

Zion Lutheran Church
Arlington, MN

February Newsletter

February 2024

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

Worship Schedule

February 4—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

9:00am
Holy Communion

February 11—Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:00am
Holy Communion

February 14—Ash Wednesday

6:30pm
Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

February 18—First Sunday in Lent

Contemporary Service
9:00am

February 21—Lenten Worship

5:30pm—Supper
6:30pm—Worship

February 25—Second Sunday in Lent

9:00am

February 28—Lenten Worship

5:30pm—Supper
6:30pm—Worship

Chattin' It Up...

- "A Lenten Blessing for Coming Home to Love"
- GLLM Camp Information
- VBS Date
- February Newsletter Notes

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Note from Pastor Gretchen

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. It is an odd pairing. A day which invites us to consider our death; and a day which commemorates love in all its forms. Romantic love, family love, friendship love...all on the same day. And yet, somehow, this pairing is more than fitting.

As we begin the season of Lent, a word that means 'spring', Lent tells of a hope in life which is stronger than death.

We will gather for worship on Sundays at 9AM, and on Wednesdays at 6:30PM. There will be a meal served at 5:30PM. Boards, committees, and friend groups are invited to prepare and serve a meal together. **SIGN UP on the bulletin board.** In recent years

Continued on page 2

there were about 30 people served. There will not be a meal before worship on Ash Wednesday.

This Corporate Blessing by Kate Bowler, struck me as particularly fitting for the Ash Wednesday - Valentine mash up.

“A Lenten Blessing for Coming Home to Love”

Blessed are we who say,
God, if you are love, then I want you.
I want love
and all that Love can do.

God, I want to feel your love
for me in particular,
in the body I have now,
in the minutes and hours that mark my days,
among the people that are mine to serve.

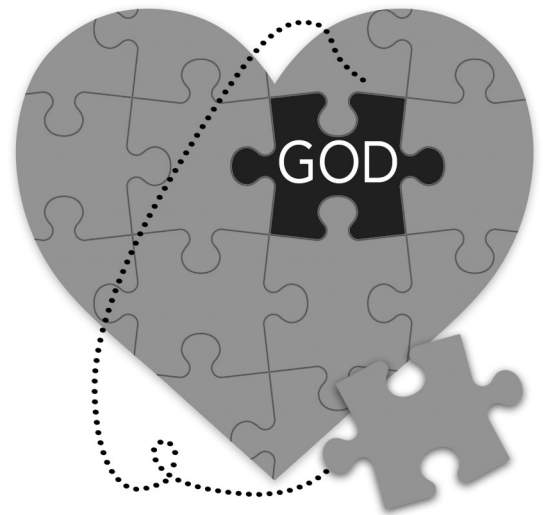
I want to feel in my bones
that you made me on purpose
in love, and for love,
to hold, and to give away.

I want love I can come home to,
love that shelters and sustains.
That is always ready and waiting
for the moment I walk in the door.

Love that with one glance speaks joy
just to be in each other’s company,
and yields space for whatever may come.
Hard things. Real things.
All in good time.
The love that sees and knows and loves to the end of days.

The kind of love I could never earn,
nor ever lose.

Amen.



In the Lives of our Members

- 2 Jaden Kmetz
- 2 Jady Krueger
- 4 Ross Bergs
- 4 Ryan Bergs
- 6 Peg Kamps
- 7 Michael Christeson
- 7 Taylor Johnson
- 10 Mitchell Beneke
- 10 Rich Nagel
- 12 Jan Wark
- 13 Connor Bartlette
- 16 Jacqueline Christeson
- 17 Riley Drexler
- 18 Michael Bullert
- 18 Chetan Kumar



- 19 Tim Michaelis
- 20 Gordon Bergs February 8, 1975 Tom & Diane Hatlestad
- 23 Jerry Ebersviller February 17, 1996 Scott & Stephanie Krueger
- 24 Ryan Pautsch February 18, 2022 Gary & Dollis Crawford
- 26 Lyle Rud
- 28 Mary Kallhoff



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



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

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice President Larry Gieseke.

Attendance:

President: ABSENT	Deacon: Nick Schiroo	Bd/Worship & Music: Peg Kamps
Vice President: Larry Gieseke	Bd/Trustee: Rich Nagel	Pastor: Pr. Gretchen Pierskalla
Secretary: Roseann Nagel	Bd/Education: Sheri Kumar	
Treasurer: Joe Prasad	Bd/Stewardship: Lyle Rud	
Others present: Bruce Kallhoff, representing Nominating Committee		

Devotions were provided by Pr. Gretchen.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for December council meeting were published in newsletter and emailed to Council. **MOTION BY RICH NAGEL, SECONDED BY N SCHIROO TO APPROVE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Treasurer's Report: November and December Profit and Loss financial statements as well as January through November Profit and Loss summary were emailed and verbally presented. **MOTION BY L RUD, SECONDED BY P KAMPS TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Pastor's Report: Prepared for the Christmas cycle, Deacon decoration for Christmas and ZCW Community Christmas Program--. Altar Guild instructional meeting after church January 7 for members serving on Altar Guild communion preparation. —Planning confirmation field trip and service project to assist Arlington Lions sorting plastic for recycling. —Will attend Conference meeting in February. —Planning confirmation retreat.—Preparing for Lent which will include rotation of pastors from other congregations. (Written report—Attachment)

Board of Deacons: N Schiroo – Meet Sunday after church to take down and store Christmas decorations.

Board of Stewardship: L Rud – Extended thanks to congregation for financial support the past few years with much less Stewardship activity due to COVID and pastor transitional period.

Board of Trustees: Rich Nagel – Tree stumps (from prior tree removal) were ground by John Shuette. A religious organization discount will be applied to the billing statement and a member donor will cover the billed expense. Seeking volunteer to haul wood chips away and bring in black soil. —New shelving was ordered and installed in storage closet in Fellowship Room hallway (part of bathroom/office project expense). —Presented written report of hailstorm damage and has had conversations with AEM Mechanical regarding new air conditioning installation. (report attached) Consensus of Council to have said report presented at annual meeting January 14.

Board of Worship and Music: Peg Kamps -- Next meeting date is January 24.

Board of Education: Sheri Kumar –Next meeting Tuesday, January 17 at 10:30. Working to find ways to include older youth.

Standing Committees

Décor Committee: (L Gieseke/R Nagel/P Schiroo/vacant) MOTION MADE BY ROSEANN NAGEL, SECONDED BY P KAMPS TO ACCEPT THE VERBAL RESIGNATION OF MARY TROCKE FROM THE DÉCOR COMMITTEE. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Constitution/ByLaws: (L Gieseke/P Kamps/R Nagel/M Scharpe/Pr. G Pierskalla) L Gieseke – Next meeting is January 16. Continuing to work on the Bylaws. When all is completed, there will be a process to present to Council and mini-meetings with small groups before presentation at a congregational meeting.

Safety/Security Policy(s): Tabled indefinitely, committee needs to be appointed.

Old Business

Bruce Kallhoff, representing the Nominating Committee, attended and reported all ballot positions were filled. A draft ballot was reviewed and approved for presentation at annual meeting. (attached)

Council appointments for 2024 were presented as follows:

Audit Committee (3 year term)	Joe Prasad (expires Jan 2027) 1 st term –
Memorial Committee (3 year term)	Nancy Mathwig (expires Jan 2027) 1 st term –
Décor Committee	Jane Scharpe (no expiration/no term)
GLLM Delegate (annual appointment)	Scott Bergs (annual appointment)
Gustavus Delegate (annual appointment)	Bobette Schauer (annual appointment)

MOTION MADE BY ROSEANN NAGEL, SECONDED BY P KAMPS TO APPROVE THE 2024 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS AS LISTED. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

New Business

Board of Stewardship and Board of Deacons have been asked to meet and bring back ideas to March council meeting on how Zion can connect with members who worship on line and/or not receiving information from their narthex mailboxes.

By consensus it was decided that introductory council information (constitution/bylaws, current budget, year book, etc.) will be gathered and placed into binders—one for each council member. Ongoing meeting information (including minutes/treasurer reports/etc.) will become a part of each binder for reference and maintained by each council member. Binders will be purchased and initial information gathered and inserted.

Larry Gieseke will plan and conduct a transitional meeting to help onboard 2024 council members. Next council meeting falls on Ash Wednesday. Consensus was to move February meeting to Thursday, February 15 at 5:15.

Thank you was extended to those individuals going off council when new members are installed.

Next council meeting is Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 5:15 pm.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

MOTION BY L RUD, SECONDED BY P KAMPS TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 6:45 PM. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Roseann Nagel,
Council Secretary

Approved: will be reviewed for approval at February council meeting

February Bible Readings

February 4 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 - *The creator of all cares for the powerless*

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 - *A servant for the sake of the gospel*

Mark 1:29-39 - *The healing of Peter's mother-in-law*

February 11 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12 - *Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 - *God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*

Mark 9:2-9 - *Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 - *Return to the LORD, your God*

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10 - *Now is the day of salvation*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 - *The practice of faith*

February 18 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 - *The rainbow, sign of God's covenant*

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22 - *Saved through water*

Mark 1:9-15 - *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*

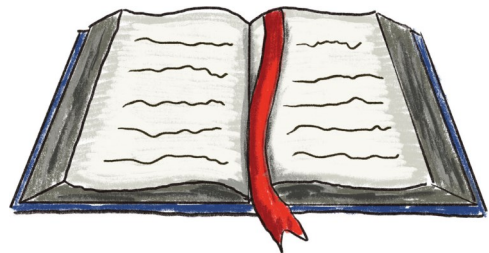
February 25 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 - *God blesses Abraham and Sarah*

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25 - *The promise to those who share Abraham's faith*

Mark 8:31-38 - *The passion prediction*



December 2023

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Parking Lot</u>	<u>Food Shelf</u>	<u>Hunger Jar</u>	<u>World Hunger</u>	<u>Clattering Coins for Christ</u>	<u>LSS</u>
12/3/2023	73			\$44.00		\$158.54	
12/10/2023	115		\$12.00	\$47.95	\$12.00		
12/17/2023	109	\$5.00		\$27.00	\$375.00		\$75.00
12/24/2023	37	\$5.00		\$22.30			
12/24/2023	112			\$22.52			
12/25/2023	36		\$75.00		\$75.00		
12/31/2023	44			\$49.00			



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
Working from home on Thursdays for sermon writing.
Off on Fridays and most Saturdays

By email: pastor@zionarlington.org

By cell: 952-237-1060

including for emergencies anytime (death, hospitalization, etc)

Zion Church Women

February Bible Study Group

Tuesday Circle

February 6—1:30pm
Church

Wednesday Circle

February 7—1:30pm
Church

Sunday Group

February 11—10:00am
Church



Women of Zion

A new year seems a good time to revisit Zion Church Women (ZCW) to make sure that we all know the same things. When you join Zion, you are assigned or asked to choose a circle. What that really means is that you will be assigned to one of the service groups. Service groups serve funerals and host any special event that occurs. We have two circles- at one time we had more. One circle meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 9 am. The other circle meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm. Each circle takes care of some of the projects of our women's group, (the Harvest Dinner, visiting shut ins, confirmation gifts, Community Christmas Program) to name a few. Circles do a Bible Study, usually based on the study provided in the Gather magazine and have a short business meeting each month. Since we have reorganized into two circles, we know by meeting in the morning and afternoon, that we have eliminated any chance for women who are working during the day to be involved in the Bible Study.

Our leadership wanted to offer a Bible Study opportunity to everyone. So, if you are not an active circle member or you are and miss your circle meeting, you could do the Bible Study in the cry room during coffee hour on the Sunday following the circle meetings. We will provide study material, Bibles, coffee and possibly a snack. Our goal is to do the Bible Study and be done in 1 hour- by the time that Sunday school is over. You will not have to prepare in advance or be the Bible Study leader. Someone who has already done the Bible Study will be there to facilitate. The theme for January – April will be biblical stories of the natural world and how they impact our faith. The first topic is weather. **So, plan to come join us at the cry room on February 11th after church.**



Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Early Bird Registration runs through February 15, 2024. Go to gllm.org to register for the camp week that works for your family schedule.

Zion camp sponsorships are available for students registered for camp. Contact the church office for details.



Save the Date for VBS

here at Zion

July 14-17, 2024.

5:30pm-7:30pm.

For children pre-k through 5th grade.



February Newsletter Notes

Please let the church office know if you have had a recent address, phone, or email change.

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Please check the coat racks at the bottom of the stair for lost and found items.

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February 10, 2:00-3:45 PM. Feed My Starving Children packing event in Chanhasen. Zion youth and congregation are invited to attend a packing session to help end global hunger. There are reserved spaces for 17 people to join the fun! Adults and Students 3rd grade and older are eligible to participate. Participants will carpool from church. Participants will share a meal at church after the packing session. Let Pastor Gretchen know if you are interested in attending this congregational service event by Feb 7!

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Souper Bowl Sunday is February 11th. Bring cans of soup and/or cash and “vote” for the Super Bowl team you think will win. All donations will go to the Sibley County Food Share. May the best team win!

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Interested in joining Zion’s choir. Choir practicing will be starting on January 28 at 10:15am. Please lend your voice!



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

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 to those who provided goodies for Fellowship Hour in December!
Darrel & Jackie Alsleben
Board of Education
Board of Stewardship
Wendy Kube

CONFIRMATION CORNER



Class Dates

February 14	4-6:15p	Confirmation Class
February 28	4-6:15p	Confirmation Class
March 6	4-6:15p	Confirmation Class

8th Grade Confirmation Students

Aiden Christeson, Elton Hazelwood & Alex Herrera-Guzman

7th Grade Confirmation Students

Jacqueline Christeson, Harper Drexler & Ashley Schauer

Confirmation Retreat at church February 9-10 will pick up the themes of Lent and World Hunger. We will prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday, and also participate in a food packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen on Saturday 2/10 from 2-3:45pm. Students Arrive 8 PM on Friday and Retreat will end at 5:30 PM on Saturday, 2/10. Congregation members are encouraged to participate in the packing event with the students! Contact Pastor Gretchen to register by 2/4.

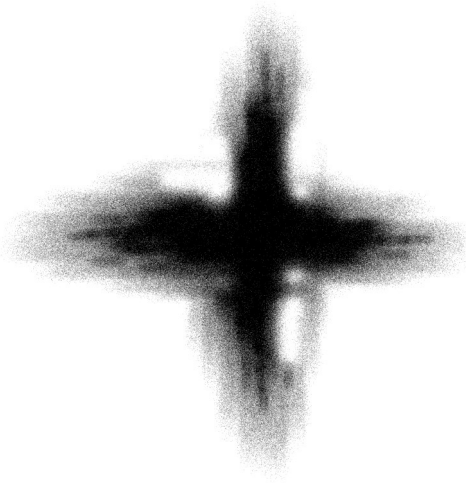
A Prayer for Lent



This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."



Christian symbol

CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Worship Assistants

February 4

Usher: Starla Schilling, Cindy Vazquez
Larry Gieseke, Neil Mielke
Greeter: Mary Albrecht
Acolyte: Alex Herrera-Guzman
Reader: Mary Sylwester
Organist: Bobette Schauer
A/V Team: Elton Hazelwood, Tim Michaelis
Altar Guild: Gordon & Barb Bergs
Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

February 11

Usher: Ed & Julie Warweg
Mary Sylwester, Francis Rowe
Greeter: Darrel & Jackie Alsleben
Acolyte: Ashley Schauer
Reader: Brenda Danielson
Organist: Bobette Schauer
A/V Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Altar Guild: Peg Kamps, Lorraine Mielke
Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

February 14—Ash Wednesday

Usher: Scott Bergs, Peg Kamps
Greeter: Birdine Battcher
Acolyte: Jacqueline Christeson
Reader: Laurie Stern
Organist: Bobette Schauer
Altar Guild: Roseann Nagel, Betty Rud
Bread Maker: Larry Schiroo
Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

February 18

Usher: Jan Wark, Deb Stenzel
Mausten Krueger, Nick Schiroo
Greeter: Gordon & Barb Bergs
Acolyte: Adilyn Kamps
Reader: Scott Bergs
Organist: Bobette Schauer
A/V Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

February 21—Wednesday

Usher: Mark & Lisa Strobel
Greeter: Brad Danielson
Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood
Reader: Jane Scharpe
Organist: Bobette Schauer
Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

February 25

Usher: Jim Pederson, Jim Carlson
Brad & Brenda Danielson
Greeter: Aiden & Jacqueline Christeson
Acolyte: Alice Foss
Reader: Jan Giesen
Organist: Brenda Danielson
A/V Team: Elton Hazelwood, Tim Michaelis
Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

February 28—Wednesday

Usher: Rich Nagel, Joe Prasad
Greeter: Jerry & Diane Ebersviller
Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
Reader: Betty Rud
Organist: Bobette Schauer
Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

February 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3

10a—Adult Bible Study
6p-8p—Maranatha Church

8 9 10
10a—Adult Bible Study
6p-8p—Maranatha Church
8a—Men's Prayer Breakfast
2p-3:45p—Feed My Starving Children

10a—Adult Bible Study
6p-8p—Maranatha Church

10a—Adult Bible Study
6p-8p—Maranatha Church

10a—Adult Bible Study
5:15p—Church Council
6p-8p—Maranatha Church

10a—Adult Bible Study
5:30p—Lenten Supper
6p-8p—Maranatha Church

10a—Adult Bible Study
6p-8p—Maranatha Church

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10a—Adult Bible Study
6p-8p—Maranatha Church

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany
9a—Worship w/Holy Communion
10a—Sunday School
1p-3p—Maranatha Church
2p—MN Valley Conference Meeting @

Transfiguration of Our Lord
9a—Worship w/Holy Communion
10a—Sunday School
10a—Bible Study
1p-3p—Maranatha Church

First Sunday in Lent
9a—Contemporary Worship
10a—Sunday School
1p-3p—Maranatha Church

Second Sunday in Lent
9a—Worship
10a—Sunday School
1p-3p—Maranatha Church

Confirmation Retreat