



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings July 2025



MOBILE FOOD PACK

Registration Now Open

Feed My Starving Children supplies lifesaving meals to starving children all over the globe. Last year, the North County MobilePack [thanks to more than 600 volunteers] was able to prepare 139,968 meals. 116,400 went to Haiti, 23,328 went to Ukraine, and a total of 381 children were fed for a year. This year, we are aiming to feed 500 children for a year!

Shifts are filling up quick. If your first choice is full, please select a different one. Email FMSCNoCo@gmail.com if you want to be added to the waiting list for a full shift.

Friday, July 11

4:00 to 6:15 PM

Saturday, July 12

9:00 to 11:15 AM

12:15 to 2:30 PM

3:30 to 5:45 PM

Visit FMSCNoCo.org to Register

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Watch worship services live
on Sundays at 9:30 A.M. by visiting:

www.zionferguson.com

and clicking

LIVE STREAM

Where are We Going?

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." – Psalm 116:9-10

Being relatively new to the **formal** role of Interim Pastor, I've been seeking out resources to enhance my experience of leading through transitional times. One book which came highly recommended was Susan Beaumont's *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going!*

I want Zion to dwell with the question "Where are we going?" It's more than okay for the answer to be "we don't know!" (for now). And I want to offer you a framework I feel might help us start talking about where we are and where God is leading us as a congregation!

Walter Brueggemann introduced three stages of life and faith in his book, *Theology of the Psalms*. He noticed that the prayer book of the Hebrew Bible contained messages for three clear stages of a community's life:

Orientation, Disorientation, and Reorientation.

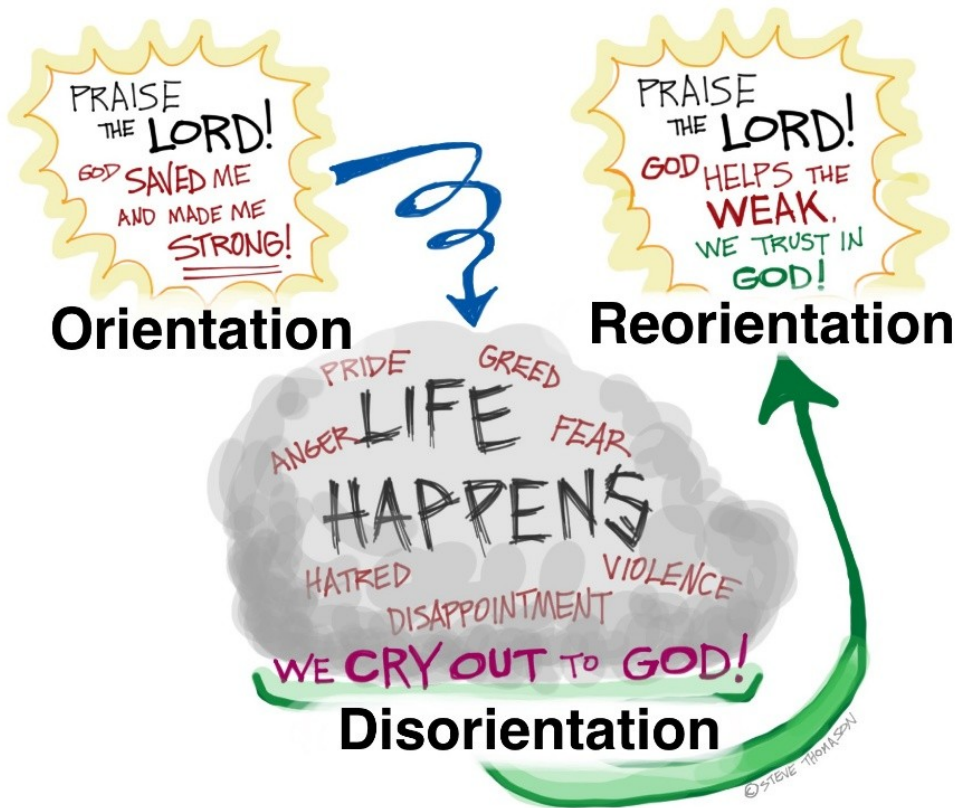


Image Credit : <https://www.stevethomason.net/2015/07/05/a-doodle-for-psalms-orientation-disorientation-reorientation/>

Which of these stages do you think Zion might be in?

While we may not know where we're going, we do have a sense of where this congregation and many ELCA congregations across our country are. The institutional church finds itself in a long period of disorientation: "We aren't what we used to be." "The world is so different now." "Can God be active and the Spirit moving in a small congregation?" "There's no money and no new people." How Long, O Lord!

My friends, we need not feel shame or judgment about where we are—disorientation is a part of all transitions. Laura Truman reflects well on this reality: "Not only can this stage not be rushed, but *we can't get out of disorientation on our own at all*. The world has turned upside down, and no matter how much we want to turn it back, and no matter how much people shame us for not just *feeling better* or *feeling more healed* – the healing doesn't come from ourselves. **The psalms of reorientation aren't stories of successful self-help routines. Reorientation is not an accomplishment. It is a gift. It is grace.**"

And my friends, God has promised that reorientation stage to you and me. To Zion. To the people of God in all sorts of places. Which means we can be honest that we're in a place where a lot of things seem uncertain. But that's not the end of God's story with us. It's not a coincidence that after many of the lament psalms (22, 44, 88, etc.), psalms of reorientation ensue right away! We are walking in the land of the Living God, regardless of the stage we find ourselves in—and our future is in God's hands.

May God bless us on this journey,

Pastor Matt

July Birthdays

3 rd	Stacey Miller
11 th	Emily Voss-Light
22 nd	Justin Kinney
29 th	Annis Tucker
31 st	Robert Negwer

July Anniversaries

12th Robert & Esther Negwer



Things to Know About July

- The Church Office will be closed Friday, July 4th for the holiday
- Council and the Community in Unity Team will not meet in July
- The FMSC MobilePack is July 11th & 12th. Sign up at FMSCNoCo.org
- The new July collection goal for St. Stephen's Food Pantry is canned vegetables
- Pokeno is on July 24th at 11:30 AM
- Fellowship and Noisy Change will be on July 27th
- The Tidings Deadline is July 28th
- Laundry Love is July 28th

A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

Well, summer is upon us but before we know it summer will be over and we will be looking forward to participating in our fall traditions.

Two things that are planned with the other congregations in the Great Rivers Collaborative (GRC) are:

1. God's Work Our Hands is on Sunday Sept 7th, and we will be joining in service activities after morning worship. If anyone would like to help plan for what activities we might do, please let me know!
2. Joint worship for Reformation on Wednesday October 29th hosted by Atonement Lutheran in Florissant.

Our next GRC meeting is on Sunday, July 13th at 2PM at Unity in Bel Nor (8454 Glen Echo Drive) Everyone is welcome! Please come and get to know members of our neighboring congregations as we call upon the Holy Spirit's help to dream and discern the future.

Blessings,

Pam

God's Helping Hands

**SCHOOL
SUPPLY DRIVE**



Donations Needed:

Pencils, Notebooks, Crayons,
Colored Pencils, Markers,
Glue Sticks, Pocket Folders,
Scissors, Paper

Monetary Donations Are Also Appreciated!

Drop Off Location:

Zion Lutheran Church • 123 Carson Rd. • Ferguson, MO 63135

Zion Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – 6:30PM (Zoom)

IN ATTENDANCE: Pastor Matt, Pam Statler, Jan Roevekamp, Kristen Kinney, Stacey Miller, Justin Kinney, Johnnie Tucker, Erma Miller

ABSENT: Richard Schademann, Wanda Davenport, and Ron Davenport

WELCOME, PRAYER, DEVOTION

- How to lead when you have no idea where you are going – book Pastor Matt is reading
- Talk about things in ways we haven't before
- What has Zion not talked about that might need to be talked about?
 - What it means to be reconciled in Christ?
 - Haven't dedicated a designated time to only talk about our future with the congregation – usually small moments in meetings and updates
 - Celebrated people moving and leaving the congregation, but we haven't really talked through the grief of it all. Prayer around the cross to process it all?

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Juneteenth Worship is June 22nd with a potluck to follow
- Atonement is bringing big BBQ smokers to Saint Philips for Grill to Glory most weeks to assist tornado victims
- Working with Pam Statler to go through job descriptions
- Richard and Pastor have met to update and streamline description of PMA duties
- Retiring the Prayer for Zion's Future – wanting to mix things up

CONFIRM APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 2025 MEETING

- Stacey made a motion made to approve meeting minutes from May 2025 meeting; seconded by Jan; approved

GREAT RIVERS COLLABORATIVE (GRC) UPDATE

- No general GRC update – may start planning God's Work. Our Hands.
- Living Christ – would like to serve Mimosas at fellowship
 - General belief is that we are trying to do something together – they have the tradition, so we want to include their traditions
 - Council approved

SPACE SHARING UPDATE

- Inquiry about NA group meeting in the Upper Room –
 - Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30
 - \$40 a week when they meet
 - Discussed Lent Soup Suppers and times when we need the room on Wednesday night – they just need notice of those times and may use the PRC instead

- Pastor Matt made a motion to enter a contract with this NA group for the use of the space on Wednesday evenings, seconded by Stacey, approved by council

TEAM REPORTS

- Worship: Pastor Matt
 - Nice worship with Living Christ on June 8th
 - Fellowship is the 4th Sunday of every month rather than the last in order to include Living Christ
 - Ordered new music accompaniment books
 - Try to work with member care to get at home members to church on September 14th – “Rally day”
- Member Care Ministry: Pastor Matt
 - Carol Tillman was hospitalized and is recovering
 - Larry Wolk is also recovering
 - Ron has been doing a lot of emails with people and getting some good responses
- Property: Pam, Johnnie
 - The gutters have been fixed on the Little Church, and it is no longer leaking
 - Larry Wolk suggested looking at an electronic back up for the AC timer in case of power outages
- Treasurer: Justin
 - No report – working on finishing up May – report to follow

STRATEGIC GOAL REPORTS

- Community in Unity (Partnership/Outreach) – Stacey
 - School supply drive is in full swing
 - Feed my Starving Children sign-ups are going well
 - Passing on Laundry Love information for the Red Cross working at the Ferguson Church of the Nazarene
 - Discussing working with Grill to Glory through Saint Philips
- Education and Faith Formation – Pastor Matt/Richard
 - No updates
- Alternative Worship – Pam/Kristen
 - No updates


NEXT MEETING DATE – AUGUST 12TH (NO MEETING IN JULY)



Totals as of June 23, 2025

Zion Lutheran Church

July Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 29 9:30am-Worship	30	July 1	2	3  S Miller	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5
6 9:30am-Worship	7 1pm-Worship Team 6:30pm-Member Care	8	9	10	11  E Voss-Light	12  R&E Negwer
13 9:30am-Worship & Children's Sunday School 2pm-GRC Mtg @ Unity	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:30am-Worship & Children's Sunday School	21	22  J Kinney	23	24 11:30am-Pokeno	25	26
27 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 10:45am-Fellowship	28 Tidings Deadline 6pm-Laundry Love	29  A Tucker	30	31  R Negwer	1 Aug	2

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in July

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	Aug 3
Presiding	M Schlake-Kruse	P Schaefer	R Schademann	M Schlake-Kruse	T Danieley
Music Accompanist	J Martin	D Eggers	J Martin	D Eggers	J Martin
Assisting Minister	P Statler	J Roevekamp	N Wolz	R Schademann	J Roevekamp
Lector	L Moore	K Malin	K Kinney	D Balestier	S Miller
Children's Message	M Schlake-Kruse	K Kinney	N Wolz	M Schlake-Kruse	N Wolz
Ushers	S Dunham	K Malin	J Roevekamp	P Statler	S Dunham
J Altar Guild	J Kinney K Kinney	J Kinney K Kinney	D Balestier	D Balestier	K Malin
Video Streaming	K Kinney	P Statler	B Budenholzer	K Kinney	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
123 Carson Road
Ferguson, MO 63135
314.522.0100 Office
office@zionferguson.com
www.zionferguson.com



**Celebrating
God's Grace**

July 2025

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

Pastor: Matt Schlake-Kruse
PMA: Richard Schademann
President: Pam Statler
Vice President: Stacey Miller
Secretary: Kristen Kinney
Treasurer: Justin Kinney
Member At-Large: Erma Miller
Member At-Large: Jan Roevekamp
Member At-Large: Rich Schademann
Member At-Large: Johnnie Tucker

Member Care Ministry

Ron Devenport
Wanda Devenport
Sue Dunham
Linn Moore
Richard Schademann*

Committee Chairs

Finance: Pam Statler
Property: Johnnie Tucker
Stewardship: Pam Statler

Organizations

Hospitality: Annis Tucker
Norma Wolz
Altar Guild: Deb Balestier

Team Leaders

Worship: Norma Wolz
Community in Unity: Stacey Miller
Education: Richard Schademann
Financial Sustainability: Pam Statler
Alt. Worship: Deb Murrish

Team Members:

Worship Team

Norma Wolz*
Kristina Oswald
Bill Budenholzer

Community in Unity Team

Stacey Miller*
Pam Statler
Bill Budenholzer
Linn Moore
Deb Murrish
Kristen Kinney
Justin Kinney
Richard Schademann

Education Team

Norma Wolz

Financial Sustainability Team

Pam Statler
Justin Kinney
Jan Roevekamp

Alternative Worship Team

Deb Murrish*
Kristen Kinney
Christine Walters
Bill Budenholzer
Pam Statler