

Zion Lutheran Church
Arlington, MN

August Newsletter

August 2024

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...

- VBS Pictures & Bible Verses
- Newsletter Notes

Friends in Christ,

'I feel as useless as the 'g' in lasagna!' was the text message from a friend who was struggling with not being able to do what was previously easy.

We talked about the frustration of feeling useless. Not being able to do what you usually do for yourself or for others can make you wonder about the value of a life. Can the value of a human being be measured by output alone?

Pharaoh always wants more bricks with less straw. That is to say there are forces in the world that want more outputs (productivity) with fewer inputs (investment). Sometimes these forces are in us too. When we feel like we can't do enough, or when we think we can't make a difference, the mind of Pharaoh is in us.

I don't think human value can be measured by output alone. I think there is value in just showing up. It is what we all **do** the day we are born. We show up crying and messy. And people **celebrate that day** throughout our lives!

There are little things in life that on their own might **seem** insignificant – like one letter – the 'g' in lasagna, or the ¼ teaspoon of salt in the cookie dough recipe - but without that little thing, it is not what it is supposed to be. Without that little sprinkle of salt, the cookie doesn't taste right! And lasagna without the 'g' is incomplete!

During VBS, we studied Saints and holy helpers. The kids and volunteers wrote down some of the ways we can help others. Their list included: giving someone a smile, and being a friend to someone who needs a friend. Those things might seem like **nothing**, but it might mean **everything** to someone who needs a friend. To someone who feels invisible, who thinks they don't matter, a smile can mean they are seen

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and valued. Kindness does not have to cost a lot. Sometimes a little kindness costs nothing, and is at the same time IS priceless!

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “we cannot all do great things, but we can do little things with great love.” She spent her life holding orphaned babies in India. It was her calling to hold and care for children who had been discarded. This small act in a remote corner of the world became known worldwide, and still inspires people to put love in action long after Teresa died.

None of us know the impact our own lives will have. Yet each life, and every moment of that life, is valuable in its own way. God created all things and all people. Which means all people and all things are valuable.

Every day is a gift which provides opportunities to notice little things, to do little things, to just show up to the best of our ability. Somedays all we can do is to show up crying and messy. God created this beautiful world out of chaos and nothing. God created Sabbath. What some would call a day of nothing. God created a day of rest for all people, even slaves and animals. (Genesis 1, Exodus 20). A day to unplug and recharge our own batteries and spirits. Long before there was Pharaoh or batteries, God created rest.

I am writing this the evening before I head out on a fishing trip in Canada with my husband, John. I am thinking of you and our ministry at Zion as I pack. Roger Miller’s song – You Can’t Roller Skate in a Buffalo Herd is also on my mind. As the needle drops on the record player in my mind bits of its phrases interrupt my train of thought. “You can’t go driving with a tiger in your car... you can’t go fishing in a watermelon patch ...but you can be happy if you’ve a mind to...” Who knows why. It makes me laugh.

My lasagna friend made me laugh. So, I wrote back, “there is always room for ‘g’ in lasagna!” We are in this together. Thanks be to God!

Gratefully,
Pastor Gretchen



"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

Fred Rogers

In the Lives of our Members

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Adrian Warzecha | 16 Jane Scharpe |
| 3 Jon Hazelwood | 17 Courtney Foss |
| 4 Dale Wark | 18 Scott Bergs |
| 5 Barbara Bergs | 20 Lorraine Mielke |
| 10 Stacy Haggemiller | 20 Madison Krueger |
| 10 Jim Pederson | 26 Jan Gieseke |
| 10 Nick Schiroo | 26 Murdock Krueger |
| 11 Cole Lovaas | 27 Mary Christeson |
| 12 Montana Krueger | 30 Elton Hazelwood |
| 13 Diane Wink | |



- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| August 1, 2008 | Todd & Jill Warzecha |
| August 8, 1992 | Rigo & Cindy Vazquez |
| August 11, 2018 | Brett & Julia Barfnecht |
| August 19, 1978 | Steve & Cindy Scharpe |
| August 20, 1988 | Gerald & Brenda Woehler |
| August 20, 1976 | Neil & Lorraine Mielke |
| August 24, 1968 | Dean & Sandy Bergersen |



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>Oak Terrance</u>
Rhoda Woehler | <u>French Meadow-LeSueur</u>
Deb Otto |
| <u>Good Samaritan/Arlington</u>
Lyle Woehler | <u>Fairview Assisted Living</u>
Bert Pederson |
| <u>At home in Silver Lake</u>
Luverne Bergs | <u>May Creek, Walker, MN</u>
Gary Revier |
| <u>At home in Arlington</u>
Hylma Matzke | |



Zion Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 10, 2024

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Larry Gieseke.

Attendance:

President: Larry Gieseke	Bd/Deacon: Nick Schiroo	Bd/Worship & Music: Brenda Danielson
Vice President: Jon Hazelwood	Bd/Trustee: Mark Strobel	Pastor: Pr. Gretchen Pierskalla
Secretary: Roseann Nagel	Bd/Education: Sheri Kumar	
Treasurer: Bruce Kallhoff	Bd/Stewardship: Pam Schiroo	
Others present: none		

Devotions were provided by Pr. Gretchen.

MOTION BY BY J HAZELWOOD, SECONDED P SCHIROO TO APPROVE AGENDA. MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for June council meeting were published in newsletter and [emailed to Council](#). **MOTION BY B KALLOFF, SECONDED BY P SCHIROO TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED AT MEETING. MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Treasurer's Report: [Treasurer's report was forwarded to council members via email. Treasurer stated finances are in the black. Insurance payout for hail reroofing is separate and will be used for payment of said project.](#) **MOTION BY S KUMAR, SECONDED BY P SCHIROO TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS AS EMAILED. MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Pastor's Report: Has been working on designing confirmation studies for this fall. -- Marriage preparation with couple for fall wedding. -- Reported an issue with printing from laptops. (Written report—Attachment)

Board of Deacons: N Schiroo -- No report. President Gieseke requested Deacons develop a plan to assist Pastor with communion for shut-ins due to the nursing home closing in Arlington. Members now live in several different locations and has added travel time to visit members and administer communion.

Board of Stewardship: P Schiroo – Will meet in August.

Board of Trustees: M Strobel – The whistling sound made by the air conditioning unit was checked by the installer and found that because the new air conditioner moves more air, additional return vents should be added to prevent the sound. The estimate to remedy this is \$1,200. TABLED until next meeting. – Parking lot weeds were sprayed. -- Church Mutual

insurance premium has increased for 2025 and will be \$12,000. 2024 premium was approximately \$9,000. Council members expressed satisfaction with current carrier and by consensus agreed to maintain coverage with Church Mutual as all insurance is seeing increases and/or higher deductibles and decreased coverage.

Board of Worship and Music: B Danielson – Planned an out-door service at the Four Seasons Park shelter on July 28 with 10:00 worship time followed by a hot dog roast and potluck lunch. – Have been experimenting with various service setting and music options.

Board of Education: S Kumar -- Will be meeting tomorrow, July 11, at 10:30 am. Vacation Bible School plans are in place.

Standing Committees

Décor Committee: Reported that a request was made to have a door or wall hook mounted for hanging coats/handbags/etc. when using the handicapped bathroom on the main floor. This was referred to the Board of Trustees and a hook has been ordered for installation.

President Gieseke dispensed with other Standing Committee reports as none were submitted.

Old Business

Maranatha agreement and policy review was referred to Executive Council. Executive Council held a workshop June 18 and will schedule a second workshop to finish review. TABLED until next meeting.

MOTION MADE BY B DANIELSON AND SECONDED BY S KUMAR THAT FOUNDATION MONIES DESIGNATED FOR USE IN GLOBAL MISSIONS GO TO THE FOLLOWING ELCA SPONSORED FUNDS: (1) VRHYED AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP \$2,000, (2) WORLD HUNGER \$2,000, AND (3) WORLD DISASTER RELIEF \$2,000. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

\$18,000 remains in the Foundation account. Clarification as to how the Foundation documents allow these remaining monies may be spent is being researched. TABLED until next meeting.

New Business

Memorial Committee Report – Committee was unable to attend but submitted that the last project was funding of the bathroom/office project. Treasurer Kallhoff reports that the Memorial Account current balance is \$6,562.24.

Discussion of future projects culminated in a consensus of the parking lot being high priority and should be presented to the congregation at the January 2025 Annual Meeting. The project was assigned to the Board of Trustees – asking that they research scope of project, acquire bids, and recommend financing options. The Trustees were asked to prepare a presentation for Council approval.

A Council recommendation will be brought to the Annual Meeting for vote of the congregation members.

Next council meeting is Wednesday August 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

MOTION BY M STROBEL, SECONDED BY P SCHIROO TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:05 PM. MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

Roseann Nagel,
Council Secretary
Approved: Pending



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)

June Giving 2024

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Parking Lot</u>	<u>Food Shelf</u>	<u>Hunger Jar</u>	<u>World Hunger</u>
6/2/2024	51			\$23.53	
6/9/2024	63	\$60.00	\$12.00	\$23.00	\$12.00
6/16/2024			\$5.00	\$40.10	
6/23/2024	46	\$10.00		\$17.00	
6/30/2024	49			\$23.47	



August Bible Readings

August 4 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 - The LORD gives manna in the wilderness

Psalm 78:23-29

Ephesians 4:1-16 - Maintain the unity of the faith

John 6:24-35 - Christ the bread of life

August 11 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:4-8 - Elijah given bread for his journey

Psalm 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25—5:2 - Put away evil, live in love

John 6:35, 41-51 - Christ, the bread of life

August 18 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 9:1-6 - Invited to dine at wisdom's feast

Psalm 34:9-14

Ephesians 5:15-20 - Filled with the Spirit, sing thanks to God

John 6:51-58 - Christ the true food and drink

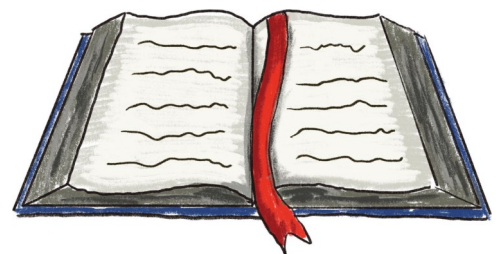
August 25 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 - Joshua calls all Israel to serve the LORD

Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20 - Put on the armor of God

John 6:56-69 - The bread of eternal life



Zion Church Women

July Bible Study Group

Tuesday Circle

No Meeting

Wednesday Circle

No Meeting



GLLM Quilt Auction

Friday & Saturday—July 26 & 27

GLLM Quilt—“Butterfly Kisses” made by Pr. Evelyn Dahlke and quilted by Mary Huebert.

This queen size quilt features hand embroidered butterfly blocks set with pink, black and white coordinating butterfly prints.

Fall Dates to Remember

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

**Friday, October 25—ZCW Harvest
Supper**



"Teach us to give
and not to count
the cost."

St. Ignatius



With Thankful Hearts

We would like to thank you for your support of the Backpack Community Fair as evidenced by your recent donation of 28 new backpacks. Because of your generosity, we are able to further our mission in fulfilling this project for the families of Sibley County.

Tiffany Stuber
Minnesota Valley Action Council



"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta



August Newsletter Notes

Hunger Jar

August—Sibley County Food Share

Clattering Coins for Christ

May through August—Sibley County Food Share

Blessing of the Backpacks on August 25

Bring your back pack and school supplies to church for a special blessing the Sunday before school starts!

Sibley County Fair: July 31-August 4

Church will be locked on these days during the Fair

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.

Ingredients for true success

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.
—George Washington Carver

August 4

Usher: Brad & Brenda Danielson
Kevin & Nancy Biermann
Greeter: Gordon & Barb Bergs
Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
Reader: Larry Gieseke
Altar Guild: Gordon & Barb Bergs
Bread Maker: Larry Schiroy

August 11

Usher: Mausten Krueger, Nick Schiroy
Gordon & Barb Bergs
Greeter: Michael & Mary Christeson
Acolyte: Jack Ruehling
Reader: Starla Schilling
Altar Guild: Jackie Alsieben,
Pam Wendlandt
Bread Maker: Larry Schiroy

August 18

Usher: Jim Pederson, Jim Carlson
Neil Mielke, Joe Prasad
Greeter: Darrel & Jackie Alsieben
Acolyte: Jeremiah Vazquez
Reader: Jan Giesen

August 25

Usher: Peg Kamps, Mary Lietz
Mark & Lisa Strobel
Greeter: Brad Danielson
Acolyte: Cooper Heeren
Reader: Janet Rowe

August 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3
10a—Bible Study
6p—Maranatha
Church

Sibley County Fair

4 5 6 7 8 9 10
10a—Bible Study
5:30p—Board of
Stewardship
6p—Maranatha
Church

11th Sunday after Pentecost

9a—Worship
w/Holy Communion
1p—Maranatha
Church

ELCA Empowering Women—Sioux Falls, SD

11 12 13 14 15 16 17
10a—Bible Study
6p—Maranatha
Church

12th Sunday after Pentecost

9a—Worship w/Holy
Communion
1p—Maranatha
Church

11:30a—Board of
Education
10:30a—Nursing
Home Service
7p—Church
Council

18 19 20 21 22 23 24
6p—Board of
Worship & Music

13th Sunday after Pentecost

9a—Worship
1p—Maranatha
Church

10a—Bible Study
6p—Maranatha
Church

25 26 27 28 29 30 31
10a—Bible Study
6p—Maranatha
Church

14th Sunday after Pentecost

9a—Worship - Blessing
of Backpacks
1p—Maranatha Church