

Zion Lutheran Church
Arlington, MN

November Newsletter

November 2024

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Note from Pastor Gretchen

Chattin' It Up...

- Board of Stewardship
- Zion Harvest Celebration
- Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship Service
- Confirmation Corner



In a recent conversation with my aunt Clarice, who is 92, I asked her, “what are you up to these days?” She answered, “I am praying to God to find out why I’m still here.” “And what are you hearing?” “I’m here to put more love in the world.” and she laughed with delight. We talked about the ways she was putting more love in the world. I began to wonder, how I am putting love into the world?

On November 2, the congregations of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA will gather for Equipping Congregations Day at Peace Lutheran, in New London MN to focus on aspects of worship and congregational life together and ponder the question: “How can we get more people back in worship again?” Pastor Angie Larson from Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN will be the keynote speaker, sharing from the experience of that church.

The church begins the month of November commemorating All Saints Day, which will be celebrated on November 3rd. It is a day to acknowledge the grief of loss and gratitude of beloved people who have gone before us in death, and celebration of new people who have become children of God through baptism. The day is a dynamic tension between loss and love, grief and gratitude, death and life. The witness of the church is there is goodness in both, the mercies of God and graces of God are present in the full spectrum of human life and death.

During this month our country remembers our veterans who have served military service and are serving, for those who have returned and those who

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gave their life for our country. On Sunday November 10th we will honor our veterans in our prayers. I am grateful for your service. Included in this newsletter is offered a poem prayer from Pastor Meta Herrick Carlson from her book, "Speak it Plain."

November is also a time where the Arlington area churches gather for an ecumenical worship service on the Eve of Thanksgiving, November 27. This year the community will worship at Zion at 7pm. Come and lift your voices in prayer and praise, with gratitude and lament for all the gifts we have received from our gracious God. What are you grateful for?

What am I grateful for?

I am grateful for you, for this call to be your pastor, for inviting me to be with you in your life celebrations and woes and daily life. I am grateful for the gifts that each of you bring to the ministry we share. Your generous hospitality on Sunday morning, the sharing not only of food and coffee, but also your lives with one another. I am grateful for all the good things that you do in the community and the way we are inviting the community to be fed – at the Harvest Supper on November 1, and Thanksgiving Eve worship. I am grateful for all the ways we are becoming partner people with God and one another.

Then as the nights grow longer, the church begin a season of vigil, the season of Advent – we watch and wait with the prophets who see the world as it is and hope for the light of Christ to appear.

Sunday Worship during Advent at 9am: "Blessed Are Those Who Believe"

December 1: "There Will Be Signs"

December 8: "All Flesh Shall See Salvation"

December 15: "What Then Shall We Do?" and Sunday School Christmas Program

December 22: "To Be Favored"

Christmas Eve: December 24 at 4pm with Holy Communion and candlelit singing of "Silent Night"

Christmas Day: December 25 at 9am "Cozy Christmas" Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion
(PJ's allowed)



All Saints Sunday – November 3, 2024

We will remember the saints who have gone before us in death and the saints who have come among us through baptism in the past year during worship. We will light candles in their memory and share the Lord's supper.

Deceased

Maxine Elaine Rickard (9-8-24)

Baptized

Noah Taff Battcher (12-10-23)

Willie Hayes Robinson (4-7-24)

In the Lives of our Members

- 4 Paul Bartlette
- 5 Morgan Scharpe
- 6 Caleb Scharpe
- 6 Joan Weber
- 8 Sandy Bergs
- 11 Harper Drexler
- 11 Jacque Hazelwood
- 12 Ashtyn Bullert
- 12 Hailey Haggemiller
- 14 Roseann Nagel
- 14 Pr. Gretchen Pierskalla
- 17 Katelyn Scharpe
- 18 Brittany Robinson
- 20 Makenna Schauer
- 22 Bobette Schauer
- 24 Dave Breyer
- 28 Tyler Anderley
- 30 Francis Rowe



November 7, 1992 Blake & Nancy Battcher

November 18, 1972 Dan & Cindy Osborne



Hold up in prayer....

Christy Hebeisen in her battle with cancer

Lowell Tritabaugh brother-in-law of Janet Rowe

Jenna Dobner family friend of Kamps family.
Battling a rare lung disease

Dilshad Perani—family friend of Kamps family.
Battling rare chronic disease.

Cindy Hebeisen—she begins treatment for nodules on her lungs.



Remember Our Homebound Members

Bayside Manor
Rhoda Woehler
Lyle Woehler

French Meadow-LeSueur
Deb Otto

The Lodge-Winthrop
Bert Pederson

At home in Silver Lake
Luverne Bergs

May Creek, Walker, MN
Gary Revier

At home in Arlington
Hylma Matzke



Zion Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2024

**Church Council minutes were unavailable at the time of newsletter publication.
You will find the October minutes in the December newsletter.**

Board of Stewardship

Time and Talent Sheets have been placed in your mailbox. Please fill them out and return by November 3, 2024

New line on the Time and Talent Sheet

A/V Systems Tech/Stream Team/ On-line Greeter

*On-line Greeter: as part of the Tech Team, your role is to greet, welcome livestream online guests during worship. e.g. 'Good morning, Glad you are here'

Additional information regarding Time and Talent Sheet

*Small Group Ministry: gather with folks to learn or teach or do something together. e.g. "I would like to learn to make lefse" or "I would like to meet with others to feed hungry people/ do puzzles/ make bird houses....."

*I feel close to God when: is an opportunity to let your pastor and stewardship team what helps you grow closer in your relationship with God.

*OPEN SPACE is to add your thoughts about ministry you would like to see happen at Zion.

*When there is more than one selection/ between / marks, circle roles you are interested in.

Clattering Coins for Christ—November 24

No one likes change! Save your change and bring it in to Zion to make a whole lot of noise in the buckets! Change is a good thing!

September Giving 2024

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Parking</u> <u>Lot</u>	<u>Food</u> <u>Shelf</u>	<u>Hunger Jar</u>	<u>World Hunger</u>
9/1/2024	46		\$12.00	\$21.59	\$12.00
9/8/2024	64	\$5.00		\$54.00	
9/15/2024	57	\$95.00	\$9.00	\$15.70	\$9.00
9/22/2024	39			\$16.00	
9/29/2024	62		\$9.00	\$15.74	\$9.00



9/8/2024 Clattering Coins for Christ - Sibley County FoodShare \$67.12

November Bible Readings

November 3 – All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9 - The banquet of the LORD

Psalm 24

Revelation 21:1-6a - A new heaven and a new earth

John 11:32-44 - The raising of Lazarus

November 10 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 17:8-16 - God feeds Elijah and the widow at Zarephath

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24-28 - The once for all sacrifice of Christ

Mark 12:38-44 - A widow's generosity reveals the hypocrisy of the scribes

November 17 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3 - The deliverance of God's people at the end

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25 - The way to God opened through Christ's death

Mark 13:1-8 - The end and the coming of the Son

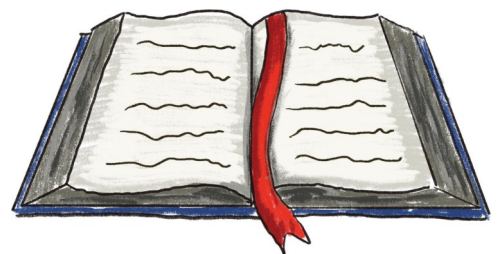
November 24 – Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 - The one coming with the clouds rules over all

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8 - Glory to the one who made us a kingdom

John 18:33-37 - The kingdom of Christ



Zion Church Women

November Bible Study Group

Tuesday Circle

November 5—10:00am

Wednesday Circle

November 6—1:30pm

Zion Harvest Celebration Supper



Date: Friday, November 1
Time: 4:00 pm—7:00 pm

Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran
814 W. Brooks St.
Arlington, MN

Dine In or Take Out

Tickets Available at Door Only

Menu:

Windsor Chop, Baked Potato, Baked Beans,
Squash, Roll, Apple or Pumpkin Dessert

\$13.00

Pantry Sale: Lefse, Baked Goods & Preserves

Proceeds to fund parking lot improvements.

Sponsored by Thrivent Funds

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ZCW **Thank Offering** service will be held on Sunday, November 17. Watch for envelopes to be placed in your mailboxes.



Thank you to all who helped to make the Minnesota Valley Conference Gathering here at Zion a success. There were many folks who helped set up, worked in the kitchen or at the registration table, or as a greeter. Thank you to Bobette and Sam for the beautiful music. Thanks to Pastor Gretchen for her welcoming spirit and gracious hospitality.



The Zion Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday November 3rd. Please consider joining us for the season. We will practice following worship. I hope to have us sing in November, Advent and at Christmas. Invite anyone who may be interested to join us. The more we have, the better the sound. Thank you for singing.



Ecumenical Choir will meet on Wednesday, November 6 at 7:45p at the United Methodist Church and on Wednesday, November 20 at 7:45p



Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship Service

“We Gather Together”

Wednesday, November 27—7pm

Zion Lutheran Church, Arlington



Offering for Community Assistance Fund.

Food Shelf items welcome for the Sibley County FoodShare program

Fellowship and refreshments following service

Local pastors and citizens participating in the service.

All are welcome!



Vryheid Circuit in South Africa Mission Partnership Sunday Mission Partnership Sunday October 13, 2024

MISSION PARTNERSHIP PRAYERS

Here are the prayers written by the chair people of the Vryheid Circuit Mission Partners of the Southeastern Africa Evangelical Lutheran Church and Minnesota Valley Conference of Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA which each partner congregation prayed during worship October 13, 2024.

A prayer from Sabelo Mbuli, chair of the Vryheid Circuit partnership committee in South Africa:

Dear Lord Heavenly Father, we give thanks to you for everyone gathered here today and ask that you surround us with your powerful life-changing presence.

Father, we ask you to watch over those who mean the most to us, our companion friends of the Minnesota Valley Conference.

Lord, we pray that you bless all those in or companionship who contribute in so many different ways to the ministry of our church here in South Africa. In bringing relief to those who struggle daily to find food and provide for their families. And yes, even for those whose souls are hungry for your word.

Hold up before us the vision of your kingdom of justice, mercy, peace and compassion.

A prayer from Jim Roebke, chair of the Minnesota Valley Conference partnership group:

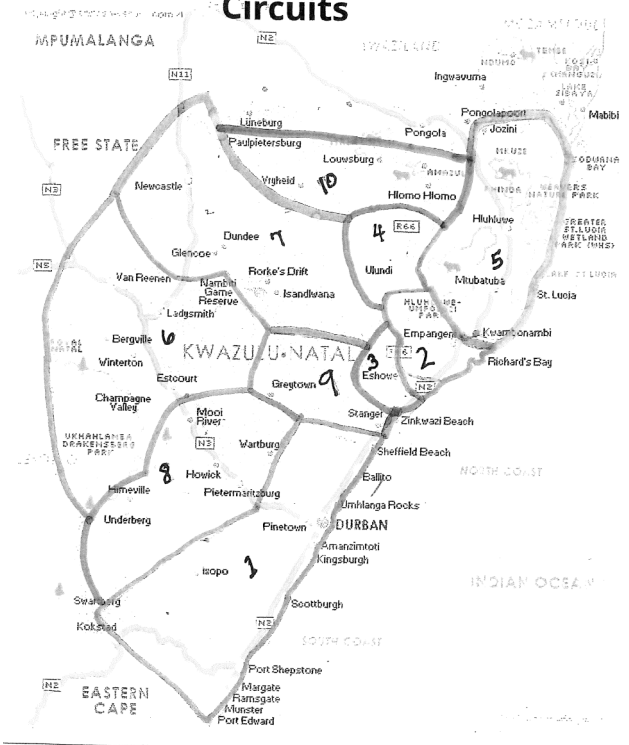
Dear Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for your glory, your power, your creation. We thank you for the opportunity to serve You alongside our brothers and sisters in the Vryheid Circuit of South Africa. You have created us all to be one in your spirit, to help one another in our walk with you. Help us be faithful to that calling from you.

Guide us as we look to the needs of one another, both physical and spiritual. Show us how to be a blessing to one another. This we ask in your holy name.

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms... as we pray for one another!

Partnership questions may be directed to: Chair Jim Roebke-
jeroebke@gmail.com, or to Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla –
pastor@zionlutheran.org

South Eastern Diocese - Circuits



South Eastern Circuits - SW MN Synod Conferences

1. Durban - Great River
2. Empangeni - Lakeland
3. Eshowe - Glacial Ridge
4. Kwa-Nodwengu - Lac Qui Parle
5. Mfolozi - Prairie
6. Ondini - Shetek
7. Shiyane - Watonwon
8. Umngeni - Crow River
9. Umvoti - Scenic Valley
10. Vryheid - Minnesota Valley

Veterans

You answered a call that set you apart,
that required your body and mind,
that shaped your faith and knows your spirit,
that knit you into an intense kinship
even death cannot put asunder.

For the ways your memoires and trauma remain,
we honor you with the vigil of our love.
For the sacrifices civility cannot comprehend,
we tend to your untold stories with presence and care.
For the reconciliation you may not find in the church,
we will hold space for what you know and need in your being.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your heart and mind through Christ Jesus.
And may the membership of Christ's body
be made wide for the fullness of your story,
all you have suffered and all you keep offering
in the name of liberty and justice for all.

Meta Herrick Carlson in "Speak it Plain". Augsburg Fortress, 2020.



Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

Facebook at

Zion Lutheran Church

YouTube at

www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

www.zionarlington.org

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

In the office: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Off on Fridays and most Saturdays

By email: pastor@zionarlington.org

By cell: 952-237-1060

including for emergencies anytime (death, hospitalization, etc)

Synod News



Gather Us In

2024 Equipping Congregations Day
Peace Lutheran Church, New London MN

11/2/2024

"How can we get more people back in worship again?" Most of us are asking this question.

Why? Not only because we miss seeing one another; that's important! We also believe that worship is the primary gathering of God's people around word and sacrament. Worship gathers us in - all of us, no matter who we are, where we come from, what we think, whatever the burdens we carry. We come, just as we are. But we don't stay in worship. The word and sacraments send us out to love God and our neighbors every day. And so we get to live in a beautiful rhythm of God gathering us in and then sending us back out into God's mission.

This Equipping Day will focus on many aspects of worship, from specific how-to ideas, to creative imaginations, to ways to welcome all people and extend the kind of hospitality that leads people to want to come back again and again and be part of this loving community.

Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Peace Lutheran Church, New London MN.

Schedule and workshop descriptions coming soon.

Keynote Speaker: [Angie Larson](#)

Executive Pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church, Alexandria MN.

Lunch catered by Azteca Mexican Restaurant! All are welcome:

- Congregation Members
- Council
- Christian Educators
- Worship & Youth Leaders
- Pastors & Deacons
- Friends... Everyone!

The ECD registration fee is \$30 per person. Congregations are encouraged to register their congregation members together.

CONTACT Pastor Gretchen if you are interested in participating in the Equipping Congregations Day on November 2.

With Thankful Hearts

We would like to thank you for your contribution to the Sibley County FoodShare. Your generosity continues to provide emergency assistance to the hungry of Sibley County. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*Lisa Eyrich
Sibley County FoodShare*

Thank
you

Thank you to those who provided goodies for Fellowship Hour in September!

Larry Gieseke
Mary Sylwester & Mary Lietz
Board of Stewardship
Neil & Lorraine Mielke

Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for your generous gift to support the services of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota (LSS).

*Jesse M. Stremcha
Vice President & Chief Development Officer
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota*

Jr High Youth Gathering November 22-23

This is a youth led event that is planned by the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO).

Gather with 7, 8, 9th graders from around the SW MN Synod in Willmar for a weekend of YOUTH LED worship, singing, growing in faith, student faith talks, building relationships and hanging out with other youth from our synod. Our theme this year is “Forever Unbroken” based on Romans 8:37-39. Keynote speaker is Rachel Kurtz. **Early Bird Registration October 1 – 15, cost is \$90.** Hotel registration closes October 20th. Contact Pastor Gretchen for more information.



CONFIRMATION CORNER



Class Dates

November 6	4-5:30p	Confirmation Class
November 20	4-5:30p	Confirmation Class

9th Grade Confirmation Students

Aiden Christeson, Elton Hazelwood & Alex Herrera-Guzman

8th Grade Confirmation Students

Jacqueline Christeson & Ashley Schauer

7th Grade Confirmation Students

Cooper Heeren, Murdock Krueger & Grant Schauer

Confirmation for grades 7-9 meets twice a month on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm. This year the 7-8th graders will be studying the New Testament. Ninth graders are studying the small catechism and preparing to affirm their baptisms on May 18, 2025.

7-8th Grade Lessons

November 6 The Gospel of Matthew

November 20 The Gospel of Mark

November 27 Worship event: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship at Zion 7pm

9th Grade Lessons

November 6 Saint and Sinner

November 20 Confession and Forgiveness

November 27 Worship event: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship at Zion 7pm

Sunday School Program



The Sunday School Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 15th sort of at the end of our regular service. Because our Sunday School numbers are low, we will be asking some folks from the congregation to help us. You will not have to say anything, just do something. We will ask you before the end of November and we will rehearse on Sun. December 1 and/ or the 8th. Please consider helping us when asked.

November 3

Usher: Brad & Brenda Danielson
 Gordon & Barb Bergs
 Greeter: Tim & Stacy Haggenmiller
 Acolyte: Alice Foss
 Reader: Laurie Stern
 Organist: Bobette Schauer
 AV Team:
 Altar Guild: Gordon & Barb Bergs
 Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
 Paraments: Jan Wark

November 10

Usher: Neil Mielke, Joe Prasad
 Jim Pederson, Jim Carlson
 Greeter: Jerry & Diane Ebersviller
 Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
 Reader: Larry Gieseke
 Organist: Bobette Schauer
 AV Team:
 Altar Guild: Jackie Alsleben,
 Stacy Haggenmiller
 Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
 Paraments: Jan Wark

November 17

Usher: Mausten Krueger, Nick Schiroo
 Mary Lietz, Peg Kamps
 Greeter: Stephanie Krueger & Murdock
 Acolyte: Jack Ruehling
 Reader: Starla Schilling
 Organist: Bobette Schauer
 AV Team:
 Paraments: Jan Wark

November 24

Usher: Ryan & Kate Bergs
 Ross Bergs, Scott Bergs
 Greeter: Lyle & Betty Rud
 Acolyte: Jeremiah Vazquez
 Reader: Brenda Danielson
 Organist: Bobette Schauer
 AV Team:
 Altar Guild: Peg Kamps, Lorraine Mielke
 Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
 Paraments: Jan Wark

November 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2

4p-7p—Harvest
 Dinner

3

All Saints Sunday
 9a—Worship w/Holy
 Communion
 10a—Sunday School

4

10a—Tuesday
 Bible Study

5

1:30p—Wednesday
 Bible Study
 4p-5:30p—
 Confirmation Class
 7:45—Ecumenical
 Choir Practice

6

10a—Adult Bible
 Study

7

8a—Men's Prayer
 Breakfast

8

1 0

**25th Sunday after
 Pentecost**
 9a—Worship w/Holy
 Communion
 10a—Sunday School

1 1

1 2

7p—Church
 Council

1 3

10a—Adult Bible
 Study
 5:30p—Board of
 Stewardship

1 5

1 6

1 7

**26th Sunday after
 Pentecost**
 9a—Worship
 10a—Sunday School

1 8

1 9

4p-5:30p—
 Confirmation
 Class
 7:45—Ecumenical
 Choir Practice

2 0

10a—Adult Bible
 Study

2 2

2 3

2 4

Christ the King Sunday
 9a—Worship w/Holy
 Communion
 10a—Sunday School

2 5

2 6

2 7

7p—Ecumenical
 Worship Service
 @ Zion

2 8

2 9

3 0

