

Zion Lutheran Church
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The Zion Spirit

"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"



May 2022

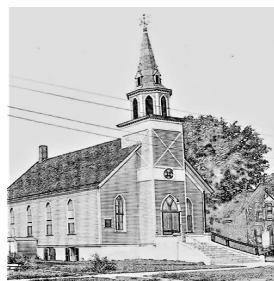
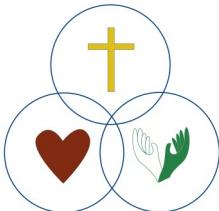
140th Anniversary Campaign Update

Wow! What a good response to the 140th Anniversary Campaign. We have raised over \$24,000 and fulfilled the entire matching fund. We will continue to encourage special offerings to the Anniversary Fund, even after the match is done. That will allow us to do a good job on every aspect of the work along the way without cutting corners. It will also allow us to establish a Property Reserve Fund where larger building expenses can be dealt with in the flow of congregational life without causing a crisis.

In addition, here are some updates on the improvements.

- ◆ The carpet that was voted as first choice by the congregation has been ordered and is now in the warehouse. It will be installed during the third week in June.
- ◆ The tile floor will be resurfaced with an epoxy terrazzo coating and will last for years to come with a beautiful finish. This will be installed prior to the carpet installation in June.
- ◆ The new speakers have arrived and will be installed sometime in the next few weeks. Yamaha CBR12 speakers will improve the sound quality and clarity. It will make it much easier for everyone to hear the spoken word portions of the worship.
- ◆ An initial proposal for the windows in the lower level classrooms has been received. It is higher than our original estimate and we are looking at getting a second proposal to see how costs compare.
- ◆ Pew cushion proposals have been received with a wide variety of options. Council will look more at this in the next month or two.

Thanks to all who have donated so far. When the anniversary year is done, our building will be in tip top shape!



140th Anniversary Committee

The 140th anniversary committee is looking for Zion group confirmation pictures for display. Rather than display the actual picture, we want to display a picture of the picture. We do have some pictures, but are missing quite a few. If you have access to your picture and are willing to share please contact Valann Reddington using the contact info below. We can arrange for me to take a picture of the picture or you can take the picture with your phone and email it to me. Looking forward to seeing the pictures!

Contact information:
valannreddington@yahoo.com
630-903-3449



New Sanctuary Lamp Coming

Our current sanctuary lamp (the one that burns all week) has had enough wear and tear that it is now wobbly and not in good shape. The Memorial Committee has approved getting a new one. The new one will be mounted on the wall and have an electric flame instead of wax based candles. It will be easier to maintain and less costly, cleaner and better for the environment, and by being wall mounted will be one less thing in the chancel area – this making things look cleaner and crisper. The new sanctuary lamp should be up in the next few weeks!

Sunday Summer Schedule

Once again, our summer schedule will include both an 8:30 and 10:45 worship service. The 8:30 worship will continue to be indoors. Starting on Memorial Day weekend, we will be having the 10:45 worship outdoors when weather permits. Plan to worship regularly throughout the summer and be sure to invite a friend to join us!



Sunday School

We are down to the final classes of Godly Play Sunday School this school year! The children will "skip ahead" to Pentecost stories that are usually shared in congregations in June. On May 1st, the story will be "Saul Changes," and on May 8th, the story will be "Paul's Travels and His Letters." May 15th will be our LAST DAY OF GODLY PLAY Sunday School. Children will enjoy a fun game on May 15th to celebrate all that they have learned in Godly Play this year. All Godly Play sessions in May will be outside weather permitting. Thank you to all Zion members who have helped with Godly Play this year!



Peacemakers to Wrap Up an Amazing Year

One of the most important things we do to connect with our neighbors is the Peacemakers After School Program. The program takes place every Tuesday afternoon after school and provides kids the chance to learn, play, and do art all while getting good training in how to be people of peace. In a world where there is so much struggle, helping kids learn the importance and skills of peacemaking is a great gift. And our Tuesday program is our largest attended activity for kids – even bigger than Sunday School!

A big thank you to our Youth and Family Coordinator, Dianha Ortega Ehreth who plans, coordinates, and teaches. We also thank all the volunteers who come each Tuesday to work with the kids. Through each of you, Jesus is working in the lives of these kids and their families.

Youth Kits for LWR

Thanks to the leadership and hard work of our youth group, combined with the generosity of the congregation members, we will be sending off 117 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits are being dropped off at Church of the Brethren offices, partners of LWR, then shipped to LWR (Lutheran World Relief) distribution points where they will be given to those in need, i.e. refugees, people in extreme poverty, victims of natural disasters, etc...to help provide for basic needs. Thanks to all who made this possible through donations of items or funds!



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Kids Hope USA

Our Kids Hope mentoring continues to be received as a blessing by the children and staff at Lowrie School. Our mentors have been working one to one with children to help them develop life skills, feel valued and gain stability. A thank you to our two directors, Gudrun Dorgan and Tricia Grosser. Also, thanks to all our mentors and prayer partners. Together we are making a difference!

As the school year draws to a close Zion's ministry of Kids Hope at Lowrie will celebrate with a fun event for the mentees and their families. This year we will see three sixth graders graduate who are heading to middle school. These kids have been with their mentors for four years. So it is bittersweet to see them leave the "nest". This year six mentors began new relationships with first or second graders. Hopefully the relationships that started this year will continue in the fall. Sadly two of our kids left the program during the school year.

Welcome to Eric Hanson who joined the KHUSA ministry early this spring and is mentoring a first grade boy. We are grateful to Eric and other mentors: Tim Wargo, Chris Wargo, Jean Templeton, Jeff Grosser, Valann Reddington, Linda Bailey, Deacon Marlene Daubert, Tricia Grosser, and Pastor Dave Daubert. If all goes well we hope to start next year with all our mentors and mentees back. A BIG thank you goes to Jeanne Meyer who substituted many times and to Gudrun Dorgan who is directing and substituting too.

A vital part of Kids Hope are the prayer partners who pray for each child and mentor. We could not do it without Robin, Elizabeth, Jeanne, Ellie, Bryce, Marianne, Kris, John, Vicki, Joy, and Jennifer. Thank you for those extra petitions in the behalf of your mentee and mentor.



Graduates

As school winds down this year, we would like to celebrate our high school or college graduates that are part of the Zion community. If you know of any graduates, please let Deacon Marlene know.



Catechism Begins

One of the traditions of the Lutheran Church has been the teaching of core beliefs and doctrines through the use of the catechism. We have five young people who will begin learning the catechism. Classes will take place between now and Reformation Sunday. Youth completing the catechism sequence will receive a certificate for catechism on Reformation Sunday. Then, those who want to continue on will do some deeper relational and spiritual work to complete the process for confirmation. Confirmation is planned for June 2023.



As part of this process, catechism students have the option of attending Confirmation Camp at Lutherdale the week of June 19-24. Those who attend will have half of their camp fees covered by the congregation (If you would like to make a donation to help cover this cost, please put confirmation camp on the memo line).

Deacon Marlene will also be going so there is an adult from Zion with them.

Please pray for our kids as they begin this journey.

Service of Prayer for Peace and Wellness – May 25th

Our Befriender Team is sponsoring our next Service of Prayer for Peace and Wellness on Wednesday, May 25th at 7:00 PM. This tranquil service uses prayer, scripture and music to provide an atmosphere for each of us to find peace, pray for healing or wholeness, and pray for others as well. Plan to attend and invite others to join you as we pray for peace and wellness in our lives and in the world around us.

Youth Group Info

Save the date for our next youth group meeting. It will be May 22, following the late service



Children's Easter Party

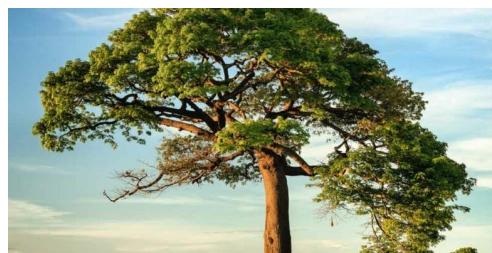
On April 16, we had our first Easter Party on a Saturday for Zion kids, Peacemaker kids, Kid's Hope Mentees plus other friends and kids from the neighborhood. It was a beautiful event that looked liked our neighborhood with about 30 kids plus parents who attended. Dianha shared a Godly Play story about Jesus and the resurrection. There were games and crafts. The colorful cross in the front of the sanctuary was an outcome of the work of these kids and our peacemaker kids. And of course the big event of the Easter Egg Hunt! Thanks to all who donated candy, and to volunteers who helped with the event.

A huge thanks to Dianha Ortega-Ehreth and Carrie Hand who worked together to coordinate the event!

Zion Vacation Bible School is June 13 - 17th!

Volunteers are needed to help with VBS the week of June 13th in the evenings. The theme this year will be Tree of Healing, a VBS curriculum by ELCA World Hunger.

If you are able to help, please contact Rachel Lindsey at jprklindsey@mac.com or Dianha Ortega-Ehreth at dianha@zionelginil.org.



4th Monday Bible Study – May 23rd

Pastor Dave has our monthly Bible study set for May 23rd. The class will look at the preaching texts for the month of June and take place on Zoom. All of us are called to give God's Word our attention and this is one great chance to do this. Watch for the Zoom link and a reminder by email later in the month!



Fun Facts /Did You Know.

1. Where has Jesus been and where is he now? Hans Christian Knudsen (from Norway 1909) and his family were Zion members. He was the bell ringer every Sunday. His family donated the statue of Jesus when he died in 1962. The statue of Jesus was on the altar in the old church and by the altar in this church. The statue of Jesus then was loaned to St. Stephan's Lutheran Church in Carpentersville for a few years. He was then returned to Zion. He was in the counting room for a while and on the stairway to the north of the altar. The statue of Jesus is now on top of the bookcase in the library.
2. Zion was originally named Zion Danish-Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Elgin.
3. Did you know that Zion is the oldest church site of any denomination in Elgin west of the Fox river?
4. Zion is one of the eight oldest congregations in Elgin.
5. The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9

**Inclusion and Equity Team Hosts Adult Forum—May 22**

Zion has been a Reconciling in Christ congregation for over a decade. This status tells people that our congregation is a welcoming place and that all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability/disability status, etc.

We will host a guest speaker from Reconciling Works on May 22nd at our adult forum at 9:45 AM. Ashlei Cramer, the program coordinator at Reconciling Works, will be our guest and she will share ways we can all be good hosts, offer good hospitality and be a more welcoming place. She will also update us on the work of Reconciling Works and how we can strengthen our commitment to the work of being an inclusive and welcoming church. The Middle/Sr. high class will join the adults for this event.

**Worship Roles Sign Up**

Each week when we gather as a community to worship, we have a need for many folks to serve in worship roles. This is part of stewardship of time and talent and how we live out community together, each taking a part. These roles include being a **greeter** to welcome people when they come to worship, being a **reader** to read scripture or an **usher** to assist with some tasks such as helping with communion, counting attendance, turning on/off the fans. We provide info sheets to help you with your role.

We have instituted a new process of signing up through “Sign Up Genius”.

This allows you to choose the role you would like to do on a week that works for you. Can't do this week or next week? Sign up for two or three weeks out. You'll be here this week? Go on and see if there are any needs. For this to work, it is important for participants to take the initiative to sign up.

Simply go to our website,
<http://zionelginil.org/> Click on the Worship tab. Scroll down and there are links to sign up for each service. Thanks!

**Storytelling Retreat - June 25**

Everyone has a story to share and all of us can be better at seeing God in our stories and sharing our stories with others. On Saturday June 25th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, we will have Pastor Elaina Salmon as our guest retreat leader. Pastor Elaina is a skilled storyteller and skilled story facilitator. It will be a great day. The day will be a wonderful way to share and hear stories, get to know each other better, and to gain insights about how God is at work in each of our lives. We are hoping for a great turnout – everyone should try to attend.

Watch for registration info so you can sign up. Because of a grant to cover the leader costs, the cost is only \$10 for each person which includes your lunch! And there will also be childcare provided for people who want to attend but who have children who would need to be cared for. So we hope everyone who wants to attend can come.

Synod Assembly Voting Member Needed

The Metro Chicago Synod Assembly for this year will be held on Saturday, June 4th in Naperville. The event is a one-day assembly and we are entitled to our rostered leaders (Deacon Marlene and Pastor Dave) as well as two lay leaders. We are still in need of a lay leader. If you'd like to attend and see how the larger church functions, this is a great chance to offer a day of service and both contribute and learn! Let Elizabeth Thames (congregation president) or Deacon Marlene know if you are interested.

Join us for the Kane County Cougars game on June 10!

Zion is headed to the ballpark! The game starts at 6:30, with the parking lot opening at 5:30. Tickets are \$8 each, and parking is \$10 per car per car for the General Lot, and \$15 for Preferred (Handicapped). It is recommended to pre-purchase your parking pass, as it will be more expensive if you pay the day of.

You can sign up on the sign-up sheet at Zion or by visiting <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4FA8A62CAAF85-kane>. Payments will be made closer to the game, when we have the tickets.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Rizzo. See you at the game!



CROP Walk—Save the Date!

This year's CROP Walk is Sunday, October 16. Our Team Page is live at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/zion-lutheran-elgin-il>. More details will be coming as the event gets closer.



Donation for May – Food for Greater Elgin

Our Menu for Mission was a chance to share where we would send our local benevolence money. We agreed that we would send it off to places, one per month, so we could also use the chance to highlight the work of the groups we partner with and support.

This month is Food for Greater Elgin. FFGE is a client choice food pantry that gives people access to good food at no cost. It is one of the largest food pantries in the area. Michael Montgomery, interim director, shared that the numbers this year are up 50% over last year and that much of that is from refugees coming to the area from Venezuela and Ukraine. Zion is sending \$600 to them this month.



Food For Greater Elgin

Member Info/Time and Talent Sheets

As a way too help all of us stay connected and be good stewards of the gifts and talents God has given us, we have an information sheet and a way for you to share how you think God would like you to use your gifts to do ministry in the life of the church. If you have completed these, the information will help us connect you to opportunities for ministry.

If you haven't please fill one out when you have the chance and get it in to the church office so we can add your information or update it in the system. Thanks be to God for the many gifts God has given us!

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Thank You For Your Offerings!

We are thankful that the people of Zion are so committed to this place doing God's work and doing it well. You are all doing amazing work and you need to hear a big "well done good and faithful servants!" As you know, it is helping Zion participate in God's work.

**Upcoming May Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to our friends with upcoming birthdays! If you have an upcoming birthday and are not on this list, please email Allison in the office at zionelgin@yahoo.com. Thanks!



2—Lois Coombs
2—Julian Leatherby
5—Stuart Mackenzie
7—Linda Bailey
14—Sara Leatherby
15—Bryn Jowaski
17—Elle Russell
19—Kathleen Jowaski
20—Kathy Fraas
21—Michelle Bannerman
21—Dennis Matchinski
23—Kaity White
25—Jaki Herrman
30—Marianne Brevik
30—Wallie Parczany

Lessons and Verse of the Month**May 1 - Paul's Conversion**

Theme: "Meeting Jesus Changes People"
Acts 9:1-19a (sermon text)
Gospel: John 21:1-14

May 8 - Paul and Silas

Theme: "Receiving from people we'd rather give to"
Acts 16:16-34 (sermon text)
Gospel: Luke 6:18-19, 22-23

May 15 - Paul's Sermon at Athens

Theme: "Jesus helps all of us meet God"
Acts 17:16-31 (sermon text)
Gospel: John 1:16-18

May 22 - Partnership in the Gospel

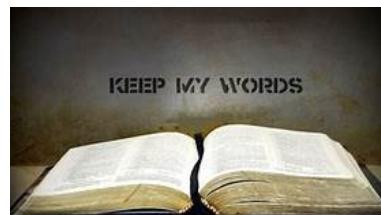
Philippians 1:1-18a (sermon text)
Theme: Thankful for the partnership in the gospel.
Gospel: Luke 9:46-48

May 29 – The Christ Hymn

Theme: "Being More and More Like Jesus"
Philippians 2:1-13 (sermon text)
Gospel: Luke 6:43-45

VERSE OF THE MONTH:

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)



- June 4 – Synod Assembly
- June 10 – Kane County Cougar Night
- June 13-17 – Vacation Bible School
- June 19-24 – Confirmation Camp at Lutherdale
- June 25 – Storytelling Retreat (9:00-3:00 PM)
- August 14 – Congregational Picnic
- September 10 – "Walk Through the Bible" Event (9:00-4:00 PM)
- September 11 – Sunday School Resumes
- October 16 – CROP Walk
- November 13 – 140th Anniversary Celebration (one service at 9:30 AM)