

Zion Lutheran Church  
Arlington, MN

# September Newsletter

September 2024

Church Address:  
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## Note from Pastor Gretchen

### Chattin' It Up...

- September Newsletter Notes



“Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!”

~Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
(2006), #731

In this song, Herb Brokering gave us words to sing about many of the ways God is praised in creation, and in all manner of things, and even in our work!

This song bears witness: God’s praise is proclaimed in creation, and in weather, in music of all kinds, in “engines and steel”, “loud boiling test tubes”! “Athlete and band!” and “Loud cheering people!”

I don’t think he means for us to be always *saying* ‘praise the Lord’ while we work, but that *in* and *through* our work and actions done for the good of our families and neighbors, God is indeed praised. It seems that praise to our Creator is built into to us from the beginning.

Someone once said, “Work is love made visible”. I imagine that most of us do not consider our work a personal form of worship. (I did not think this way about my work before I became a pastor.) Yet, there is something beautiful, even worship-full, about each person in their work contributing to the re-creation of the world God created and loves.

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It might be easier to see our work as a form of worship if we could perceive the sacred in how we spend our daily lives. On my desk is a card which says: "Lord, I offer my prayer as my work, my work as my prayer." It is a reminder to be thankful, and to release my work as an offering.

I am grateful for all the work that is done in and through you at Zion and in the community! In the words offered in our ELW hymnal #689 second verse: "God, bless the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread."

To God be the glory!  
Joyfully yours,  
Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla



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, Thursday

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)

# In the Lives of our Members



- |    |                 |    |                    |
|----|-----------------|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Mary Albrecht   |    |                    |
| 1  | Alex Battcher   | 19 | Cindy Osborne      |
| 3  | Gwen Scharpe    | 19 | Gery Wendt         |
| 9  | Ann Werner      | 22 | Matt Scharpe       |
| 10 | Luverne Bergs   | 23 | Peter Arneson      |
| 12 | Nancy Biermann  | 23 | Lana Woehler       |
| 13 | Walker Robinson | 24 | Mary Sylwester     |
| 16 | Jada Peterson   | 25 | Adyson Beneke      |
| 17 | Lindsay Drexler | 25 | Bruce Kallhoff     |
| 17 | Ed Warweg       | 26 | Morgan Haggemiller |
| 18 | Tyler Johnson   | 26 | Leah Schrupp       |
| 18 | Robert Pautsch  | 27 | Nancy Mathwig      |

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| September 2, 1972  | James & Ann Carlson            |
| September 4, 1999  | John & Pr. Gretchen Pierskalla |
| September 5, 1981  | John & Lana Woehler            |
| September 14, 2002 | Ryan & Jessica Pautsch         |
| September 15, 1990 | Keith & Stephanie Herd         |
| September 20, 1980 | Mark & Lisa Strobel            |
| September 21, 1996 | Bruce & Mary Kallhoff          |
| September 21, 2001 | Grant & Jill Bening            |



## 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

<u>Bayside</u>	<u>French Meadow-LeSueur</u>
Rhoda Woehler	Deb Otto
Lyle Woehler	
<u>The Harbor @ Peace Village</u>	<u>At home in Silver Lake</u>
Bert Pederson	Luverne Bergs
<u>May Creek, Walker, MN</u>	<u>At home in Arlington</u>
Gary Revier	Hylma Matzke



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 2024**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Larry Gieseke

Attendance:

President: Larry Gieseke	Treasurer: Bruce Kalhoff
Vice President: Jon Hazelwood	Bd of Deacons: Jim Pedersen
Bd of Trustees: Mark Strobel	Bd of Education: Sheri Kumar
Bd of Stewardship: Pam Schiroo	Bd of Worship & Music: Stephanie Krueger
Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla	

Larry appointed S Krueger to take meeting minutes

Devotions were provided by Pastor Gretchen.

Motion by J Pedersen, seconded by M Strobel to approve agenda. Motion approved by voice vote.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for July council meeting was published in newsletter and emailed to Council Members. Motion by P Schiroo, Seconded by J Hazelwood to approve amended meeting minutes. Motion approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was forwarded to council members via email. Treasurer stated offerings have trailed off significantly over summer, and things are not looking as good as they had been. Motion by J Pedersen, seconded by S Kumar to approve financial reports as emailed. Motion approved by voice vote.

Pastor's Report: Pastor provided a report on all that she has been working on the month of July. August 25<sup>th</sup> will be Blessing of Backpacks and Sept 18<sup>th</sup> will be confirmation orientation. Arlington Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship service will be at Zion in November.

Bd of Stewardship: Reported that Time and Talent sheets will go out on 10/13, and be due back by 11/3, Clattering Coins will be on 09/08 and will go to Sibley Co Food Share, 09/15 will be Fall Birthdays, hoping to get in at Feed My Starving Children yet this fall, and working on something for Veterans in November.

Bd of Deacons: No report. J Pedersen reported that they would be meeting on Sunday after church.

Bd of Trustees: M Strobel reported that they are getting together with Mueller's for a very rough estimate on the parking lot. Tilling up, and seeding where trees were removed. Fairgoers were pretty considerate and didn't leave much garbage behind in parking lot. Caution tape was put up around the perimeter of the lot to keep from parking on grass. Nuessmeier Electric came and fixed the electrical box in the back of church. They wired and put a new box where electricity feeds in to the pump.

Bd of Workship and Music: S Krueger reported that the outdoor worship service with potluck in the park went well, and was well attended. A lot of positive comments were heard afterwards, and in following weeks.

Bd of Education: S Kumar reported that they have order the tags for the Blessing of the Backpacks on Aug 25. Sunday School will start on 09/8; with Scott and Cindy as teachers, and Brenda teaching music, 12/15 will be the Christmas Program, 5/4 will be the last day of Sunday School. A date for confirmation has not been finalized as of yet. VBS was held.

#### Old Business.

The Foundation money has been sent off to South African Ministries, Feed My Starving Children, ELCA Disaster Fund, which helped victims of Hurricane Debby, and \$13,500 was allotted to the Zion Parking Lot fund. The balance is now at \$250.

#### New Business

“Seed thoughts” on some Lay Ministry and grant ideas, and how to obtain and use such. Meeting was adjourned, and concluded with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:12pm

Submitted by  
Stephanie Krueger,  
Acting Secretary

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## Answers

Answers to prayers come in various ways,  
sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days.  
And some take years to fully unfold  
the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers come in various forms,  
sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms.  
Some blossom early, and some blossom late,  
but each one will flower — have faith and wait!

—Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*

## July Giving 2024

	<u>Attend-</u> <u>ance</u>	<u>Parking</u> <u>Lot</u>	<u>Hunger Jar</u>	<u>World Hunger</u>	<u>LSS</u>
7/7/2024	57	\$40.00	\$64.00		
7/14/2024	50	\$5.00	\$72.83		
7/21/2024	36	\$5.00	\$53.35		
7/28/2024	37			\$875.00	\$175.00



## September Bible Readings

### September 1 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 - God's law: a sign of a great nation

Psalm 15

James 1:17-27 - Be doers of the word, not hearers only

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 - Authentic religion

### September 8 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 35:4-7a - Like streams in the desert, God comes with healing

Psalm 146

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 - Faith without works is dead

Mark 7:24-37 - Christ healing a little girl and a deaf man

### September 15 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 50:4-9a - The servant is vindicated by God

Psalm 116:1-9

James 3:1-12 - Dangers of the unbridled tongue

Mark 8:27-38 - Peter's confession of faith

### September 22 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 11:18-20 - The prophet led like a lamb to slaughter

Psalm 54

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a - The wisdom from above

Mark 9:30-37 - Prediction of the passion

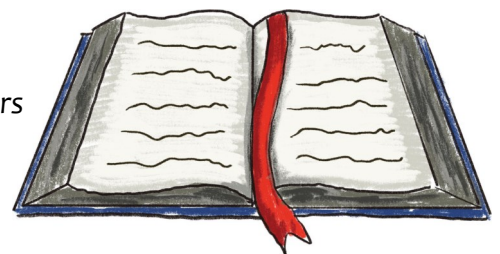
### September 29 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 - The LORD's spirit comes upon seventy elders

Psalm 19:7-14

James 5:13-20 - Prayer and anointing in the community

Mark 9:38-50 - Warnings to those who obstruct faith



# Zion Church Women

## September Bible Study Group

### Tuesday Circle

September 3—10:00am

### Wednesday Circle

September 4—1:30pm

### Fall Dates to Remember

**Wednesday, September 11—7:00pm**  
**ZCW General Meeting**

**Saturday, October 12—WELCA MN**  
**Valley Conference Fall Gathering at**  
**Zion, Arlington**

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### Being Christ amid Pain

In December 2023, a tanker truck carrying 9,000 gallons of gasoline tipped on its side in Totona, Liberia. For two hours, a party atmosphere ensued as people living in poverty rushed to gather gas dripping from the vehicle. But then, the tanker suddenly exploded. Dozens of people died instantly or were severely burned. Thousands have endured deep trauma and grief. How could life go on? Where was God?

Yet, life did go on — not easily, but in this way: Medical staff and others rallied to care for all who were suffering physically and emotionally. A nearby church held comforting worship services, and its choir went to homes to sing messages of hope. Parishes and disaster-response ministries sent teams from near and far to support people through post-traumatic stress, income loss due to disability, the birth of babies whose young fathers had died in the blast, children's transition back to school and more.

These Christian caregivers and comforters couldn't bring instant, perfect healing. But by connecting with people who were grieving and struggling, they have become the presence of Christ.

Where is God? There, in the midst and aftermath of pain, working unceasingly to bring new life.

—Heidi Hyland Mann (source: *Living Lutheran*, May 13, 2024)



## With Thankful Hearts

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift of \$190.18 on July 31 to Feed My Starving Children is providing 655 MannaPack meals to those around the world who need it most.

*Mark Crea*  
Executive Director/CEO



Thank you to those who provided goodies for Fellowship Hour in July!  
Mary Lietz & Nancy Mathwig  
Lorraine Mielke  
Nancy Biermann

Thank you to the ZCW and others for donating money to help us go to Fishing Camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministry's Shores at St. Andrew Camp. At Camp we learned a lot about God and our relationship with God. We also had a lot of fun fishing. Thanks again!

*Aiden & Jacqueline Christeson*

Zion Lutheran Community Foundation

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift of \$2,000.00 on July 31 to Feed My Starving Children is providing 6,896 MannaPack meals to those around the world who need it most.

*Mark Crea*  
Executive Director/CEO



# September Newsletter Notes

## MAKING CONNECTIONS:

Do you have a passion or skill you would like to share with adults or young people in our community? Did you know that community education is looking for learning activity instructors? You could do something here! Check with Stacy in the church office at 507-964-5454 about possible dates to use the building. Contact Jennifer Strack, Community Education Director at 507-964-2292 with your awesome ideas by mid-August for Fall classes, or by November for Winter classes, and in April for Spring classes.



Sunday School begins Sunday, September 8



Clattering Coins for Christ will be September 8th and will go to the Sibley County Food Share.



September 15th we will be honoring July, August & September birthdays at fellowship after church.



Sunday, September 15, 2024 3-5pm (CT) Virtual Discernment Event. Join this ELCA Seminaries sponsored event to explore if theological education might be for you! This event is designed to help you learn more about your seminary options and explore with you where God might be calling you next. To join this Joint Virtual Discernment Event with all seven ELCA seminaries, type this link into your browser to learn more and register. <https://admissions.callutheran.edu/register/jointdiscernment>

Contact Pastor Gretchen if you have questions or are pondering if this might be for you.



Wednesday, Sept 18, 7-8pm Confirmation Registration and Orientation for Confirmation students grades 7-9 with parents.

# September 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

**Sunday, September 1**  
 Usher: Larry & Pam Schiroo  
 Date & Laurie Stern  
 Greeter: Jon & Jacque Hazelwood  
 Acolyte: Murdock Krueger  
 Reader: Peg Kamps  
 Altar Guild: Stacy Haggemiller,  
 Jan Wark  
 Bread Maker: Jackie Alsleben

**Sunday, September 8**  
 Jsher: Allen & Pam Wendlandt  
 Wayne & Ann Werner  
 Greeter: Bruce & Mary Kalthoff  
 Acolyte: Grant Schauer  
 Reader: Betty Rud  
 Altar Guild: Peg Kamps,  
 Cindy Vazquez  
 Bread Maker: Jackie Alsleben

**Sunday, September 15**  
 Jsher: Nancy Mathwig, Larry Klunder  
 Darrel & Jackie Alsleben  
 Greeter: Peg Kamps & Adilyn  
 Acolyte: Jacqueline Christeson  
 Reader: Mausten Krueger

**Sunday, September 22**  
 Jsher: Diane Wink, Francis Rowe  
 Sheri & Maya Kumar  
 Greeter: Mary Lietz  
 Acolyte: Ashley Schauer  
 Reader: Jane Scharpe

**Sunday, September 29**  
 Jsher: Tim & Stacy Haggemiller  
 Morgan Haggemiller, Scott Bergs  
 Greeter: Nancy Mathwig  
 Acolyte: Aiden Christeson  
 Reader: Cindy Quast

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <b>15th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9a—Worship w/Holy Communion 1p—Maranatha Church	2 10a—Tuesday Bible Study	3 1p—Thursday Bible Study	4 10a—Adult Bible Study 6p—Maranatha Church	5 10a—Adult Bible Study 6p—Maranatha Church	6	7
8 <b>16th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9a—Worship w/Holy Communion 10a—Sunday School 1p—Maranatha Church	9 7p—Church Council 7p—ZCW General Meeting	10 10a—Adult Bible Study 5:30p—Board of Stewardship 6p—Maranatha Church	11 10a—Adult Bible Study 5:30p—Board of Stewardship 6p—Maranatha Church	12 10a—Adult Bible Study 5:30p—Board of Stewardship 6p—Maranatha Church	13 8a—Men's Prayer Breakfast	14
15 <b>17th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9a—Worship 10a—Sunday School 1p—Maranatha Church	16 Confirmation Orientation	17 10a—Adult Bible Study 6p—Maranatha Church	18 10a—Adult Bible Study 6p—Maranatha Church	19 10a—Adult Bible Study 6p—Maranatha Church	20	21
22 <b>18th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9a—Contemporary Worship 10a—Sunday School 1p—Maranatha Church	23 10a—Adult Bible Study 6p—Maranatha Church	24 10a—Adult Bible Study 6p—Maranatha Church	25 10a—Adult Bible Study 6p—Maranatha Church	26 10a—Adult Bible Study 6p—Maranatha Church	27	28
29 <b>19th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9a—Worship 10a—Sunday School 1p—Maranatha Church	30					