

Zion Messenger

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

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September 2023

God be with you!

I trust that this is finding you well. Summer is over and the school year has officially begun. We have started Sunday school and confirmation again. So now it is getting busy again. I ask that if there is something important going on at school, please do not assume that I know about it. I would rather have 15 people tell me about the same thing than have everyone assume I know about it.

Something that I would like us all to think about is the communities we live in. When I was looking into the German-Russian history, I found something that really caught my attention. When they moved to Russia, they lived together in a town and the farmland was all around the town. But upon arriving in America, in order to keep your homestead, you had to live on it. This isolated the new settlers, and they might only see one another in church on Sunday.

One thing that I have noticed since I came here is that there is still a feeling of community. This is something that I believe is worth fighting for. When it comes down to it, the people who are going to be the quickest to help us are the people we live near and we have a relationship with. When it gets down to it, these are the people we can trust most. We do not always have to agree with one another, and we are entitled to our own opinions. Just be respectful to each other and agree to disagree.



I strongly believe that the negative or evil influences in the world want nothing more than for us to be divided. "Divide and conquer." When I am told by someone here what is happening on their land, I believe them. I'm not going to wait for it to be on the news. The most accurate local information is gained by talking to one another and hear first-hand accounts of what was seen by one of us. So my point is that we will do ourselves a great service by

reinforcing our relationships with one another and strengthening them.

When we look at what Jesus spent a lot of His time doing, it was restoring people to their families and restoring them to their communities. So, as I look to Jesus for an example of how to live, I see this as very important.

When Jesus returned to Nazareth, (in Luke 4) in the synagogue He is given a scroll and Jesus reads from Isaiah 61. He reads about the restoration of the people. Here is the beginning of what He read:

*¹ The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the
oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,*

Jesus would heal, so the people He healed could be restored to family and community. This strengthened the community. I pray for our congregation and our communities, and I encourage all of you to pray for our congregation and all of our communities that we live in. Pray for those who have been pushed to the margins or feel like they have been pushed there. We are all important to God and we all have something we can contribute to the community as a whole.

Pastor Michael S HarriSon

"God's work. Our hands."

We could use a few more pans of bars yet and a couple more workers for the Picnic on September 6. See the article on page 3 for more information on this year's "God's work. Our hands." project. Thank you in advance for your help and support.

WELCA News

Serving - Group 2 serves next, as we used two groups for Rod Skretteberg's funeral.

School Kit Drive - If you wish to donate supplies for LWR school kits, please bring them by **Sunday, September 10**. A list of school supplies is available on page 3 and on the narthex table.

Packing Personal Care Kits - September 9 at 9:30. We welcome all women to come help us with this project.

Cluster Fall Gathering - October 21 here at Zion.

Next Meeting - Thursday, September 14, at 1:30 pm

Meier to be Speaker at Gathering

Mark Meier, from Heavens Helpers Soup Café in Bismarck, will be our speaker at the Heart River Cluster Fall Gathering to be held Saturday, October 21 here at Zion.



Heavens Helpers Soup Café operates fully on trust in God moving the hearts of people in the community to provide for the Café's needs through freewill donations. The Soup Café receives no government funding. Any money donated goes directly toward feeding and helping the less fortunate. Food, clothing, blankets, Bibles, and books are given to those who ask. All workers are volunteers.

The Café is certainly living out the theme verse chosen for our Gathering - *"for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,"* (Matthew 25:35). "We don't just ask What Would Jesus Do? (WWJD) We Do What Jesus Did! (DWJD)."

We are looking forward to having Mark with us to hear his faith story and how the Soup Café got started.

Watch for registration information will be in the October newsletter.

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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Being A Disciple

Jesus gives the command, *"Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19-20). Because Jesus has power and authority, he sends his disciples forth to baptize and teach people about Him. Jesus sends us out. Jesus does not use the second person singular but plural. The great commission is not to individuals but to the community of the faithful who are commanded to make new members of the community. How do you make new members for the Kingdom of God? When was the last time you told someone about how Jesus has influenced your life? It is our job as Christians to live our life like Jesus Christ and to tell people about our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Do you notice that Jesus does not send us out to "preach" or "convert" or "call to repentance?" To make disciples is something similar in meaning to educate or to tutor. It pictures students sitting at the feet of the teacher. We bring people into a community by baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We are not a society of like-minded individuals. We all look at everything differently. We always have our doubts, but we also have our faith. We worship. We do not have all the answers, but we have Jesus. It is enough to have Jesus. If it is enough to have Jesus, then we need to witness of His love for everyone in this world.

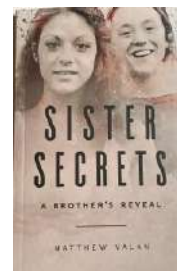
And then we are given a promise: *"Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20). All Jesus' power in heaven and earth will bless and keep you. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Shirley Teske
Western ND's WELCA Discipleship Committee
The Western Whirlwind, September 2023

Library News

Harriet Levenson and Janice Vetter have kindly donated two fantastic books to our library. *Beneath the Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan - This book is closely based on a true story of a courageous man during the war against the Nazi's. *The Ladies Mine* by Francine Miller - This book is considered a Christian fiction set during the California Gold Rush.

The library is missing the book *Sisters Secret: A Brother's Reveal* by Matthew Valen. Please search your shelves and return the book as others are waiting to ready this.



"God's work. Our hands."

Free Picnic is Zion's Service Project

This year, which marks the 10th anniversary of "God's work. Our hands." day of service, is a great time to serve and love our neighbors.

On Wednesday, September 6, to coincide with food pantry distribution day, Zion will be serving a free picnic lunch to the community. The meal will consist of hotdogs, chips, beans, bars, and a drink. It will be served from 11:00 - 2:00 in the Elgin Park.

If you can help serve that day or bring a pan of bars, please sign the sheet on the narthex table or let Virginia know (701) 400-9393. We have been blessed with a financial gift from a generous donor and with a Thrivent Action team grant applied for by one of our members. Both will help cover our costs.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday began in 2013 as an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. We are excited to be able to be a blessing to others by offering this meal.

Soup & Sandwich Meal on Mission Fest

Sunday School and Confirmation students will be serving a soup and sandwich meal at 11:30 on Mission Fest Sunday, which is September 17, in the Fellowship Hall.

They will also be running a non-perishable food pantry item drive. Canned goods, pantry items, and personal hygiene items will be collected to donate to the Country Community Cupboard. Examples of some needed products are: toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, socks, hats/mittens, canned goods, pantry staples, etc .

Please join us for a meal and fellowship, and bring an item to donate if you wish! A collection box will be in the Narthex if you wish to bring your item(s) ahead of time.

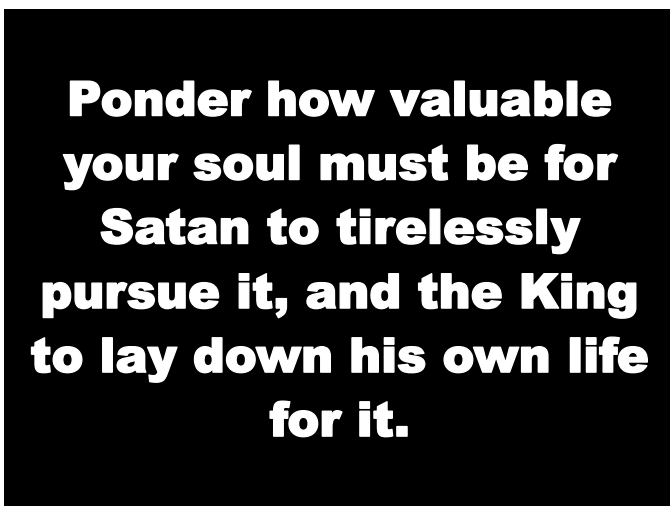


Offerings & Gifts - August		
	Undesignated	Attendance
August 6	\$ 2,494	65
August 13	1,408	65
August 20	2,233	72
August 27	2,503	95
Total Undesignated	\$8,638	Avg Sun Attend: 74
Bulletins	100	
Interest Income	302	
Organ Fund	100	
God's Work Our Hands Fund	250	
Sunday School	5	Avg SS Attend: 13
Income & Expenses - Year to Date		
Income	Undesignated	Other
\$87,703	\$85,778	\$1,925
Expenses	Budgeted	Designated Funds
82,597	81,384	1,213
Income vs Expense		
5,106		

LWR School Kit Supplies List

- 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

The deadline for WELCA's collection of school supplies is **September 10**. Thank you!



(2023, 08-23) [Image] <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritFilledEbooks>

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
August 13, 2023**

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

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

Secretary's Report was reviewed. Motioned by Tabitha to approve the report and seconded by Terry. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Discussion held on disbursement of Lutheran Disaster Response money of \$900.00 to Maui. Bridget moved to send the 900.00 currently in the account to Lutheran Disaster Response for use in Maui, Kenny seconded the motion. Motion carried. Motion by Kenny to approve the Treasurer's Report and seconded by Kayedenn. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Good turnout at the Stone Church service last Sunday. He is writing an article in the paper this week. He is also on the lookout for a house to rent that would be pet friendly as he would like to bring his dog.

Correspondence: Thank you from Camp of the Cross for donation, thank you from Kayedenn Rivinius, letter from Lutheran Campus Ministry at Minot State.

Committee Reports:

1. **Constitution & Bylaws** – Constitution has been reviewed, still working on Bylaws, possible meeting next Sunday.
2. **Mission Endowment Fund** – Will have \$1250.00 to donate again soon, looking for ideas.
3. **Parish Education** – Still need a teacher for Sunday School. Plan is for Confirmation students to meet with Pastor one Wednesday a month at 6:30 as Sundays are busy.
4. **Property** – Was pointed out that there is a crack in the wall out east door going through mortar of bricks and also an uneven area of concrete out the east door; discussed possible workday need, day set for October 7th to take care of some outside projects.
5. **Cemetery** – Discussed need for better communication with mower and congregation about removal of flowers.

Old Business: God's Work. Our Hands. – Project ideas discussed and decided on a meal at the park on

Wednesday, September 6th, to coincide with food pantry distribution. The meal will consist of hot dogs, chips, beans, and a drink. Steph will contact Bonnie Kautz about the use of the park.

New Business:

1. **Mission Fest** – Set for Sunday September 17th, 2023; Sunday school is doing a soup and sandwich meal and collecting items for food pantry. Discussed having someone come from local food pantry to discuss needs or also someone from Ministry on the Margins from Bismarck.
2. **Two CDs Mature** – There are 2 CDs maturing later in August. One for \$10,860 and one for \$3,500. Discussion was held on what to do with them, possibly roll them over and for how long, move to a money market account. Also discussed balance in Savings and moving some of that into CD or money market. Terry moved to put expiring CDs into 6-month CDs until more research can be done. Kayedenn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Other Business: Discussed need to open blinds during church service as it is dark up front with blinds closed.

Motion made by Steph to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tabitha. Motion Carried.

Bridget Winkler, Council Secretary

Blessed with Work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour. Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"?

~Jana Firestone

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water: It will make ripples throughout the entire pond.</i></p> <p><i>~Jessy & Bryan Matteo</i></p>					1	2 AG: Marleen K Linda K Jeremy I Reiny Z
<p>9:30 Worship 3 10:30 Fellowship</p> <p>A: Ivy L: Todd C: Elijah O G: Kenny & Doris</p>	4  Bill W Melvin & Gen B	5	6 11:00-2:00 God's Work. Our Hands. Picnic at Elgin Park	7	8	9 AG: Ramona W Leona H 9:30 Women Pack up Personal Care Kits
<p>8:30 3rd Yr Conf 9:30 Worship 10 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Council Meeting / Fellowship</p> <p>A: Jace L: Joy C: Elijah O G: Doug & Joleen</p> <p>Joel & Brittany K</p>	11 Grandparents' Day Kaydence Z	12	13 Brianna R	14 1:30 WELCA Meeting Becca F Eric & Jill F	15 Elsie S	16 AG: Bridget W Mykenzie W Alta E
<p>8:30 3rd Yr Conf 9:30 Worship 17 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship 11:30 Soup / Sandwich Lunch</p> <p>A: Mykayla L: Lance C: Becky G: Gavin, Twyla</p> <p>Evan F</p>	18 Chandler R	19	20 6:30 All-Student Confirmation Class	21 Verna G Rosemary P Wilmer & Rosella Z	22 Logan S	23 AG: Janice K Virginia R 
<p>8:30 3rd Yr Conf 9:30 Worship 24 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship</p> <p>A: Shaylee L: Kaci C: Quincey G: Gavin, Ruby</p> <p>Zoey H Douglas K Pete K</p>	25 Elijah O Jim & Patty Z	26	27 Marleen K Wanda S	28 Doug & Nancy K	29	30 AG: Rosemary P Sherri R