



# Zion Lutheran Church

## The Tidings November 2021

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**Come Ye, Thankful People, Come!**  
Thanksgiving Eve Service



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and click  .

Invite your friends and family to gather and give thanks to God on the Wednesday evening prior to Thanksgiving Day in our sanctuary. God's abundant blessings are all around us!

# What Do We Believe?

As I'm writing this, I'm thinking of lots of things that I'd like to say to all of you, but I can only fit so much in this message. First though, thanks so much for being who you are! Let your faith in Jesus Christ be a beacon of light to others and a pillar of strength to support you through all times, good and bad.

I've been preparing for Reformation Sunday, and thinking of what Martin Luther believed and literally gave his life for. You may remember that at the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in the fall of 2017, we conducted a bible study entitled "By Heart" that commemorated that anniversary. I looked at the material we used, and I'm convinced we probably need to do it again. Some of our memories need a booster shot! I know mine does, and preparing for this coming Reformation Sunday reminded me of that.

In the early part of October, the Central States Synod (CSS) conducted a Fall Theological Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks (formally titled the Bishop's Convocation). Because I'm still referred to as a "First Call Pastor," the ten of us who fall in that category met with the Bishop's Associate Rev. Dave Whetter on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning for a discussion entitled "What is it that our congregations aren't talking about?" The implication, of course, was "What should we be talking about?" Interestingly enough, that turned out to be the main focus at the fall conference.

In our First Call Group discussion, we talked about lots of hot button topics, but what the Bishop later emphasized (my understanding) was we need to discuss racism and sexuality. Most of the congregations, like ours, have been mired in the pandemic discussions of masks and social distancing. What have we done to try to stay connected to our parishioners considering the pandemic restrictions? The response to that was from one end of the spectrum to the other. Some rural congregations have just stayed open and some large congregations have shut down and are just now opening, but have found Zoom or live streaming as ways to stay connected.

As you are aware, since June of 2020, we have been open with live streaming, mask mandates, and social distancing restrictions, but our attendance, considering all that, has been very close to what it was before the pandemic hit. In addition, our live streaming has reached out to other people that we didn't reach before it was available, and that is what I want to make you aware of.

Andi sends out an e-mail every Sunday morning 20 minutes before church begins (9:10 am). When it arrives, I forward it to 36 of my family and friends. You can do the same thing! If you would like to know how to do that, please let Andi know and she can explain it to you.

Live streaming and recordings are tools that we can, and should, be using to reach out with the Good News of Jesus Christ to whoever – it could be some family and friends – you may know. All you need is their e-mail address. When I first started doing that, I asked them if they might be interested; it is good etiquette to get their permission. In this new era created by the pandemic, we should be using what we've learned.

So, back to the Bishop's suggestion that we have conversations about racism and sexuality. Sexuality was a hot button topic way back in the 2000's under the title of Human Sexuality. In 2009, the Churchwide Assembly passed the change in how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) views homosexual clergy and left it up to each congregation on who they call to be their pastor. The Bishop's comment on sexuality was that she thought the ELCA was past that, but she said apparently not, based on what she was hearing.

Racism sprung forward as a top hot button topic when some African Americans were killed by the police, and protests brought violence and clear disagreement on how to move forward. And all of this in the midst of the pandemic.

So what are we (Zion) going to do with both of these subjects (racism and sexuality)? I came here in 2016 and I interviewed a number of our members concerning what had happened here in Ferguson in the aftermath of Michael Brown's death.

Zion is a unique congregation. We have a super bunch of folks who are both white and black. We are blessed with being a diverse congregation. Speaking of diverse, the ten First Call Pastor Group that I am part of consists of six females, four males; nine white, one black; six heterosexual, four homosexual (two lesbian, one gay, one transgender); one old guy (me), and the rest much younger.

What are we going to do? We will soon have some opportunities to talk with each other about racism & sexuality. I look forward to listening to your thoughts and the discussions yet to come.

Peace & Blessings,  
Pastor Larry



## November Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Ben Vogelsang  
5<sup>th</sup> Donna Graef  
6<sup>th</sup> Ralph Taylor  
9<sup>th</sup> Catherine Copeland  
15<sup>th</sup> Joan Tucker  
Jon Tucker  
18<sup>th</sup> Pam Statler  
19<sup>th</sup> Sue Dunham  
Melba Gierse  
22<sup>nd</sup> Jan Roevekamp  
30<sup>th</sup> Nathaniel Voss

## November Anniversaries

3<sup>rd</sup> Jay & Pat Martin

### “Thanks for the Memories...”

Thank you worshippers for all of the suggestions for our favorite hymn Sunday that turned into favorite hymn month! Thanks also to our musicians who creatively fit so much wonderful music into the services and helped us give thanks and praise to our loving God!

## All Saints Celebration

We will celebrate All Saints on Sunday, November 7th. Worshippers will receive a votive candle to take home and light in memory of loved ones. A special prayer is included below, 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. Take some time to share with others or think about the blessings God gave you through these special people.

*“Merciful God, you heal the broken in heart. In Christ’s rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. We give you thanks for the time we shared with our loved ones. Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love we shall one day be brought together again with \_\_\_\_\_. Strengthen us and give us courage for the days ahead. In your name we pray. Amen.”\**

\*Based on a prayer from the Funeral Rite, ELW pg. 285

## Heartfelt Thanks

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for their cards, thoughts, support, prayers and condolences on Martin's death. It is much appreciated! You are truly God's treasures.

- Kristina Oswald and Family



# A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

November is a time of thanks and I am thankful for each of you. Looking back on this year we have achieved a lot. Thanks be to God for all he has helped us accomplish this year.

I look forward to a chance to enjoy some of the wonderful things we have planned for the rest of the year. We will gather together in small groups to consider our stewardship theme "Live Generously" and continue our Friday night ConnectionZ worship services. We will celebrate All Saints Sunday and look forward to the Advent season. Remember to pick up a November calendar to help focus on "30 Days of Thanks" in November.

I pray for peace and comfort for all and a chance to slow down a little and ponder the wonder of the autumn colors and the many gifts we have been given.

Blessings and thanksgiving,

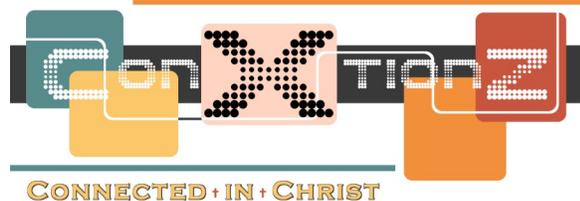
Pam 



## ConnectionZ

Thank you to everyone who joined us on the patio for our first five gatherings! On November 12th, we will move indoors to the Upper Room for heat and light. Come and see how a change in location affects our worship. There will be no gathering November 26th for the Thanksgiving weekend.

On December 10th, we will be back on the patio for "Holiday Hangout." There will be something for everyone — a special message, Christmas carols, a service opportunity, fire pits, and snacks. Plan on joining us for an evening away from the hustle and bustle of the season. We will not gather on December 24th, but will start connecting again on January 14th.



# Live Generously

We hope you are looking forward to our small group conversations about "Live Generously," our stewardship theme for this year. If you have not signed up for a session and would like to, please call Andi in the office.

Our discussion will focus on how scripture encourages us to become more faithful and generous stewards.

Following the small group gatherings, a letter and financial pledge card will be mailed to members. Commitment Sunday will be on November 21st during worship.

*2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the generous acts of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich."*

## Thirty Days of Thanks

As we start the month of November we remember that Thanksgiving is also coming. Even in this year of pandemic and derisive politics we still have a lot to be thankful for. So, please remember each day of November to think of something for which you are thankful. Write it down on the calendar you picked up at church or on your own calendar and share it with the people around you. If you participate in social media, please add the hashtag #30daysofthanks so others can find your message. There is another way to share. At the back of church you will see a tree bulletin board. On a small table there are colored leaves and permanent markers. Write something for which you are thankful and put the leaf in the box on the table. We will put it on the board for all to see. Stop by and be inspired by what others are sharing.



## **Advent Devotionals**

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. A devotional booklet entitled, “Wait Upon the Lord!” will encourage us to trust in the Lord and learn to be patient for his plans for our lives to come to pass. The booklets will be available for worshippers to pick up in church beginning on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The booklets will be mailed to those who are at home.

## **Zoom Advent Discussion Wednesday Evenings**

Everyone is invited to four Wednesday evening discussions based on the Advent Devotional “Wait Upon the Lord!”( described above) These discussions take the place of the regular Wednesday morning discussion. The series will begin on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm via a Zoom link that will be sent to everyone just like the invitation for the morning discussions. Even if you don’t Zoom on your computer, you can still join by way of a phone number and ID that are included in the email from the office. Please call Andi in the office if you have any questions.

Schedule time to *Wait Upon the Lord* with fellow members and friends and join us on Wednesday evenings leading up to Christmas.

## **Financial Sustainability**

Everyone should have received a copy of the 2020 Financial Report and History in their church mailboxes or in the mail. If you have not received a copy and would like one, please let Andi in the office know. If you have any questions about the report or would like to discuss it, a member of the Financial Sustainability Team would be glad to make themselves available.

Now that The Upper Room is available for in-person meetings, the session with Stephen Phelps, ELCA Regional Gift Planner, will be rescheduled. Watch for more information about that coming soon.

## **MSD Customer Assistance Program**

The Metropolitan St, Louis Sewer District (MSD) has a Customer Assistance Program that reduces the MSD bill by 50% for limited income individuals/families (two times the poverty level income), disabled citizens and seniors, For details and how to apply call Customer Service at 1 (314) 768-6260 or go to <https://msdprojectclear.org/customers/billing/customer-assistance-program>.

# **Zion Council Meeting**

## **Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – 6:30pm Zoom**

**In attendance:** Pam Statler, Kristen Kinney, Doris McCall, Johnnie Tucker, and Jan Roevekamp; **Absent:** Pr. Larry Lemke, Carol Linhorst, Jason Martin, Fannie Cole, Bill Budenholzer

- **Welcome and Prayer**
- **Confirm approval of meeting minutes from September 2021 meeting**
  - Motion made, seconded and approved
- **Use of the Upper Room**
  - Guidelines sent in an email to council for Council recommendations to use the upper room
  - Guidelines include
    - Masks mandatory while in the room
    - 4 people at a table (unless a family group)
    - Removing the long tables to give more room for the round tables
    - Zion sponsored events only
    - No food or drink
    - Doors remain open at all times
    - Total maximum of 35 people in room
    - Recommend opening windows, if possible, for air circulation,
    - The host of the event sprays and wipes down tables after the event
  - Christ the King Lounge
    - No maximum number (Use best discretion)
      - Consider moving to Upper Room if over 6 people
    - Masks required
    - Open windows if weather allows
    - Leave doors open
  - Motion made to open the Upper Room and the Christ the King Lounge using the recommendations brought forward by council, seconded, and approved
- **Space Sharing Update, if any**
  - Meeting weekly to discuss what's happening with either group; going well

- **Team Reports**

- Worship Team – Doris
  - Proposing advent services via zoom – 3 Wednesdays
- Member Care Ministry – Doris
  - Meeting held and everyone was in attendance
  - Nothing out of the ordinary – discussed the members that have passed away and members that are in need
- Property – Pam/Johnnie
  - Contract signed to get the hole in the parking lot fixed
  - Larry Wolk is working on the lights inside stairwell to the Carson Road Patio
  - Possible vendor found to do the railing on the patio stairs as well
- Treasurer Report – Pam
  - Church in the red about \$2,300 for September – overall about \$7000 in the red for the year so far (budgeted over \$30,000 loss for 2021)

- **Strategic Goal Reports**

- Financial Sustainability – Pam
  - Reports have been put in mailboxes and will be mailed to people who didn't get them
  - Will work on rescheduling the session with ELCA representative
- Community in Unity (Partnership/Outreach) – Stacey
  - Meeting October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
  - Have been discussing Laundry Love and 6-4-3 Warming Center and the best way to get those going
  - Ferguson Spooktacular on October 30<sup>th</sup>
- Education and Faith Formation – Stacey
  - Looking at events for the Lord's Prayer and Seeking Shalom
  - Teaming up with the Alternative Worship Committee for the December worship service – ways to support that with education – ways to bring all three groups together
- Alternative Worship – Kristen
  - Worship being held October 22<sup>nd</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, and December 10<sup>th</sup>
  - November will be focusing on Thanks and December will be a "Holiday Hangout"

- **Stewardship – Pam**
  - Has met twice – Pam, Pastor, and Gail
  - Wanda Davenport and Ron Davenport have been involved as well
  - Working on “cottage meetings” small groups to have the chance to focus ourselves on a topic related to stewardship and generosity
- **Nominating Committee**
  - Pam has sent a list of people that may serve on the nominating committee to Pastor
- **Shout outs for people sharing talents and time**
  - Shout out to everyone on the different committees and teams for their creativity and how we are doing things in a “new way” and being open and adaptable to that
  - Shout out to Carolyn and Annette for favorite hymns and being flexible
  - Shout out to people who are open to new ideas and are listening and affirming to others
- **Next Meeting Date – November 9<sup>th</sup>**
- **Meeting Adjourned 7:40pm**



# Zion Lutheran Church

## November Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Oct 31 9:30am-Worship & Reformation Day	1	2  B Vogelsang	3 10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm-Alt. Worship  J&P Martin	4 10am-Member Care	5  D Graef	6  R Taylor
7 All Saints Sun 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Small Group Stewardship	8 2pm-Worship Team 6:30pm-Strategic Planning	9 6:30pm-Council  C Copeland	10 10am-Bible Discussion	11 6:30pm- Community in Unity	12 6:30pm-Alternative Worship Service	13
14 9:30am-Worship: D Kemper	15  Joan Tucker  Jon Tucker	16	17 10am-Bible Discussion	18  P Statler	19  S Dunham  M Gierse	20
21 9:30am-Worship: K Nolde	22 <b>Tidings Deadline</b>  J Roevekamp	23	24 10am-Bible Discussion 6:30pm- Thanksgiving Eve Worship	25 Thanksgiving Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:30am-Worship	29	30  N Voss	1 10am-Bible Discussion	2	3	4

# *Zion Lutheran Church*

## **Serving on Sundays in November**

	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28	Dec 5
Pastor	L Lemke	D Kemper	K Nolde	L Lemke	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	C Rock	A Mayhew	C Rock	A Mayhew	C Rock
Assisting Minister	J Martin	N Wolz	P Herrmann	Li Lemke	R Schademann
Lector	A Martin	N Wolz	P Herrmann	R Schademann	L Moore
Children's Message	N Wolz	G Voss	L Lemke	N Wolz	G Voss
Ushers	D Kaiser L Wolk	G Voss J Roevekamp	Li Lemke J Tucker	D Kaiser L Wolk	G Voss J Roevekamp
Altar Guild	J Stoverink T Harkins	J Stoverink T Harkins	J Stoverink T Harkins	J Stoverink T Harkins	D Balestier

\* 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**

## November 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
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