



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings September 2020

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The Journey Continues

Today is pause day! I'm not sure why I picked that phrase to define where I'm at; it could be that I've been doing a great deal of reading. Since I'm what the ELCA refers to as a "First Call" pastor – even though I've been in ministry for over 30 years now – I have a "coach" (retired Bishop Roger Gustafson), and I'm in a "first call" class led by Bishop's Associate Dave Whetter. It probably comes as no surprise to you that I'm the oldest one in the class.

I'm currently reading two books. With my coach, I am reading a book called "Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation" by Parker J. Palmer. With my "first call" class, I'm reading a book called "Your Leadership Edge: Lead Anytime, Anywhere" by Ed O'Malley and Amanda Cebula. And all of the discussions are on Zoom.

When you hear me talk about zooming here and zooming there, you know what I'm talking about. I'm about zoomed out!

But not to disgress, the journey does continue. I might have thought that, after finishing Seminary at the end of 2019, being ordained, answering your call, and being installed as Zion's pastor, things would have quieted a bit from the ELCA system, but it has not been so; there is still some molding that the system has in mind. And by the way, please don't think I'm complaining...it is all good!

Both the books and the discussion are great. The leadership book is a review for me, and the book on “Let Your Life Speak” has been confirmation of what I already know, and that is “I speak my mind and you know what I'm thinking most of the time.” I often use the phrase, “Jesus called spades *spades* and not *shovels*,” and I do the same. Linda says, “Yes, that is good, but do it a bit softer.” I'll do my best to be softer.

But that wasn't why I started out saying, “Today is pause day!” As Pam Statler, Zion President, has been telling you, we have been working since June on our Strategic Planning process that has its roots going all the way back to November 2017 when Zion sent in the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) to the Central States Synod (CSS). And then we asked then Bishop Roger Gustafson for approval for me to enter the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program. By the way, the MSP included in it that Zion was going to complete a Strategic Plan. The Bishop approved me for TEEM, and the start of the Strategic Plan was accomplished as part of my TEEM 2019 summer internship. So here we are...the journey continues!

For me, that is important; we have not wavered in what we said we were going to do, and we're doing it. But it is time now for the Strategic Planning Team (SPT) to get the entire congregation involved. Pam has already started down that path. The Zion Council has approved sending the goals to the congregation for review. You should have them soon, and I encourage you to ask any member of the SPT (Pam S., Linda L., Deb M., Carol L., Jason M., Andi M., or me) if you have any questions.

The congregation has already approved Zion's Vision, Mission, and Values. They are printed on the back of our worship bulletin every Sunday as a reminder, and also as a statement to our visitors that proclaims who we are as a congregation.

So why am I going into all of this detail, you ask? Just to remind all of us that this was the plan we had in mind when we submitted Zion's MSP to the CSS, and we are staying on track. Therefore, “The Journey Continues,” but as I said not too long ago from the pulpit, “Zion needs all of your gifts, support, and help as we move forward into the future.”

The journey continues; God is good and full of GRACE!

Blessings,
Pastor Larry



September Birthdays

1st Eugene Pfitzinger
7th Leo Calhoun
10th Alyssa Locastro
22nd Emma Kinney
23rd Doris McCall
24th Nathaniel Moseley
27th Kimberly Malin
28th Jay Martin

September Anniversaries

7th Stephen & Emily Voss-Light
17th Elliott & Hannah Devenport
27th Jason & Andi Martin

FMSC Raffle Report

On Sunday, August 23rd, the organizers of the North County FMSC Mobile Food Pack gathered for the drawing of the big raffle event via Zoom. Due to the pandemic, they were not able to host the dinner portion of the evening, but that didn't thwart their supporters. They raised over \$17,000 towards next year's FMSC Food Pack.

The team sold all 250 tickets. Larry Wolk won a wonderful consolation prize (a season pass to Missouri Botanical Gardens), and Paul & Carole Herrmann won the 3rd place cash prize.

Thank you for your continued prayers, participation, and donations. Hopefully next year, we will be able to have the dinner.

Advent Survey

Covid-19 changed our personal and our church routines. I have grieved the loss of the predictable, and I am learning to embrace the opportunities to do life and to do church in different ways. When out in public, our attire includes wearing masks. We have experienced recorded church services and live streamed services. We receive communion in a different way while remembering that we still receive the body and blood of our Savior to forgive and to renew us.

Advent begins on November 29th. It's another opportunity to do something different. So here's the question: *Would you participate in Wednesday evening Zoom gatherings (much like Lent Soup Suppers)?* That's it...YES or NO! Feel free to share any ideas you have for this long-distance fellowship/worship.

Please call or email the church office with your response. You can also call or email Gail Voss at 314-522-3842 or gailvoss@yahoo.com.

**On behalf of the Worship Team,
we look forward to hearing from you.**

**God's Work. Our Hands.
Sunday, September 13th**

For GWOH Sunday, the Service & Community Outreach Team would like to have members write encouraging notes to the residents of Oak Knoll. Members can pick up cards from the church or use their own stationary. Please drop off the finished notes at the church office before Sunday, September 13th.

A Message from the President

Hello Zion Family,

I hope September finds you safe and secure in God's love and grace. Please know that your Zion family loves and cherishes you and if you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to let us know. We are here for each other and want to be able to help in any way we can.

The Strategic Planning team (consisting of me, Linda Lemke, Deb Murrish, Jason Martin, Andi Martin, Carol Linhorst, and Pastor Larry) has been meeting every two weeks since the beginning of June. We talked about our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Then we drafted high-level, summary goals and obtained approval from the church council to share those with the congregation.

The summary goals are:

Partnership/Outreach - Be a visible, active presence to discern the needs in our community and work to meet these needs by forming real, lasting relationships with other churches, groups and organizations.

Education/Faith Formation - Equip our members and our community of all ages with a wide array of opportunities geared toward foundational faith and education, covering a multitude of topics ranging from social justice to special interests, offered in a variety of formats.

Alternative Worship - Restructure and expand worship and implement dynamic/modern styles to appeal to a broader range of people by exploring the benefits of diversity and focusing on scripture, spiritual enrichment, and active participation.

Financial Stability - Achieve financial stability for Zion by being faithful stewards of our financial resources and ensuring we have the staff, facilities, and finances we need to grow and evolve.

We are currently working on more specific objectives for each of these goals and will share those, too, when they are ready. How we achieve these goals and objectives will take everyone in the congregation working together in an effort to achieve our mission and vision for Zion.

We appreciate your support and prayers.

Blessings,
Pam Statler, Council President



Zion Is On YouTube

Some of you may be wondering what is going on in the Usher's room. We have been streaming video of our worship on the Internet for almost 10 weeks thanks to the generosity of many members of the congregation.

The equipment consists of a camera that can be turned and tilted to look into most of the sanctuary. The camera can be moved with a joystick, or by pressing a few buttons to automatically point the camera where we want.

There is also a computer that puts the video out on the Internet. The PC combines the sound from the church sound system and video from the camera. The PC also automatically moves the camera. It also allows us to put different pictures and images on the video. It gives us a lot of control to make professional quality videos.



If you haven't seen one of our YouTube videos, take a look. We have a tool that will let us reach out into the world around us and spread the Good News.

Zion Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 19th, 2020 – 6:30pm (Zoom)

In Attendance: Larry Lemke, Pam Statler, Kristen Kinney, Bill Budenholzer, Jason Martin, Doris McCall, Johnnie Tucker, Stacey Miller, Richard Schademann

Welcome and Devotion

- “Present your body as a living sacrifice”

Confirm approval of meeting minutes from July 2020 meeting

- Motion made to accept as written; seconded; approved

Pastor’s Report

- Nothing has changed much – still a lot of uncomfortableness regarding opening churches due to the Pandemic (Eastern Conference Meeting)
- Pastor still offering to help people as needed

Discuss Space Sharing Meeting (held on August 5th)

- Pam shared the questions that were asked and how they were answered and a look at what the expenses might look like in regards to downstairs based on history with the CDC
- GreenTree looking for an all-inclusive price, excited to work with us and open to us using their space when available - would need to be clear about how things would be set up and “torn down” after use; want to put up some signage, but nothing large or elaborate; need some storage; want to use the classrooms (looking at possibly retaining one room for Zion’s use for storage purposes); wanting to use our custodian; looking at 50/50 on some expenses; will need to get own internet and phone service.
 - Estimated expenses totaled about \$3,000 a month – not including a designated amount for the rental of the space.
 - Larry met with a commercial real estate contact who gave a range of what real estate rental rates would be in Ferguson for the size and type of facility downstairs. The range starts at \$2,100 per month.
 - Council agreed to keep working and talking with Boone about what they are looking for and to give them a basic number for what rent plus expenses would look like including the breakdown of the expenses – looking at giving them a \$5,000 a month price for 1 year
 - Motion made to approach GreenTree with a possible \$5,000 monthly payment which would include rent,

insurance, utilities, trash service, custodian services and supplies, pest control, fire safety monitoring, grounds keeping, mowing, snow removal and building repairs and maintenance. This is not a final decision and would be subject to congregation approval if plans move forward. Motion seconded; approved

Team Reports

- Strategic Planning – Pam
 - High level Summary Goals created
 - Partnership/Outreach
 - Education/Faith Formation
 - Alternative Worship
 - Financial Stability
 - Working on objectives to these goals with more specific measurable activities related to the goal
 - Motion made to share the goals with the congregation; seconded; approved
- Finance Report – Bill
 - Church is in the red \$1,340 for the month of July
 - In the red for \$7,980 for the year
 - CDC is in the black for \$14,901 for the month of July
 - In the black for \$25,970 for the year
 - Still getting money from the state as if the CDC was open – we checked with state and this is related to Covid funds – not sure how long it will last.
- Worship – Pastor Larry
 - Services have continued inside the building
 - Larry has sent an email to the congregation regarding ushers seating families together and seating people on Sundays – a reminder that we need to follow safe distancing guidelines
 - Live streaming is still working out for Sundays
 - Looking at the possibility of playing a small kid friendly video during service or possibly do a children’s message from the front of church just with the kids staying in their seats and not coming to the front of the church to sit with pastor
 - Council affirmed its decision to only open the sanctuary on Sundays (with safety guidelines in place). No other space in the church should be used for activities.

- Service/Community – Stacey (meeting held on Aug 6th)
 - Talked about past service projects – decided that with everything happening now, it is hard to do service out in the community
 - The team discussed a back to school collection of items and making cards for Oak Knoll residents. Stacey has reached out to Oak Knoll.
 - Wanting to invite residents to watch the live stream as well
 - Holding off an scheduled meetings right now
 - If anything comes up or any ideas come forward, people can send emails or call about ideas
- Member Care Ministry – Richard
 - Had a meeting at the beginning of August
 - Discussed where the needs might be
 - Birthday and anniversary dates were sent to member care reps to make sure they send cards and well wishes on the proper date
 - Scheduled to meet again in September
- Education – Jason
 - No update
- Property – Pam/Johnnie
 - Playground needs to be weeded –Pastor reaching out to Dorothy Kaiser about contacting lawn mowing company to weed the playground

Voters' meeting (placeholder so we remember to reschedule) (Elect Stacey)

Next Meeting Date – **September 8th at 6:30pm**

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm with Prayer for Zion's Future



Zion Lutheran Church

September Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30am- Worship	31	1 4:30pm-Member Care  E Pfitzinger	2	3	4	5
6 9:30am-Worship with Guest Pastor: Pr. Tina Reyes	7 Labor Day Office Closed  L Calhoun  S&E Voss-Light	8 6:30pm-Council Zoom	9 10am-Bible Study	10 10am-Open Sanctuary 6:30pm-Bible Study  A Locastro	11	12
13 9:30am-Worship	14 6:30pm-Strategic Planning Meeting	15	16 10am-Bible Study	17 10am-Open Sanctuary 6:30pm-Bible Study  E&H Devenport	18	19
20 9:30am-Worship	21 Tidings Deadline	22  E Kinney	23 10am-Bible Study  D McCall	24 10am-Open Sanctuary 6:30pm-Bible Study  N Moseley	25	26
27 9:30am-Worship  K Malin  J&A Martin	28  J Martin	29	30 10am-Bible Study	1 10am-Open Sanctuary 6:30pm-Bible Study	2	3

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in September

	Sep 6	Sep 13	Sep 20	Sep 27	Oct 4
Pastor	T Reyes	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	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	R Schademann	P Herrmann	C Linhorst	R Schademann	P Herrmann
Reader	N Robinson	D Balestier	D Tucker	G Voss	Li Lemke
Communion Servers	P Statler	R Schademann	W Devenport	G Voss	S Miller
Ushers	F Cole J Tucker L Wolk	G Voss B Negwer	Li Lemke D Kaiser	F Cole J Tucker L Wolk	G Voss B Negwer
Altar Guild	D Balestier	D Balestier	D Balestier	D Balestier	E Negwer

* 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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**Celebrating
God's Grace**

September 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
Pat Martin

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