



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings October 2020

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The Future

As most of you know, I'm one of the members of the Strategic Planning Team. We started this process way back in the fall of 2017 when we completed our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and send it to the Central States Synod via a letter that requested, of then Bishop Roger Gustafson, to approve me going into the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program at Wartburg Theological Seminary. He approved that, and part of the MSP said that Zion was going to conduct a strategic plan, which we ultimately started during my internship in the summer of 2019. I say all that so that you know that we are doing what we said we were going to do, going way back to the fall of 2017.

“And you know the rest of the story,” as Paul Harvey would say. Here we are, having navigated through the early part of the pandemic with me as your ordained and called pastor.

As part of all that, I (as a first call pastor) have been assigned a coach, and guess what: my coach is retired Bishop Roger Gustafson. We've completed three sessions so far and Bishop Roger has introduced me to a number of books to read that we discuss when we get together via zoom for our coaching sessions.

Bishop Roger has done a great job with the books and with our discussion (although he asks me to do most of the talking). The last two books he recommended were “Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory,” by Tod Bolsinger and “How to Lead: When You Don't Know Where You are Going,” by Susan Beaumont. Both books have a central theme, much like what we are doing right now as we attempt to navigate the pandemic! We are in a period of time that we've never been in before, and in the middle of that, we are attempting to develop a plan for our future that looks all the way out to 2025. It has been fun!

I want to digress for just a moment and talk about the first book, “Canoeing the Mountains.” It starts right here in St. Louis when Lewis and Clark were given the task to find the Pacific Ocean (my understanding). Their first thought was that everything west of St. Louis would look like the trip from the Atlantic Ocean to here. Well, as someone once said, “I've read the last chapter of the book and that won't happen.”

Sure enough, the Rocky Mountains were clearly different than the Appalachians. Lewis and Clark ran out of rivers and streams and were faced with something that they had not anticipated: very high mountains. In fact, compared to the Rockies, the Appalachian Mountains are small hills.

What were they to do? They had to figure it out. Much the same way that we have had to figure out how to do worship in the middle of a pandemic. There's more to focus on than that as we go forward with our plan for the future.

You've heard from our Council President, Pam Statler, who is also the leader of the Strategic Planning Team, and some time very soon, we will be having a “gathering” to get your feedback on where we are right now. You've already approved Zion's values, vision, and mission, and you've already seen the four goals that the team has developed. The objectives to those four goals are presently being reviewed by the council and some time soon, once we figure out how to do it, we will be meeting (zoom, live stream, or otherwise) with you to get your comments and feedback on what we've developed. We're in much the same place as those two books that I just mentioned. Having said that, I'm also convinced that just like Lewis and Clark figured it out, so will we.

My hope and prayer for all of us is that as we prepare to participate in our future, that we take a few moments to review our “Foundational Faith,” our values, vision, mission, and pray that God will help us figure out what our way forward is.

Sometimes I'm described as being impatient with our progress, but no, I want you to be comfortable as we go forward because it is going to take every one of us listening to God. We know that He will be with us always. Jesus' last words to us in the last chapter of Matthew are, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” God is good and full of GRACE!

✝ Blessings, Pastor Larry

October Birthdays

- 2nd Dorothy Kaiser
11th Jayce Tucker
Norma Wolz
14th Linn Moore
19th Cindy Vogelsang
24th Janet Schaper
Gail Voss
25th Kristina Oswald

October Anniversaries

- 17th Paul & Carole Herrmann
19th Pr. Larry & Linda Lemke

Thrivent Presentation

On October 25th Thrivent will make a virtual presentation to members of the congregation. This will be immediately after worship in the Sanctuary. Members may stay after worship and participate or may join virtually through Zoom. Please contact the office for a Zoom invitation if you will be attending from home (virtually).

This is an opportunity to learn about Thrivent Action Grants and a training program for personal finance. The personal finance program is part of Thrivent's commitment to Habitat for Humanity. They are making the program available to the general public.

We will try to keep the Zoom channel open after the presentation so everyone can have a chance to catch up and share. This is a BYOS* event (*Bring Your Own Smile).

A Message from the President

I was listening to someone in a Zoom meeting for Zion and they very kindly reminded us that people who are struggling will not always reach out for help. I remember asking in this article last month for you to let us know if you needed help. That gave me pause to ponder. If you find it difficult to reach out, please know you are never alone. God is always with you.

And for everyone at Zion, please be aware of others who may be struggling in silence. Pray for each other and reach out and connect in some way. We are working on finding new ways to help our members stay connected. If you have ideas or know of ways some other groups or congregations are staying connected, please feel free to share them with me, Pastor Larry, or Andi.

If you are not able to connect to a Zoom call with your phone or electronic device or just are not comfortable trying that, let us know and we will make sure you find out how. It is always easier when someone shows you the way!

The Strategic Planning Team has drafted the objectives for the four goals we shared in last month's Tidings and has shared those with the Congregation Council. We plan to present those to the congregation soon. We look forward to hearing what you think.

Blessings and thank you for your love of God and neighbor!

Pam Statler 

All Saints Celebration

All Saints will be celebrated on Sunday, November 1st. With pandemic procedures in place this year, worshippers will receive a votive candle to take home and light in memory of loved ones. A special prayer will be printed in the bulletin that day for use at home so whether you worship by streaming, watching the recorded service or in person everyone will be able to participate in this special time of remembrance and thanksgiving.

Sharing Words of Encouragement

Have you been missing our monthly fellowship times when we gathered together to share what had been happening in our lives (and of course good food)? No one knows when we will be able to return to in person fellowship, however, we can still encourage each other while we wait. **Advent is about waiting...**we wait for the promised coming of our Savior as an infant, we wait daily for Jesus to enter our hearts and lead us and we wait for God's Son to come at the end of time to gather us with all the faithful.

Worship team invites you to share a word of encouragement for these challenging times:

We will produce a booklet of devotionals for Advent written by members and friends to be distributed on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29th. It will cover 27 days. Your focus can be a Bible verse, a personal experience where you felt the presence of God, a hymn verse, or a poem. Let the Spirit lead you and if you wish, submit more than one!! Don't forget to give it a title! The devotion can be between 75 to 150 words. Please send to the church office by way of email or write it and either mail it or drop it off at the church office. Please sign the original so the team knows who submitted it, but you may indicate that the printed edition does not include your name.

Significant dates:

- Call the church office or Doris McCall at 314-521-8349 no later than Sunday, October 11th to let us know you will participate.
- Submit your contribution to the office no later than Sunday, November 15th.
- Receive your printed copy when you come to church on November 29th.
- If you worship at home, please notify Doris if you would like to receive a mailed or emailed copy.

Looking forward to reading words of encouragement from people we care about and who care about us!

The Worship Team

Community News

In Need of Internet?

If you are a Ferguson resident, the Ferguson Municipal Public Library on 35 N. Florissant Road has Wifi Hotspots available for check out! They offer 3 week check out and can handle up to 10 wireless devices at one time. To reserve a hotspot, you must be a Ferguson resident and have a Ferguson Library card in good standing. If you don't have a library card, bring your picture ID and a first class piece of mail with your name and current address on it to the library to sign up. Call (314) 521-4820 for questions or to reserve one.

Ferguson Spooktacular

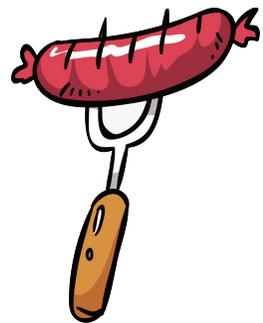


The Ferguson Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a Halloween drive-thru event, keeping Covid-19 safety in mind. The Ferguson "Drive-Thru Spooktacular" will take place on Friday, October 30th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in the Ferguson Community Center's parking lot (1050 Smith Ave.). Families must stay in their vehicles while collecting candy. Booth vendors and sponsors will be handing out candy and goodies as you drive through, and of course, costumes are encouraged!

Wurstmarkt 2020

In keep up with Covid-19 health guidelines, Immanuel UCC's Ferguson Annual Wurstmarkt, held on Saturday, November 7th this year, will serve both raw and cooked sausage in a drive thru pick up format.

Whether this event takes place relies on pre-orders for the event. The goal is to have at least 1000lbs pre-ordered and pre-paid by October 15th. Cooked sausage is \$5 per pound and raw sausage is \$4.50 per pound. To order, please call (314) 624-0454, and if you are sent to voicemail, please leave your name, phone number, and amount of raw/cooked sausage you would like to order and someone will call you back within 48hrs. If you have any trouble or questions with this process, please call Karl Klasing at (314) 560-5179.



Community News

Free Oil Changes

Calvary Church is seeking to serve the most vulnerable single moms and families.
Two Oil Change Events Scheduled:

Sunday, October 3 rd 8:00am – 12:00pm	Saturday, October 17 th 8:00am – 12:00pm
Calvary Church St. Charles Campus 1701 North 2 nd Street St. Charles, MO 63301	Calvary Church Mid Rivers Campus 3998 Mid Rivers Mall Drive St. Peters, MO 63376

Appointment Required. Please call 636-939-4343 to schedule an appointment time. When you call, you will need to know the year, make, model and complete Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) which can be found on your insurance card or dashboard.

National Federal Eviction Moratorium

The National Federal Eviction Moratorium is now effective from September 4 through December 31. Please help spread accurate information for renters about this protection and necessary steps to stay in one's home, because it is not automatic.

ELCA partner National Low Income Housing Coalition has this resource <https://nlihc.org/national-eviction-moratorium>. This protection can vitally help people in who are in danger of being evicted – but only if they access it.

Stimulus Funds Information

Under the coronavirus response CARES Act, individuals are eligible to receive a one-time payment of up to \$1,200, with an additional \$500 available for each dependent. Five million eligible Americans who did not automatically receive checks/funds need to file to receive their payment. The deadline to file for stimulus payment is October 15, 2020. For assistance with the process, use the United Way Helpline by dialing 211.

Zion Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 – 6:30pm (Zoom)

In attendance: Pam Statler, Kristen Kinney, Bill Budenholzer, Jason Martin, Stacey Miller, Richard Schademann, Doris McCall, Johnnie Tucker
Excused Absence: Larry Lemke (vacation)

- Welcome and Devotions
 - Prayer by Pam Statler
- Confirm approval of meeting minutes from August 2020 Meeting
 - Motion made; seconded; approved
- Pastor's Report (Pastor Larry on vacation)
 - Pam Statler shared that Pastor is very thankful for the council and how dedicated we are to serving Zion and is very grateful for Zion as a whole
- Discuss Space Sharing
 - Pam and Pastor both spoke with Boone individually last week.
 - COVID has shifted their plans. They will begin recording worship services on January 1st rather than in-person worship. The way things look, they will not be doing in person worship until August 2021. They do not want to start in-person worship right before the slower summer months.
 - They still want office space and space for small community group meetings that will meet in compliance with county COVID guidelines. They will not necessarily need a place to record worship. They have other places available for that.
 - Boone shared that \$2,500 per month is the maximum they can pay within their budget. They would envision using the office, the multipurpose room, and a single classroom for when they can safely have small gatherings of children.
 - Boone told Pam they are going to meet with another church in Ferguson this week to see about the possibility of using space at that church.
 - Boone reiterated that they are not looking for only a landlord/renter relationship or they would rent commercial space. They want to build a relationship with another church who is already in the area and want to partner with Zion in the future no matter where they end up using space.
 - Pastor asked Pam to summarize the expenses that were allocated to the CDC in the past. That amount was \$2,100 per month. Last month Pam prepared a summary of possible expenses to share at

50% and came up with \$3,000 per month. The difference is the wages of the janitor and the HVAC repair contract and estimated repairs.

- Discussion
 - Should we figure in the cost of janitorial services and supply or is this a possible area to negotiate? If they use less space, utilities could be lower. They would be using less square footage.
 - Maybe they could use a classroom rather than the Multipurpose room to use less space for the time before they do in-person worship.
 - Ask them about what adjustments can be made from our original \$5,000 a month offer to their \$2,500 month offer – work on a little give and take – trying to work within their budget to make this happen.
 - It was suggested that Pastor and Pam will talk with Boone and find out if there is the possibility to negotiate or if \$2,500 is the bottom line
- Sue Dunham joined the council meeting to discuss concerns regarding the conversations with Boone about using the downstairs and the council reassured her that nothing would be decided without the approval of the congregation. Discussions are still ongoing.
- Stewardship
 - Looking for creative ways to do Stewardship this year since. If anyone has ideas, please share.
 - Small groups via zoom could be a possibility.
- Nomination committee
 - Pam will form a nominating committee.
- Team Reports
 - Strategic Planning – Pam
 - Objectives to the goals that we saw last month have been created.
 - The team will refine the objectives and then send them out via email to the council to consider.
 - Finance Report – Bill
 - Investments have done a little better this month; church in the red for \$7,455 for the year
 - CDC still getting tuition from the state under COVID funds – not sure how much longer that will continue – may end after this last payment due to the new school year

- starting; CDC in the black for \$35,129 for the year
- Worship – Pr. Larry
 - No report due to Larry's vacation
 - Service/Community – Stacey
 - Still collecting cards for God's Work Our Hands which is September 13th
 - Member Care Ministry – Richard
 - Did not meet in September
 - Communicating amongst the members and with the congregation and planning to meet in October
 - Continue to be proactive with members to keep in touch
 - Education – Jason
 - No report to give currently
 - Wanting to come up with new ways to do things to keep people involved
 - Bill reported that a Thrivent representative would still be interested in talking to church members about grants and personal finance topics possibly in October
 - Jason and Bill will discuss ways to make it work so people that want to be involved can participate
 - Property – Pam/Johnnie
 - Weeds in the playground have been sprayed and are dead
 - Possibly talk to the lawn care guy about pulling and raking the weeds and mulch
 - Hospitality
 - Looking at the possibility of a zoom coffee hour or some other creative idea to get people together for fellowship
- Next Meeting Date – October 13th
 - Closing Prayer – Prayer for Zion's Future
 - Meeting Adjourned: 8:10pm



Zion Lutheran Church

October Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:30am- Worship	28	29	30	1	2  D Kaiser	3
4 9:30am-Worship	5	6 4:30pm-Member Care	7 10am-Bible Study	8 10am-Open Sanctuary 6:30pm-Bible Study A Locastro	9	10
11 9:30am-Worship  J Tucker  N Wolz	12	13 6:30pm-Council Zoom	14 10am-Bible Study  L Moore	15 10am-Open Sanctuary 6:30pm-Bible Study	16	17  P&C Herrmann
18 9:30am-Worship	19  C Vogelsang  L&L Lemke	20	21 10am-Bible Study	22 10am-Open Sanctuary 6:30pm-Bible Study	23	24  J Schaper  G Voss
25 9:30am-Worship with Guest Pr. John Kotovsky  K Oswald	26	27	28 10am-Bible Study	29 10am-Open Sanctuary 6:30pm-Bible Study	30	31

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in October

	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
Pastor	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	J Kotovsky	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	W Sullivan, D. Mus., AAGO	A Mayhew	W Sullivan, D. Mus., AAGO	A Mayhew	W Sullivan, D. Mus., AAGO
Assistant Minister	P Herrmann	P Statler	R Schademann	P Herrmann	C Linhorst
Reader	Li Lemke	P Herrmann	S Miller	D Tucker	G Voss
Communion Servers	S Miller	P Herrmann	W Devenport	P Statler	GVoss
Ushers	G Voss TBD	Li Lemke J Tucker	D Kaiser L Wolk	G Voss F Cole	Li Lemke J Tucker
Altar Guild	E Negwer	E Negwer	E Negwer	E Negwer	J Stoverink

* Scheduled servers are subject to change at the discretion of organization leaders.
 If you have a schedule conflict, please inform the Church office of any changes or schedule swaps.

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Child Development Center
123 Carson Road
Ferguson, MO 63135
314.524.7677
cdc@zionferguson.com



**Celebrating
God's Grace**

October 2020

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

Pastor	Larry Lemke
President	Pam Statler
Vice President:	Stacey Miller
Secretary:	Kristen Kinney
Treasurer:	Bill Budenholzer
Member At-Large:	Doris McCall
Member At-Large:	Johnnie Tucker
Member At-Large:	Jason Martin
Member At-Large:	-

Member Care Ministry

Richard Schademann
Carole Herrmann
Dorothy Kaiser
Doris McCall
Deborah Balestier

Committee Chairs

Finance	Pam Statler
Property	Johnnie Tucker
CDC Support:	Janet Schaper
Stewardship:	Pam Statler/Gail Voss
Worship	Gail Voss
Education	Jason Martin
Personnel	Ara Tess
Nominating	Gail Voss/Stacey Miller

Organizations

Fellowship:	Robert Negwer
Altar Guild:	-
Hospitality	Doris McCall

Team Leaders

Worship	Gail Voss
Service & Community	Stacey Miller

Team Members:

Worship Team

Gail Voss*
Kristina Oswald
Nyokia Robinson
Norma Wolz
Doris McCall

Service & Community Outreach Team

Stacey Miller*
Dorothy Kaiser
Doris McCall
Bill Budenholzer
Linda Lemke
Bob Oliver
Richard Schademann
Janet Schaper
Ara Tess
Pam Statler
Johnnie Tucker
Deb Murrish
Sue Dunham
Justin Kinney
Kristen Kinney
Linn Moore
Annis Tucker
Dawn Tucker