



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings August 2021

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The Launch

On the 1st of September, it will have been five years since I came to Zion for the third time. The first was the summer of 1964 when our family moved to St. Louis and I went to work for McDonnell Aircraft Company. The company then sent me to the East Coast in November of 1979, we came back to Zion for the second time in 1982, and then in 1988, McDonnell sent me to the West Coast.

This last time on the 1st of September 2016, was to be a short 1½ year time period as your Interim Pastor, but events in the fall of 2017 changed all of that. The journey from being a Parish Ministry Associate (PMA) and your Interim Pastor to an Ordained Pastor began as the Bishop approved the request by Zion, and on the 26th of January 2020, I was called to be your Pastor.

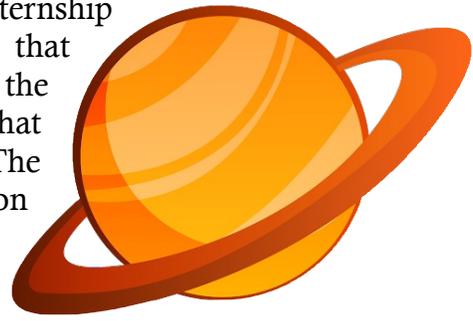


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[facebook.com/zionlutheranferguson](https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranferguson)

and click  .

Part of that seminary journey involved my internship which focused on developing a Strategic Plan that culminated in the work that you all did before the pandemic, in terms of doing some dreaming about what we hoped Zion might look like in five years. The pandemic did not slow us down. In 2020, Zion President Pam Statler led a Strategic Planning Team that developed four goals that the congregation approved. Those four goals were turned into four teams:



- Community In Unity Team, led by Stacey Miller
- Alternative Worship Team, led by Deb Murrish & Andi Martin
- Education and Faith Formation Team, led by Jason Martin
- Financial Sustainability Team, led by Pam Statler

And here we are, ready on the 29th of August to “**launch**” our five-year plan with a presentation to the congregation by each of those four teams and asking for your prayerful support and participation in making it all happen.

I had my next to last coaching session with retired Bishop Roger Gustafson, the Bishop who approved the congregation’s request in the late fall of 2017 for us to go into the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) Program. Bishop Roger and I have met once a month since my ordination. We talked today about where we are as a congregation, where we are going, and he asked me how I felt about the future.

It is obviously still very fresh in my mind, so this is what I told him. Here is what you (as a congregation) have done in these five years that I have been back: When I joined you as your Interim Pastor, you were untiringly serving the community of Ferguson, and you were just building the community playground that served our Child Development Center (CDC) well. We then launched into a process of ultimately signing a lease with All Among Us for use of the Little Church as a Women’s Care Center serving the community.



The process of getting me ordained was not just the work that I had to do during the 2018 and 2019 time-period, but was all the hard work that various people and teams did during that time-period as well. There are a lot of names that come to mind of people who were so instrumental in helping with the process, and I am so grateful for their efforts. But to highlight one that, without her help, I would still be trying to get my theological work done properly, and that person is Andi Martin. If I were giving out gold stars, she would get all of them. Thanks, Andi!

And then, we had to shut down the CDC because of the pandemic. During that time of deciding what we might want to do with our lower level, an opportunity came to us that has culminated in signing a lease with a mission church for use of the

downstairs area of our facility. They plan to start services on the 15th of August (pandemic may change that).

During my 25 plus years being part of Zion, I've seen us make a huge contribution to the community of Ferguson, going way back throughout our 112 year history. So how did my coach, Bishop Roger, respond?

Well, our conversation drifted into what my life plan might be. As we all know, only God can determine that but, I told him about my involvement over the years with other organizations, like Wings of Hope and Lutheran Family and Children Services (some of you might remember little Tommy who was one of our foster babies way back when), and I have folks from other churches that I've served that I still hear from. The conversation that we had reminded me of last Sunday morning at 5am, listening to Charles Stanley about legacy.

I have one more coaching session with Bishop Roger, and we will talk about legacy. I don't want you to think I'm about to die or retire immediately, but for those of you follow my Daily Devotions, you probably know that we talk about what we pass onto our children, grandchildren, and for some of us older folks, our great grandchildren.

But for Zion, we have lots of good stuff to do as we go forward for the next five years serving God and our community in as many ways as we know how. As we look back, we might see what could have been, but as I said earlier, Zion has done so much for the Ferguson community. All three of my children went to the Zion Grade School, and many of you can look back on what Zion has done for the community, and you, and thank God for what He has provided through Zion, but we still have today and tomorrow, and another tomorrow, and so on.

As I've said to you before, as long as my physical and mental health allows me, and you want me, I plan to see this five-year plan to its end on the 1st of September 2026. Are you ready? I am! And with Jesus leading us we will succeed.

God is good and full of GRACE!

Peace & Blessings,
Pastor Larry





August Birthdays

12th Rhonda Moseley
16th Linda Lemke
29th Carol Tillman



Worship Services Streamed Weekly

Every week at 9:30 AM, our worship service is available to watch in real time at zionferguson.com. At the beginning of our venture into broadcast services (March 2020), we did the best we could with the technology we had: a laptop! That was then...

So many enhancements have been made using our new equipment. You may view our recorded services for any week at a time that is convenient to your schedule. If you haven't tuned into a service, please go to YouTube and search Zion Lutheran Church Ferguson. You will see Christian symbols to set the stage for worship. The sound quality is excellent AND closed captioning is now available for the scripture readings, the children's message and the sermon. The words of the creed and Lord's Prayer are projected on the viewer's screen making it easy to be a part of the community. Viewers are also invited to participate in communion even when they are unable to come in person.

God has blessed us with new technology (and people who know how to use it!) to reach others both near and far! Maybe you don't feel comfortable sharing your faith but the Holy Spirit promises to give us courage and the words to speak. So...who can you invite to watch our service? The words are right there!

Launching into Ministry with the Spirit's Power

Excitement is building for the launch on August 29th of the work done by the Strategic Plan Teams. To help prepare the "soil of our hearts for the seeds of opportunity," the closing hymn for each worship service during August is "Sent Forth by God's Blessing." Let the familiar words sink in and consider how you will serve and answer God's call.

The Assisting Minister will send us out into the world with the reminder that we are "blessed to be a blessing." You won't want to miss getting involved after you hear the specific activities in the works!!

Ask yourself, "How will I blossom in action for God and for all?"

A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

When we had our Voters Meeting on Sunday, June 27th, the congregation voted to approve the Council's recommendation to sign a one year lease with Woke Bridge Community Church. I signed that lease on the congregation's behalf on Tuesday, June 29th to be effective on August 1, 2021. Woke Bridge's first in-person worship is planned for Sunday August 15th at 11AM.

Woke Bridge will be using almost all of the lower level other than classroom one at the bottom of the stairs near the ramp going down to the multipurpose room. That will be used for storage. Zion also maintains the use of most of the storage closets and the foyer (sometimes called the choir room). We share use of the kitchen, the patio out by Carson Road, and the playground space.

We hope to have opportunities to partner together with Woke Bridge on ministry activities in our Ferguson community. It will be fun to see what we might do together.

Change is always a process and can have its challenges. We are committed to keeping the lines of communication open with Woke Bridge to hopefully help avoid pitfalls. Pastor Larry, myself, and the Council welcome your thoughts and the sharing of any concerns you have.

God has blessed Zion with a large church building that is completely paid for and we hope that fully utilizing this space brings glory to God's name. We give prayers of thanksgiving for the many decades we used this space as a child development center. The number of young lives we touched is immense and the impact of the seeds we planted in those lives is priceless. People have shared with me that they miss the sound of childrens' voices in the lower level. **Let us hope that the sounds of another church community and it's members will make its own kind of joyful noise to the Lord; different but just as beautiful.**

With a grateful heart,

Pam



Community in Unity

As part of Zion's Strategic Plan, the Community in Unity (CIU) team has been discerning the needs in our community. After meeting with several community leaders and representatives, the CIU team has selected Laundry Love as our first ministry focus. Laundry Love partners with local laundromats in cleaning clothes and linens of low-income or no-income families and individuals. The CIU team is also planning to partner with the Ferguson Warming Center to prepare meals and provide resources for the unhoused and homeless people in the Ferguson community.

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday is September 12, 2021. We will be creating signs of encouragement and inspiration for people to read as they drive by the church. We will also make blessing boxes for the workers at Oak Knoll Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

During the announcements on June 27th, I spoke about the strategic plan goals and upcoming ministry opportunities. The CIU team is now asking you to consider how your gifts and talents can be used in serving our community. Please contact a CIU team member if you have any questions or need additional information about volunteer opportunities.

Lemonade Stand

Thank you Sue, Johnnie, and my own grand-kids for a very successful and fun-filled day. We moved our location to the intersection of Clark and Carson and many more people seemed to stop. The addition of snacks along with the lemonade has been a big hit! The great energy from Rileigh, Kailey, and Gabe brought a lot of attention, or as Gabe put it, "we're more attractive." Can't argue with that! Still looking for additional volunteers, so if you have kids or grand-kids and an hour or two just to get out into the community, we would really appreciate your help.



Education & Faith Formation

The Education Team is still hard at work developing a framework for producing events focused on education and faith formation. Look to the August 29 Strategic Plan Launch for the announcement of our first major education event!

Financial Sustainability

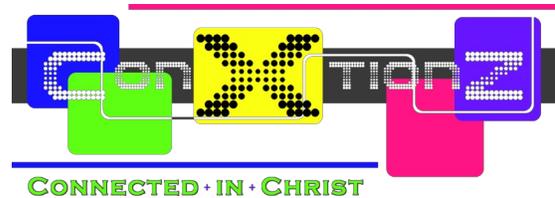
The Financial Sustainability Team has been working on these items:

- The team has scheduled Sunday, September 26th after worship for Stephen Phelps, ELCA Foundation CSS Representative, to come talk to the congregation about the importance of having a will and other financial planning related topics. You do not need to have a lot of money to benefit from what he will share. Please feel free to invite family members or friends, too. We may be video streaming it, too, for people to watch from home. More details to come.
- We have nearly finished drafting an investment policy statement guiding how Zion's financial resources are managed. Zion's Thrivent Financial representatives reviewed and approved the first draft.
- We have also drafted a report about the status of Zion's finances as of 2020 and a look back 20 years in hopes to give members an understanding of where we stand currently and where we have been in regard to our financial resources. We will continue to refine the first draft and then determine the best method of distributing the final report.

Please pray for our efforts on this team which hopes to fulfill the goal and objectives of the strategic plan adopted by the congregation.

Alternative Worship

Join us Friday, August 27, 6:30 pm, for our first ConnXtionZ: Connected in Christ – a service that focuses on community and connecting with each other. As part of our Strategic Plan, we looked for a way to add a more dynamic and modern worship style to our week, and we'd like you to be a part of it! We'll focus on scripture and what it means to us in our daily lives. If you're tired of being preached at and enjoy open discussion and participation, then this is for you. Children are also encouraged to participate. We'll have snacks, music, prayer circle, and activities to help us to connect with one another. Get your dose of Jesus with this pocket-sized service, which aims to take no longer than 30 minutes so you can be home in time to kick off your weekend, or stay to hang out and get to know each other. Invite your family, friends, neighbors and anyone you think will benefit from this new worship opportunity.





Fundraising night for
Feed My Starving Children

Wednesday, August 18th

11:30 A.M. – 10 P.M.

1055 St Catherine St, Florissant, MO 63031



Must Bring Flyer



FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN

Doors Open at 6 PM

Trivia at 6:30 PM

\$25 per person - tables of 8

RSVP: Call Sue (314) 229-6313 or Chris (314) 346-0399
or Email fmscfundraiser.nocopack@gmail.com

**TRIVIA
NIGHT**

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18TH**

at Lutheran Church of the Atonement // 1285 N. New Florissant Rd.



Voter's Meeting

Sunday, June 27th, 2021

28 Voting Members in attendance

- Opening Prayer and Welcome (10:40am start)
- Approval of Voters Meeting Minutes (Dec. 6th, 2020)
 - Approved
- Pastor's Report
 - Thank you for everybody hanging in and working with us as the pandemic changes our practices
 - Loving of one another and loving of God has been amazing as we go through this
 - Please ask any questions about space sharing
- Space Sharing Lower Level
 - Copy of proposed lease with Woke Bridge Community Church is included in the Voters packet
 - Reviewed items on cover sheet included in packet
 - Shared spaces include kitchen, playground, and patio
 - \$2,500 per month when all agreed upon spaces being used
 - Fish Fry and Quilters meetings covered in lease
 - Everything we've sorted through is in room one which is one of our storage spaces
 - Local daycares have come to take various items
 - Going to let the congregation go through the contents as well
 - Have a couple refrigerators if anyone is interested
 - Council has recommended the approval of the lease agreement
 - Motion made to proceed with the Council Recommendations to approve 1 year lease agreement with opportunity to extend it, seconded by Dorothy Kaiser
 - Unanimously approved by Voters

WRITTEN REPORTS IN THE PACKET (please let leaders know if you have any questions and please read the tidings)

- Financial Report
- Team Reports
 - Member Care Ministry
 - Worship
 - Property
- Strategic Goal Reports
 - Community in Unity
 - Alternative Worship
 - Education and Faith Formation
 - Financial Sustainability

Closing Prayer for Zions' Future – Meeting adjourned at 11:05

Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 13th, 2021 – 6:30pm (Zoom)

In Attendance: Larry Lemke, Pam Statler, Bill Budenholzer, Jan Roevekamp, Stacey Miller, Doris McCall, Johnnie Tucker, Jason Martin

Excused Absence: Carol Linhorst; **Absent:** Fannie Cole

- Welcome and Devotion
 - 23rd Psalm
 - Help us find peace and understanding in the world today
- Confirm approval of meeting minutes from June 2021 meeting
 - Motion made to approve minutes, seconded and approved
- Pastor's Report
 - Friday 7/16 Carol Linhorst is having surgery
 - FMA met 7/13
 - Mayor and acting City Manager were in attendance
 - Police Chief has resigned – deputy Police Chief is now the police chief – looking to have him installed by August 9th
 - New City manager starting August 15th
 - COVID related issues discussed –working to get people vaccinated- Missouri is 39.16% vaccinated - highest percentage is 65-84 age group
- Space Sharing Update
 - Lease signed on 6/29/21; effective 8/1/21
 - August 1st starts the \$2,500 a month with full use of the space
 - Worship time for Woke Bridge still being finalized; 8/15/21 first in person
 - Blessed Teresa has taken a lot of things from room one – has been opened up to the congregation to take things as well
 - Looking at getting everything else to Salvation Army or Goodwill when everything is done being picked through
- Team Reports
 - Worship Team – Pr. Larry
 - Pastor is going to make a gentle remind about social distancing during continuous communion and after and before services
 - Masks will continue to not be mandated
 - Other precautions will stay in place in regards to COVID
 - Bob Kemper will continue to be the guitarist the second Sunday of the month
 - Live streaming is also recorded – looking at adding a Tidings article to encourage people who attend to view the service

and see what it looks like in order to invite others to view it as well

- Member Care Ministry – Doris
 - Everybody is doing reports and checking on their members
 - Have added a Bible Devotion to their meetings at the end
- Property – Pam/ Johnnie
 - Repaired the air conditioner – was just a belt
 - Signed a contract to get lower level lot and ramps sealed – will need to be restriped as well
 - Bill has coordinated some Ethernet cable moves for internet
- Treasurer Report – Bill
 - Church in the red for \$4,385 for June, \$8,047 cumulative loss for year
 - Annual HVAC maintenance paid in June as well as outside mission support
 - Actual loss is less than budgeted loss for the year so far
- Strategic Goal Reports
 - Financial Sustainability – Pam
 - Preliminary date for financial planning presentation is September 26th – Stephen Phelps from the ELCA
 - First draft of investment policy statement to be sent to Thrivent for review
 - Community in Unity (Partnership/Outreach) – Stacey
 - Met July 8th
 - Main focus for our strategic plan – working with homeless or underserved individuals through Laundry Love and 6-4-3 Warming Center
 - Also discussed God’s Work Our Hands – possibly creating signs to put up in the church grass with positive sayings and blessing boxes for the workers at Oak Knoll
 - Will be asking for donations in regards to these two action items and looking at getting an Action Grant through Thrivent for them as well
 - Education and Faith Formation – Jason
 - Will be meeting July 15th
 - Jason has finished the tool he has been working on to evaluate plans and ideas going forward
 - Alternative Worship – Pr. Larry
 - First service will be on the 27th of August
 - Connectionz – Connected in Christ
 - Strategic Planning Launch
 - August 29th which is about 5 years since Larry has been here
 - Each of the teams is working on a presentation to show the

- church
 - A “where are we now and where are we going” style launch
 - Will be live streamed after church
- New Business
 - Safety precautions regarding COVID has been brought up
 - Want to keep things safe and what is best for the congregation
 - People are looking to getting into the upper room relative to having Bible Class
 - Council has agreed to keep things the way they are in regards to church meetings and gatherings in the building outside the sanctuary – due to the unknowns that are out there – no meetings at this time
- Shout outs
 - Deb Murrish for her devotion and energy in the different committees she is involved in
 - Marvin for all his hard work and willingness to help whenever asked
 - Stacey for all of her help with various teams
 - Doris and Dorothy for all the work they’ve done on the lower level to make the CDC equipment and material available to others
- Next Meeting Date – August 10th
- Meeting adjourned 7:51pm



Zion Lutheran Church

August Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am- Worship	2	3	4	5 10am-Member Care	6	7
8 9:30am-Worship	9 1pm-Worship Team	10 6:30pm-Council	11 10am-Bible Discussion	12 6:30pm-Community in Unity  R Moseley	13	14
15 9:30am-Worship	16 6:30pm-Alternative Worship Zoom  Li Lemke	17 6:30pm-Strategic Plan Zoom	18 10am-Bible Discussion	19 6:30pm-Education & FF Team	20	21
22 9:30am-Worship	23 Tidings Deadline 12pm-Financial Sustainability	24	25 10am-Bible Discussion	26	27 6:30pm-Alternative Worship Service	28
29 9:30am-Worship 10:30am-Launch of Strategic Plan!  C Tillman	30	31	1 10am-Bible Discussion	2	3	4

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in August

	Aug 1	Aug 8	Aug 15	Aug 22	Aug 29
Pastor	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	TBD	A Mayhew	C Rock	A Mayhew	A Mayhew
Assisting Minister	N Wolz	P Herrmann	R Schademann	P Statler	J Martin
Lector	R Schademann	D Tucker	D Balestier	Li Lemke	A Martin
Children's Message	L Lemke	G Voss	N Wolz	L Lemke	G Voss
Ushers	Li Lemke J Tucker	D Kaiser L Wolk	G Voss J Roevekamp	Li Lemke J Tucker	D Kaiser L Wolk
Altar Guild	D Balestier	D Balestier	D Balestier	D Balestier	D Balestier
Video Streaming	B Budenholzer	B Budenholzer	B Budenholzer	B Budenholzer	B Budenholzer

* 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.

Zion Lutheran Church
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Ferguson, MO 63135
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www.zionferguson.com



**Celebrating
God's Grace**

August 2021

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

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

Member Care Ministry

Doris McCall*
Carole Herrmann
Dorothy Kaiser
Richard Schademann
Deborah Balestier
Carol Tillmann

Committee Chairs

Finance	Pam Statler
Property	Johnnie Tucker
Stewardship:	Pam Statler/Gail Voss
Personnel	Ara Tess
Nominating	-

Organizations

Fellowship:	Robert Negwer
Altar Guild:	-
Hospitality	Doris McCall

Team Leaders

Worship	Gail Voss
Service & Community	Stacey Miller
Education	Jason Martin
Alt. Worship	Deb Murrish

Team Members:

Worship Team

Gail Voss*
Kristina Oswald
Nyokia Robinson
Norma Wolz
Doris McCall
Bill Budenholzer

Community in Unity Team

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

Education Team

Jason Martin*
Norma Wolz
Stacey Miller
Linda Lemke
Andi Martin

Financial Sustainability Team

Pam Statler
Bill Budenholzer
Paul Herrmann

Alternative Worship Team

Deb Murrish*
Andi Martin*
Jason Martin
Kristen Kinney
Christine Walters
Bill Budenholzer
Pam Statler
Gail Voss