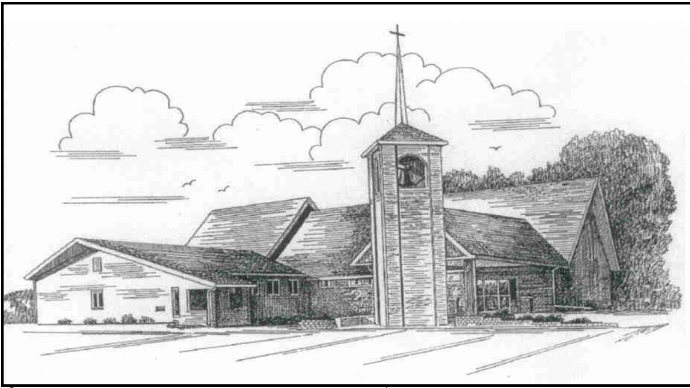




Zion Lutheran Church Arlington, MN

May Newsletter

May2026

Church Address:
814 W. Brooks St, PO Box 371
Arlington MN 55307
Phone: 507-964-5454
Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com

Note from Pastor Gretchen

Chattin' It Up...

- Paving the Way
- Zion's Summer Carnival information
- May Worship Assistants

In 1 Corinthians 3:6, the apostle Paul wrote:
"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."



Paul acknowledged that we, as the church, participate in the activity of God in worship, and gathering with others for faith formation and service. As the Sunday School year comes to a close, the seeds of knowledge and faith that were sown, are given time to germinate and grow by God's grace.

During worship, on May 10th, we will celebrate the conclusion of Sunday School for the year, blessing students with seed packets, and also celebrate our graduates as they prepare to launch into their next endeavors. We will give thanks for our mothers who gave us birth and nurtured us in faith and life on this day.

Continuing the theme of seed sowing and growth, the 9th grade confirmation students will make an Affirmation of their Baptism on May 17th. On this day we will join Jesus' prayer and blessing for his disciples as we stand at the baptismal font with our confirmands.

The Easter season gives way to the day of Pentecost, fifty days from the Easter resurrection. All are encouraged to wear RED on Pentecost Sunday, May 24 to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit in and among us as a congregation. The season of Pentecost begins with a celebration of the Holy Trinity where we will hear Jesus give the 'great commission' to baptize and make disciples.

Inside this issue:

From our Pastor	1
In the Lives of our Members	3
Church Council Minutes	4
ZCW	7
May Bible Readings	10
Confirmation Corner	11
May Calendar	14

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Throughout the summer and into the fall, the season of Pentecost is a season of life in the Spirit, growing in faith together. Watch for opportunities throughout the summer to attend camp, pack meals at Feed My Starving Children, hike, bike, and enjoy S'more church (worship outdoors with campfire and s'mores).

Blessed Spring,
Pastor Gretchen



We will be honoring our graduates on Sunday, May 10.

In the Lives of our Members

2	Jacob Scharpe	13	Rhoda Woehler
2	Gracie Straub	15	Mary Trocke
2	Joe Prasad	16	Brett Beneke
3	Cassidy Battcher	17	Sophia Straub
4	Lucas Beneke	18	Dawn Barch
4	Ida Johnson	19	Gary Revier
7	Jim Scharpe	25	Brad Danielson
9	Tim Haggenmiller	26	Jessica Pautsch
11	Kate Bergs	28	Wendy Pederson



May 14, 1971	Dale & Jan Wark
May 24, 1969	Francis & Janet Rowe
May 25, 1985	Larry & Patricia Klunder



Hold up in prayer....

Christy Hebeisen in her battle with cancer

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



Remember Our Homebound Members

Bayside Manor
Rhoda Woehler
Lyle Woehler

French Meadow-LeSueur
Deb Otto

At home in Winsted
Luverne Bergs

May Creek, Walker, MN
Gary Revier

At home in Arlington
Hylma Matzke



**Zion Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Highlights
Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

HIGHLIGHTS

The April 8, 2026 Church Council meeting began with devotions and agenda approval.

The council approved prior minutes and reviewed financials, noting a dip in offerings due to a weather-related service cancellation, payment on an operating loan, a new energy payment plan, and a parking lot fund exceeding 60% of our goal.

We received reports from the pastor on March activities, including worship services, a regional pastor's conference, youth programs, and a community play.

Committees reported updates on service projects and maintenance, including donations, cleanup day, and repairs. Reports on fundraising, and accessibility improvements were received.

The meeting concluded with prayer at 8:30 p.m.



Coffee Hour—The confirmation youth have indicated they would like to go to Confirmation Camp at Camp House in 2027. They are looking to raise money to attend Camp. The proceeds from Coffee Hour from March through June have been designated for Camp.



SIBLEY COUNTY FOODSHARE

Neighbors Serving Neighbors - Vecinos Ayudando Vecinos

2026 COMMUNITY DATES

Gibbon 10-12 AM Mondays	Winthrop 1-3 PM Mondays	New Auburn 10-12 AM Tuesdays	Green Isle 1-3 PM Tuesdays	Henderson 10-12 AM Mondays	Arlington 1-3 PM Mondays	Arlington 10-12 AM Tuesdays
Farmers Co-op Gas Station 1253 1st Ave	Sibley Estates West 509 W High St.	Farmers Co-op Gas Station 7390 7 th Ave	Farmers Co-op Gas Station 180 Railroad St.	UCC Church Parking Lot III S 6 th St.	Community Center Lot 204 W Shamrock Dr.	Highland Commons 101 7 th Ave. SW
January 12	January 12	January 13	January 13	January 26	January 26	January 27
February 9	February 9	February 10	February 10	February 23	February 23	February 24
March 9	March 9	March 10	March 10	March 23	March 23	March 24
April 13	April 13	April 14	April 14	April 27	April 27	April 28
May 11	May 11	May 12	May 12	May 25	May 25	May 26
June 8	June 8	June 9	June 9	June 22	June 22	June 23
July 13	July 13	July 14	July 14	July 27	July 27	July 28
August 10	August 10	August 11	August 11	August 24	August 24	August 25
September 14	September 14	September 15	September 15	September 28	September 28	September 29
October 12	October 12	October 13	October 13	October 26	October 26	October 27
November 9	November 9	November 10	November 10	November 23	November 23	November 24
December 14	December 14	December 15	December 15	December 28	December 28	December 29

Paving the Way—Parking Lot Fundraising

We have announced an exciting midsummer event!



We are looking at having a summer festival celebration to fundraise and celebrate our fundraising success towards our new parking lot upgrade. A signup poster is in the narthex next to the fundraising thermometer. Numerous suggestions are listed with room for more to be added. Please pick out an activity you would like to lead. Activities will be planned to be held outside or inside if the weather dictates. We will have a fun and enjoyable afternoon together.

Please let the committee know of any other fundraising planned idea, every little bit brings us closer, we are already at \$103,000 which is 59% of our fundraising goal!

Core Parking Lot Committee
Bruce Kallhoff, Laurie Stern & Mary Sylwester

Board of Stewardship

CHANGE IS HAPPENING AT ZION! And we like it! June 21st is the next Clattering Coins collection. Save your change and make a lot of noise!

Happy Spring!

Sunday, May 3rd is Clean Up Sunday and Potluck

Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, gloves, etc. and help clean up the outside Zion property. There will be work done on trees, weeds to be pulled. All that fun spring stuff!

Bring your handheld vacuums as we will clean the sanctuary also. Buckets & rags will be provided to wipe down the pews, wash windows, etc.

If you are unable to clean up, please stay for potluck & fellowship after the work is done. We will plan to eat around 11:30.

In case of inclement weather, we will clean inside and do outside clean up at a later date.

CLATTERING COINS for the month of March received \$202.06.

ZCW

May Bible Study Group

Tuesday Circle
May 5 at 10:00am

Wednesday Circle
May 6 at 1:30pm

April 12, 2026 ZCW Meeting

ZCW meeting was called to order at 10:20 by President Peg Kamps. Fifteen were present.

Opening Devotions - Easter Poem, was given by Pastor Gretchen.

Secretary's Report – Motion by Pam S. seconded by Loraine to approve the secretary's report as printed, passed.

Treasurer's Report – Motion by Roseann N., seconded by Pam to approved as printed, passed.

Tuesday Circle – Has the next funeral, but will serve the May 26th Bloodmobile; details of the bloodmobile lunch will be discussed at the May Circle meeting. Purchased gifts for the Confirmands.

Wednesday Circle – Will decide on a mission kit project at their next meeting.

Discussion on Quilting – For those who are interested in quilting year-round, we will be setting up the double Sunday School room, this is on a trial basis until Fall. We have already received several boxes of donation fabric. Contact Lorraine if you are interested in helping with set up and watch the newsletter and bulletin for updates. Thank You to the Sunday School for their generous offer to switch rooms.

Mission Action – No Report

Mission Community and Growth – 94 lbs. food and 15 quilts were donated to the Food Shelf.

Rose on Altar – Deb Stenzel Sunshine – Mary Albrecht

Old Business

Treasurer's Books were audited by Brenda D. and Janet R. and found to be in order.

Proceeds from the Fish Fry Bake Sale were \$417.00 and the Chicken Dinner Bake Sale was \$735.00.

Thanks to all who shared their gift of baking and their time, it is truly appreciated. All proceeds went to the parking lot fund.

Peg will check with Betty R. on a possible donation of a wall hanging for the Green Lake Quilt Auction. Jerry & Diane E. will deliver our donation to Green Lake.

ZCW continued

The Spring SW Minnesota Synod Women's Convention will be May 2nd . A motion was made by Mary S. for the ZCW to pay the registration fee for any members attending, seconded by Pam S. and passed. If anyone is interested in going talk to President Peg. Peg will ask Diane W. if she will again be our voting delegate.

New Business

Community Christmas Program after some discussion it was voted to no longer having this program.

Parking Lot Fund Raiser – The Parking Lot Core Committee is sponsoring a Carnival on July 12th pending congregational support. We will get involved as individuals as we will dedicate our Harvest Dinner to the parking lot.

Harvest Dinner – Scheduled for October 30, 2026. Committee is Pam S., Starla S., Lorraine M., Mary L., Betty R. and Mary S.; Pam S. has volunteered to chair the event. Organizational meeting will be August 19th at 6:30.

Correspondence – Thank You's from the St. Cloud VA for the quilts and LWR for the quilts and \$250.00 for shipping.

Next Meeting – Sunday, September 13th at 10:15.

Lord's Prayer

Motion to adjourn made by Sandy B., seconded by Janet R., passed.

Secretary

Jackie Alsleben

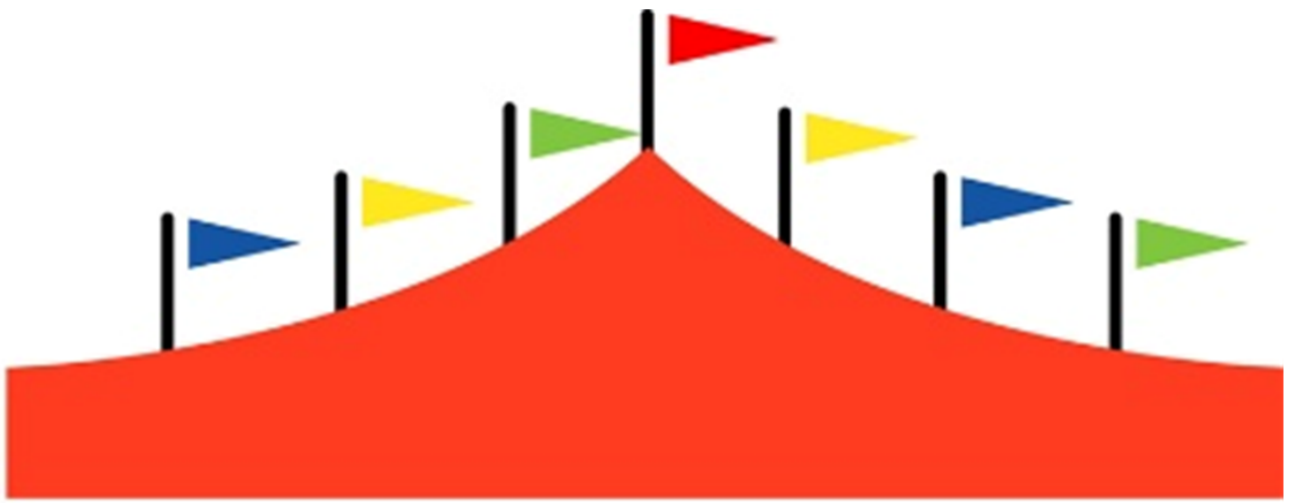
Church Quilting Nook

We have been kicking around the idea of quilting as a year-round activity for the past year based on feed back from members who want to learn how to quilt and, since it is an enjoyable activity, have the desire to quilt throughout the calendar year. Plans are now in motion to turn this idea into something real. Church Council allowed us a dedicated quilting room in the space currently used by Sunday School. Sunday School agreed to move to the classroom formerly used for confirmation instruction.

Preliminary plans are to have our first quilt gathering on Tuesday, June 2nd, at 10 a.m. Future dates and times of gatherings are tentatively set for the first and third Tuesdays of the month, but may be adjusted based on what works best for everyone who wants to participate. However, the room will also be open on non-gathering days to work on quilting projects, either individually or in small groups.

We need to come up with some ideas on how to organize, store and display quilting supplies without making the room look messy. All who are interested in helping are invited to meet after church services on Sunday, April 26. If we have a large group, we will move to the basement. Organizing the room will be a work-in-process for a few months, but it is our hope that it will become a quilting destination this fall.

-Lorraine



Zion's Summer Carnival is coming!

Sunday, July 12

Please consider signing up with your family or group to make our "Paving the Way" summer fundraiser a success!

Suggested activities are on the poster, but be creative and think of what you would like to do! The sign up deadline is Sunday, May 17.



May Bible Readings

May 3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Proverbs 4:10-18 - *The way of wisdom is your life*

Psalms 119:25-32

1 Peter 2:2-10 - *God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts*

John 14:1-14 - *Christ the way, truth, and life*

May 10 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Ezekiel 43:1-7a - *God resides among the people forever*

Psalms 115

1 Peter 3:13-22 - *The days of Noah, a sign of baptism*

John 14:15-21 - *Christ our advocate*

May 17 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Isaiah 45:1-7 - *From east to west, there is no other God*

Psalms 21:1-7

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 - *God will sustain and restore those who suffer*

John 17:1-11 - *Christ's prayer for his disciples*

May 24 – Pentecost Sunday

Numbers 11:24-30 - *The Spirit comes upon the elders of Israel*

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13—*Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit*

John 20:19-23—*The Spirit poured out*

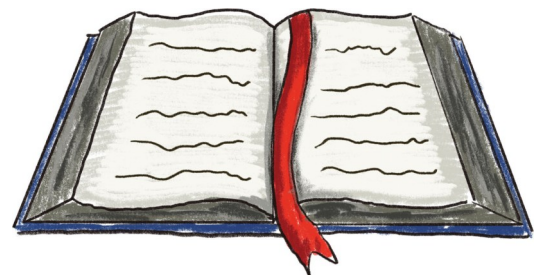
May 31 – Holy Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1—2:4a - *The creation of the heavens and the earth*

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 - *Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth*

Matthew 28:16-20 - *Living in the community of the Trinity*



CONFIRMATION CORNER



Class Dates		
May 6	4-5:30p 6:30-8p	6-8th Grade Class 9th Grade Class
May 17	9:00a	Affirmation of Baptism

9th Grade Confirmation 6:30 - 8 pm
 May 6: Preparing for Affirmation of Faith
 May 13: Council Meeting
 May 17: Affirmation of Baptism

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Confirmation 4:00 - 5:30 pm
 May 6: Review with Pizza

Youth Retreat

Save the Date:
May 22-23

Retreat for youth in grades 6-12.
Starts at 6:30pm Friday through 1:30pm Saturday.
Sign up with Pastor Gretchen.

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COMMITTEE *night*



Zion Board and Committee Night
Wednesday, May 13 at 6p
Church Council to follow at 7p

With Thankful Hearts

Thank you for your recent generous gift for supporting the services of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.

LSS Church Partnership Team

*thank
& you*

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 to those who provided goodies for Fellowship Hour in March

Neil & Lorraine Mielke
Sandy Bergs & Norma Michaelis
Mary Lietz & Mary Sylwester

Thank you to the members of Zion Lutheran Church, in grateful appreciation for giving for Mission Support.

*Bishop Dee Pedrson
Southwestern Minnesota Synod*

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and kind note that was sent to my sister Marlene's Celebration of Life on Saturday. I felt the love and presence of our congregation that day. Thank you for your cards and prayers. I am grateful for you.

Pastor Gretchen & John Pierskalla



Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

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)

Worship Assistants

May 3

Usher: Jerry & Diane Ebersviller
Tim & Stacy Haggenmiller
Greeter: Nancy Mathwig
Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
Reader: Carrie Bartlette
Altar Guild: Jackie Alsleben,
Stacy Haggenmiller
Bread Maker: Dale Stern

May 10

Usher: Jane Scharpe, Dave Breyer
Carrie Bartlette, Alex Battcher
Greeter: Tim Michaelis
Acolyte: Jeremiah Vazquez
Reader: Mary Sylwester
Altar Guild: Bruce & Mary Kallhoff
Bread Maker: Dale Stern

May 17—Confirmation

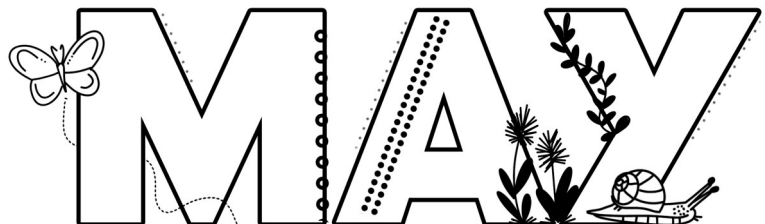
Usher: Francis Rowe, Jan Wark
Wayne & Ann Werner
Greeter: Jim & Wendy Pederson
Acolyte: Adilyn Kamps
Reader: Laurie Stern
Altar Guild: Lorraine Mielke, Starla Schilling
Bread Maker: Dale Stern
Altar Guild: Jane Scharpe

May 24

Usher: John & Lana Woehler
Dale & Laurie Stern
Greeter: Jane Scharpe
Acolyte: Jazmyne Wark
Reader: Cassidy Battcher

May 31

Usher: Mary Sylwester, Scott Bergs
Deb Stenzel, Starla Schilling
Greeter: Johanna Rowe
Acolyte: Cooper Heeren
Reader: Starla Schilling
Altar Guild: Nancy Mathwig



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School	27	28	29 4:00pm 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation	30 10:00am Adult Bible Study	1	2 7:00am SWMN Women's Convention @ Calvary, Willmar 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
3 <u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:00am Spring Clean-Up & Potluck 10:00am Sunday School	4	5 10:00am Tuesday Bible Study	6 1:30pm Wednesday Bible Study 4:00pm 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation	7 10:00am Adult Bible Study	8	9
10 Graduation Sunday Last Day of Sunday School <u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:00am Sunday School	11	12	13 7:00pm Church Council	14 10:00am Adult Bible Study	15	16
17 Confirmation Sunday <u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21 10:00am Adult Bible Study	22 6:30pm Youth Retreat starts	23 1:30pm Youth Retreat ends
24 <u>Pentecost Sunday</u> 9:00am Worship	25	26	27	28 10:00am Adult Bible Study	29	30
31 <u>Holy Trinity Sunday</u> 9:00am Worship	1	2	3	4 10:00am Adult Bible Study	5	6

