lunch is \$10.

Love offering: Money is preferred, other items are listed on back

Half of the offering will go to the Soup Café  
and half to Synodical Women

RSVP by Oct 16 to Doris Friedt at (701) 584-3726 or [doris.friedt@yahoo.com](mailto:doris.friedt@yahoo.com)



Abbreviations

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



# October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>8:30 3rd Yr Conf</b> <b>9:30 Worship</b> <b>1</b> <b>10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship</b>  A: Jackson L: Jace C: Bridget G: Jace, Doug	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  AG: Nancy K Yvonne S  <b>8:30 Work Day</b>  Lance & Shawna U
<b>9:30 Worship</b> <b>8</b> <b>10:30 S School / Confirmation / Council Meeting / Fellowship</b>  A: Landon E L: Lance G: Jace, Shayli U: Jace  Kayedenn R	<b>9</b>  <b>9:30 WELCA Meeting</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  AG: Nicole B Sydney R  Kennedy K
<b>8:30 3rd Yr Conf</b> <b>9:30 Worship</b> <b>15</b> <b>10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship</b>  A: Otto L: Patty C: Kylor G: LeRoy & Ramona	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>6:30 All-Student Confirmation Class</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  AG: Jackie S Ruby K  <b>8:30 Heart River Cluster Gathering at Zion</b>  Merlin L
<b>8:30 3rd Yr Conf</b> <b>9:30 Worship</b> <b>22</b> <b>10:30 Fellowship</b>  A: Zane L: Eric C: Jill G: George & Chris  Wayne I Kevin & Lynn M	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  AG: Linda O Joy O
<b>9:30 Worship</b> <b>29</b> <b>10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship</b>  <b>Reformation Sunday - Affirmation of Baptism</b>  A: Terrin L: Kay C: Ronae G: Jim & Patty  Gavin U	<b>30</b>  Doug & Joleen R	<b>31</b>	<i>God, you have reformed the church countless times. Reform my heart again today so I may live for you. Amen.</i>			