

*Zion Lutheran Church  
Arlington, MN*

# July Newsletter

July 2023

Church Address:  
814 W. Brooks St, PO Box 371  
Arlington MN 55307  
Phone: 507.964-5454  
Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com

## Worship Schedule

July 2—5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am

Holy Communion

July 9—6th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am

Holy Communion

July 16—7th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am

July 23—8th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am

July 30—9th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am



## *Chattin' It Up...*

- Zion History
- VBS Registration
- Hymn History

### Inside this issue:

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## *Note from Pastor Gretchen*

Friends in Christ,

"Let anyone with ears listen!" Matthew 13:9

Jesus invites his followers to listen. This invitation often comes before he tells a parable, a story of something familiar from a different point of view. Jesus' parables can tease the imagination, challenge accepted values, or illustrate something about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus' parables invite people to listen to life in new ways, to be curious and open, to be surprised, to hear what God is like, and begin to see the ways God is present on earth: the kingdom of heaven.

In worship, during the month of July, we will listen to several parables from the gospel of Matthew. Before we get to hear the parables, Jesus teaches about hospitality. Somehow, hospitality and listening go together.

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Continued from page 1

In this first month as your new pastor, you have extended hospitality in several ways. You have included me in your meetings, you have stopped by to see how things are going, you celebrated my first day, first Sunday and installation with fellowship after worship. Some have invited me to coffee, or dinner, and shared stories of your lives and ministry at Zion.

It has been an honor to listen to your life stories, to hear about the history of Zion, and the ministry God has entrusted to you here. Let's continue sharing hospitality and doing more listening!

During these summer months, I invite you to sign up for a time to get together with me, individually or with others, to share a bit of your personal story, your background with Zion, and what you hope for the future of our ministry together.

Look for the sign up on the bulletin board down the stairs from the mail boxes. Please indicate when you sign up if you'd like to meet: in my office at church, at your home, at a coffee shop/restaurant, or on a walk. (Note: if a pastoral emergency arises, we may need to reschedule.) Noon times can include lunch or not; evening times can include dinner (either just with me or my family) or not.

I look forward to listening!

Joy and Peace,

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**July Council minutes were not available at the time of print**

**“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock.  
If you want to touch the present, touch a flower.  
If you want to touch the future, touch a life.”  
—Author unknown**

# In the Lives of our Members

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Allen Wendlandt      | 19 Judy Gaare         |
| 2 Melissa Scharpe      | 19 Jacob "JJ" Schauer |
| 3 Mausten Krueger      | 20 Samuel Bullert     |
| 6 Craig Bullert        | 20 Mary Lietz         |
| 8 Scott Beneke         | 23 Hannah Bartlette   |
| 8 Wayne Werner         | 24 Mary Seeman        |
| 11 Cindy Quast         | 26 Starla Schilling   |
| 14 Peyton Lovaas       | 28 Julie Beneke       |
| 14 Neil Mielke         | 29 Kate Arneson       |
| 14 Waylon Robinson     | 29 Aaron Gieseke      |
| 16 Josephine Barfnecht | 29 Dale Stern         |
| 18 Larry Schiroo       | 29 Jack Ruehling      |
| 19 Jill Bening         |                       |



- |               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| July 5, 1969  | Rich & Roseann Nagel      |
| July 7, 2007  | Michael & Mary Christeson |
| July 12, 1975 | Allen & Pam Wendlandt     |
| July 23, 1977 | Mike & Starla Schilling   |
| July 23, 1988 | Steve & Mary Trocke       |



## 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

Glen Lueders brother of Ginny Parrow, battling cancer

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

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Harmony River Living Ctr</u> | <u>Oak Terrance</u>             |
| Ginny Parrow                    | Rhoda Woehler                   |
| <u>Good Samaritan/Arlington</u> | <u>Fairview Assisted Living</u> |
| Lyle Woehler                    | Bert Pederson                   |
| <u>At home in Silver Lake</u>   | <u>May Creek, Walker, MN</u>    |
| Luverne Bergs                   | Gary Revier                     |



## For the Traveler

Every time you leave home,  
Another road takes you  
Into a world you were never in.

New strangers on other paths await.  
New places that have never seen you  
Will startle a little at your entry.  
Old places that know you well  
Will pretend nothing  
Changed since your last visit.

When you travel, you find yourself  
Alone in a different way,  
More attentive now  
To the self you bring along,  
Your more subtle eye watching  
You abroad; and how what meets you  
Touches that part of the heart  
That lies low at home:

How you unexpectedly attune  
To the timbre in some voice,  
Opening in conversation  
You want to take in  
To where your longing  
Has pressed hard enough  
Inward, on some unsaid dark,  
To create a crystal of insight  
You could not have known  
You needed  
To illuminate  
Your way.

When you travel,  
A new silence  
Goes with you,  
And if you listen,  
You will hear  
What your heart would  
Love to say.

A journey can become a sacred thing:  
Make sure, before you go,  
To take the time  
To bless your going forth,  
To free your heart of ballast  
So that the compass of your soul  
Might direct you toward  
The territories of spirit  
Where you will discover  
More of your hidden life,  
And the urgencies  
That deserve to claim you.

May you travel in an awakened way,  
Gathered wisely into your inner ground;  
That you may not waste the invitations  
Which wait along the way to transform  
you.

May you travel safely, arrive refreshed,  
And live your time away to its fullest;  
Return home more enriched, and free  
To balance the gift of days which call you.

~ John O'Donohue ~

"To Bless the Space Between Us A Book of Blessings"  
Published by Doubleday  
Copyright 2008 by John O'Donohue



# CREATION CARE

**VBS**

## July 17-20, 2023

*You are invited to join us for week of Bible stories, songs, activities, and new friendships.*

**Pre K- 5th Grade - Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends!**  
**Monday, July 17th - Thursday, July 20th ~ 6:00-7:30pm**  
**Zion Lutheran Church, Arlington, MN**

*REGISTRATION FORM (Please Print)*

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency Contact 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Zion Lutheran Church - ELCA**

814 West Brooks Street PO Box 371 Arlington, MN 55307 Phone: 507-964-5454





## May Giving

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Parking</u> <u>Lot</u>	<u>Food</u> <u>Shelf</u>	<u>Hunger Jar</u>	<u>Upstairs</u> <u>Restroom</u>	<u>LSS</u>	<u>World Hunger</u>
5-7-2023	124	\$5.00		\$24.70	\$5,000.00		
5-14-2023	104		\$15.00	\$17.81	\$2,305.00	\$25.00	\$140.00
5-21-2023	78		\$6.00	\$35.22	\$959.75		\$6.00
5-28-2023	49	\$5.00		\$31.85	\$201.00		

5-14-2023 Memorial Fund - \$20 - In Memory of Wilbur Dorweiler

5-21-2023 Memorial Fund - \$20 - In Memory of Violet Stephenson (Upstairs Restroom/Office Project)

Memorial Fund - \$25 - In Memory of Violet Stephenson (Upstairs Restroom/Office Project)



Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

**Facebook** at

Zion Lutheran Church

**YouTube** at

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

**[www.zionarlington.org](http://www.zionarlington.org)**

**Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla**

952-237-1060

In the office: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
Working from home on Thursdays for sermon writing.  
Off on Fridays and most Saturdays

By email: [pastor@zionarlington.org](mailto:pastor@zionarlington.org)

By cell: 952-237-1060

including for emergencies anytime (death, hospitalization, etc)



# Zion Church Women

## July Bible Study Group

### Tuesday Circle

No Bible Study

### Wednesday Circle

No Bible Study



## REMINDER

Bea's Flower Garden is on the GLLM  
Quilt Auction July 21-22.

# Zion History

## 75 Years Ago at the Zion Country Church 1947-1964

After a confirmation class of 12 in 1946, the youth group felt confident they could take on more projects. When a janitor could not be found to clean the church, they offered to do the job for \$50 for the year. When the opportunity arose, they volunteered to host the Spring Youth Rally which was held on a Sunday in summer. They served a meal, joined the Choral Union for practice and presented songs at a later service that day. When there were only a few children in Sunday School, they added to the Christmas Eve Service by presenting the Christmas Nativity. Then as members graduated and left the community, they had only members left, Pastor Mueller invited them to join the New Auburn Group.

This was also a sad time for Zion as Delores Bergs, about 19, (sister of Luverne and aunt of Scott, Mike, Missy, Ross and Ryan) and other area teens were swimming in the New Auburn Lake and she and another girl drowned. The Bergs family gave an electric organ as a memorial for her. Up to that time, we had used an old pump organ for our worship services. It was our first organ in town.

Out buildings such as the house, barn, and the schoolhouse were disposed of and a small classroom was built on one side of the basement for confirmation classes so the entire basement would not need to be heated. It was out of the window of this room that ice cream would be served when we had our Children's Day program and picnic in June at the end of our Sunday School.

The church was a member of the Ohio Synod until 1949 when Zion became a member of the American Lutheran Church.

Then in 1958, Pastor Mueller retired from the ministry after serving us for 15 years. Fortunately, Pastor E.W. Roessler, Brownston was willing to replace him. German services continued for one Sunday a month. We also were able to have Vacation Bible School under the leadership of Ann Kienitz. In 1964, Pastor Roessler received and accepted a call to Morris, MN.

Now Zion was in a predicament. Area pastors were older and were not willing to take on more work. Zion's building had not been updated except for painting and by not heating it in winter outer edges of the basement floor had cracked and pushed up the center floor several inches. There still was no indoor plumbing. There was no house available for a pastor and with a low family membership (a little over 30 families) a big remodeling project was not affordable. The trend during the last years had been for families to leave and for no new members to join. Also, we had a major problem in the interior of the building – BATS! Cleaning took place on Saturdays and altar area was covered, but overnight they left their mark. The odor remained even after removing the evidence. Every method recommended was tried. We could overcome everything else, but not that. No pastor in the area was interested in helping us out. So several council members traveled to Wilmar to see what could be done. They were told to lock the doors and join other area churches. This was not the news they wanted to hear.

-Written by Bea Tews

# July Bible Readings

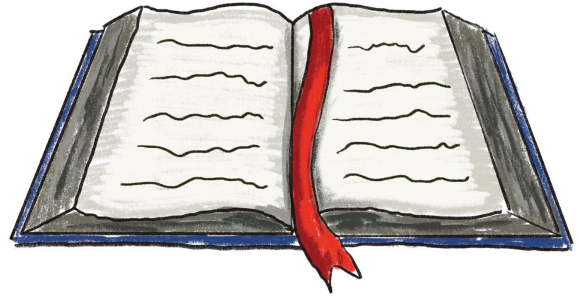
## **July 2 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 28:5-9 - *The test of a true prophet*

Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23 - *No longer under law but under grace*

Matthew 10:40-42 - *Welcome Christ in those he sends*



## **July 9 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Zechariah 9:9-12 - *The king will come in humility and peace*

Psalms 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a - *The struggle within the self*

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 - *The yoke of discipleship*

## **July 16 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 55:10-13 - *The growth of the word to accomplish God's purpose*

Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13

Romans 8:1-11 - *Live according to the Spirit*

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 - *The parable of the sower and the seed*

## **July 23 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 44:6-8 - *There is no other God than the LORD*

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25 - *The revealing of the children of God*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 - *The parable of the weeds*

## **July 30 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Kings 3:5-12 - *Solomon's prayer for wisdom*

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39 - *Nothing can separate us from God's love*

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 - *Parables of the reign of heaven*

# Hymn History

## Amazing Grace how sweet the sound



### 250 years of Amazing Grace

1773-2023

**The story of how “Amazing Grace” came to be is a fascinating and surprising account.**

“Amazing Grace” is a Christian hymn penned by the English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton to accompany a sermon he preached on New Year’s Day, 1773. Over the last 250 years, it has become an immensely popular hymn, particularly in the United States where it is used for both religious and secular purposes. The text for the hymn is drawn from 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, in which King David responds to the prophet Nathan’s words that God intends to continue David’s royal line for eternity. The text reads:

*Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, “Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And even this was a small thing in your sight, O God; you have also spoken of your servant’s house into the distant future. You regard me as someone of high rank, O LORD God!*

Newton wrote the words of “Amazing Grace” from his own personal experience. He was once a man far from faith who was brought near to God by a harrowing event in his life. In 1748, while Newton served as a sea captain of a ship in the Atlantic slave trade, a violent storm off the coast of Ireland struck his vessel so severely that he called out to God for mercy. This moment marked Newton’s turn toward God, what he called “the hour I first believed.” Eventually leaving sailing behind, Newton then began studying Christian theology and was ordained in the Church of England in 1764. He served as a minister in Olney, England, where he began writing hymns.

**“Amazing Grace” was published in Olney Hymns in 1779 but was rarely sung in England. It was in the United States where the song would become widely known during the early 1800s. While the hymn was associated with more than 20 melodies over the years, in 1835, American composer William Walker set it to the tune known as “New Britain,” and the melody stuck. Today “Amazing Grace” remains one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world.**

- \*It is one of the most recorded hymns of all time. The Library of Congress has more than 3,000 recordings in its library. It has been translated into more than 50 languages.
- \*Popular versions have been sung by Judy Collins, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Aretha Franklin, Rod Stewart and Willie Nelson.
- \*Newton biographer Jonathan Aitken estimates that “Amazing Grace” is performed about 10 million times annually.
- \*“Amazing Grace” is commonly sung at funerals, often with bagpipes, because of his final stanzas that offer the message of peace and comfort after death.
- \*After Newton’s ship survived the storm, it landed off the coast of Donegal, Ireland. In 2013, Ireland built a viewing platform at Lough Swilly, near Castle Bridge, County Donegal, to mark the spot where Newton began his conversion.

### **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

## 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.

*Sibley County FoodShare*

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

Church Council  
Rich & Roseann Nagel

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

Thank you for the bouquet of flowers, cards and kind words on the Sunday when I was recognized for being Zion's organist for 50 years. It has been an honor to play for Zion.

*Bobette Schauer*

Thank you to former interim, Pastor Evelyn, Zion members, and Brenda Danielson for the prayers, get well wishes and the ride Brenda provided for me.

After dealing with these shoulder sores for over a year and having no appt. or dr. available for at least 4 months, I was ready to give up. Finally got an appt. on Nov. 30, and finally had surgery and scraping in early Feb. Home Health provided 7 days a week care from February to May Then care was reduced and finally *was dismissed from care* on June 2...Daily lotion is now my job to assist scar tissue healing.. Thanks be to God!

*Bea Tews*



**Jokes**

**Why can't Elsa from Frozen have a balloon?**

Because she will "let it go, let it go."

**What building in your town has the most stories?**

The public library.

**What animal is always at a [baseball](#) game?**

A bat.

**What falls in winter but never gets hurt?**

Snow.

**Would you rather...**

Take a bath in ice...or....Take a bath in Jell-o

Have really long arms...or...Have really long legs

**Tongue Twisters**

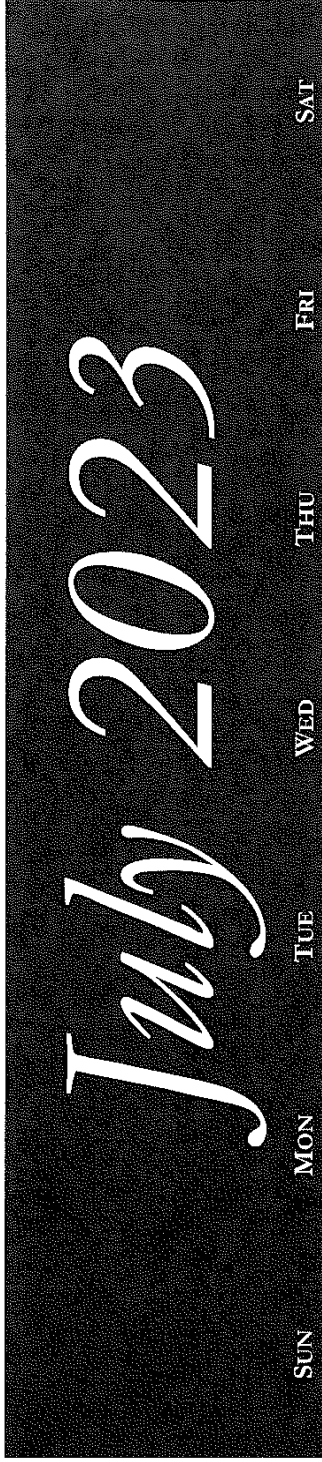
If you notice this notice, you will notice that this notice is not worth noticing.

Whether the weather is warm, whether the weather is hot, we have to put up with the weather, whether we like it or not.



**July 2**

Usher: Mark & Lisa Strobel  
 Larry & Pam Schiroo  
 Greeter: Stephanie Krueger  
 Acolyte: Adilyn Kamps  
 Reader: Joe Prasad  
 Altar Guild: Cindy Hebeisen  
 Stacy Haggemiller  
 Bread Making: Jackie Alsleben



**July 9**

Usher: Gordon & Barb Bergs  
 Peg Kamps, Deb Otto  
 Greeter: Mary Lietz  
 Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood  
 Reader: Jacque Hazelwood  
 Altar Guild: Jan Wark,  
 Pam Wendlandt  
 Bread Making: Jackie Alsleben

**July 16**

Usher: Francis & Janet Rowe  
 Diane Wink, Scott Bergs  
 Greeter: Tim Michaelis  
 Acolyte: Taylor Johnson  
 Reader: Wendy Pederson

**July 23**

Usher: Brad & Brenda Danielson  
 Dale & Laurie Stern  
 Greeter: Peg Kamps  
 Acolyte: Jeremiah Vazquez  
 Reader: Bruce Kallhoff

**July 30**

Usher: Starla Schilling, Cindy Vazquez  
 Larry Gieseke, Jon Hazelwood  
 Greeter: Jim & Wendy Pederson  
 Acolyte: Jack Ruehling  
 Reader: Roseann Nagel

2 5th Sunday after Pentecost  
 9a—Worship w/Holy Communion  
 1-3p—Maranatha Church

9 6th Sunday after Pentecost  
 9a—Worship w/Holy Communion  
 1-3p—Maranatha Church

16 7th Sunday after Pentecost  
 9a—Contemporary Worship  
 1-3p—Maranatha Church

23 8th Sunday after Pentecost  
 9a—Worship  
 1-3p—Maranatha Church

6 6-8p—Maranatha Church

13 6-8p—Maranatha Church

20 5p—Board of Stewardship

27 6-8p—Maranatha Church  
 6p—Board of Worship & Music

21 Newsletter Deadline

GLLM Quilt Auction

VBS—July 17-20, 6-7:30p