

the herald

NEWS OF ZION LUTHERAN | ANOKA

AUGUST 2023



Zion's 153rd Anniversary Celebration



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In-Person Worship

5 pm (Sat)
8, 9 & 11 am (Sun)

Livestream Worship

9 & 11 am (Sun)

Cable TV

10 am & 5 pm (Sun)

Radio Broadcast

106.1 (BOB-FM)
9:10 am (Sun)

Gospel Readings

August 5-6
Matthew 14:13-21

August 12-13
Matthew 14:22-33

August 19-20
Matthew 15:21-28

August 26-27
Matthew 16:13-20

September 21
6:00 PM

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Guest Speaker: Gretchen Carlson

We are excited to celebrate our history after having to postpone our 150th Anniversary Banquet in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Tickets may be purchased at the front desk on Sunday mornings or during the week during normal business hours or online at www.zionanoka.org; Tickets \$20; children 5 and under are free.

Our guest speaker will be Gretchen Carlson, broadcast journalist, author, TV personality and granddaughter of Pastor William Hyllengren.



a message from pastor brent



The writer of Ecclesiastes penned these familiar words: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1) As you may have heard, we said goodbye to Pastor Mike, our Pastor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry on July 30. Pastor Mike served faithfully and shared his many gifts with us for seven years and will be missed! Please pray for Pastor Mike as he discerns his next call or calling. With Pastor Mike’s departure, we have decided this would be a good time, a good season, to assess our needs and priorities and how they may have changed since coming out of the pandemic. As a congregation, we have become more dependent on technology, as about half of our congregation members are engaged in worship virtually, through the internet, radio, or cable TV.

Pastor Mike and Josh Myroniuk, our High School Youth Director, have been instrumental in helping us pivot and adapt our technology during and after the pandemic, which has allowed Zion to offer multiple media opportunities for worship. This has allowed our worship services to reach a broader audience and to expand our “virtual” congregation. Therefore, rather than calling a pastor for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, we are creating a full-time “Director of Technology and Media Arts” and a full-time “Director of Middle School and High School Youth Ministry”. The Director of Middle School and High School Youth Ministry will include administration of our Confirmation program. Since we will not be calling a new CYF Pastor, this has a neutral impact on our budget.

Josh Myroniuk has accepted the new full-time position as Director of Technology and Media Arts. We have begun the search for the new position of Director of Middle School and High School Youth Ministry and we are hopeful that we will be able to fill this position before the church program year begins in September. We feel that the two newly designed positions will help us to move forward in this new season of ministry at Zion. I ask for your prayers for the pastors, staff, and leaders at Zion as we seek to do ministry in our changing world.

Pastor Brent

Super Sale a Huge Success! Thank You to All Who Helped!

The proceeds from this year's Super Sale were \$26,000! More than 200 volunteers were involved in the sale and many more donated items for the sale. Many, many thanks to all who helped. Whether you volunteered, donated, shopped, provided food, or were part of the leadership team or Zion staff—WE THANK YOU! Thanks also to Scout Pack 233 for all of their help with clean-up, to County Market in Andover for providing the grocery bags for the sale, and to Thrivent for their Action Team grants to cover food for volunteers and other overhead expenses.

A special thank you to our sale co-chairs Liz Jensen and Pat Stearns. Liz Jensen will be retiring from her leadership role in the Super Sale after 18 years... so a special “shout out” to Liz! Again, thank you to all!!!



an inspirational message

A Gift to Share

By Colleen Nelson

Last Mother's Day my daughter gave me a devotional book. It was a thoughtful gift in that it reflected how well she knows me. In addition, this simple gift came with the promise of memories in the making. Why? Because she also bought a copy for herself, with the plan that we would read it individually, then share what resonated for each of us. It has been a faith building experience for me and I'm fairly confident she would mirror my sentiment. We've fallen into a pattern of texting our thoughts and responding when we have a free moment. The gift of time is far less abundant for her as a career woman, married with two young children. As for me, I'm retired. Even though we find ourselves at opposite ends of life's spectrum, which alters our perspective to the text, the basis of our faith is the same. God remains faithful and steadfast no matter the season we find ourselves in. One of the suggestions in this book was to find or create a morning prayer to recite at the beginning of our day, even before our first cup of coffee! In my research, I stumbled on Psalm 143:8, 10 for my prayer's foundation:

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life.
Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;
may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.

This scripture is a beautiful morning prayer as written, however, I was interested in creating my own:

Gracious and loving God,
I come to you with a grateful heart,
For your love is new each morning and your grace is sufficient.
Your word is my guide to a full and righteous life,
And your Spirit leads me on solid ground.
I lift my soul to you,
And place my trust in you alone.
Open my heart to your will,
That I may bring glory to you in all that I say and do.
In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

I challenge you to invite a friend or loved one to share in daily devotions and to begin your day with a prayer even before your feet hit the ground. I pray that both of these spiritual disciplines will enhance your relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as they have done for me.

welcome

2024 Foundation Grant Applications Now Available

Zion Foundation Grants

The Zion Foundation offers grants in the following areas: Youth Development and Education; National and Global Missions; Local Causes and Community Service; and Lutheran Legacy. To qualify for a grant, you must be a 501c(3) organization and have a sponsor who is a member of Zion. Grants are available to programs in the community, as well as Zion's own ministries and programs. To request a grant application, email Kristine kjohnson@zionanoka.org.

Zion ELCA College Student or ELCA Seminary Student Grants

The Zion Foundation offers grants to Zion members who are attending an ELCA college or an ELCA seminary. The college grants are for \$500 per year and most ELCA colleges match the grant of \$500. Grants for ELCA seminary students are for a maximum of \$1,000 per year. To request a student grant application for ELCA college or seminary students, email Kristine kjohnson@zionanoka.org.

Completed grant applications are due to the church office by September 1, 2023.

Zion Security Team - Keeping Us Safe

In an effort to keep Zion safe, back in October, we invited Michael Christianson, a Protective Security Advisor from the Infrastructure Security Agency in Homeland Security, to come and present *House of Worship Security and Preparedness* to Zion staff followed by a walk-through of our building. He gave us great insight and tips to help keep everyone here at Zion safe.

In November, we created a Security Team to discuss Michael's recommendations and steps we can take to improve safety at Zion. The current team members are: Pastor Connie, Josh Myroniuk, Denise Lewandowski, Ann Campbell, James Dussl, Chuck Wallace, Steve Dussl and Suzanne Gaboury.

Since then, the following measures have been put into place:

- Purchased 12 security cameras which have been placed throughout the building both inside and out.
- Purchased window shades for all rooms.
- Checked and changed all door locks to allow for automatic locking from the inside.
- Posted Severe Weather Shelter signs outside of rooms with no windows.
- Created maps of the building for each room indicating 'You are Here', route to Emergency Exit, address and phone number of Zion, location of fire extinguishers and AEDs. These are in the process of being hung.
- Offered an AED and CPR training course for staff members.
- Purchased a new AED for the first floor across and down from the Youth Room.

We continue to work on the following measures:

- Develop building-wide safety procedures and emergency notifications.
- Train staff, ushers, Kid City teachers and volunteers and members as appropriate.

Much has been accomplished in the last nine months. We will continue to keep everyone informed of additional changes. Join us for the Sunday Adult Forum on September 24 for additional information and to ask questions.

Zion Featured on QCTV Segment

Zion was recently featured on QCTV's The Chamber Report - June 2023 in the Member Profile Segment (24.52 minutes in). In case you missed it, check it out online www.qctv.org/chambershow/.

welcome

Riverfest a Huge Success!

Thank you to all who helped with Zion's booth at Riverfest and to those who came out to visit us! We received many compliments on the music that Rich (clarinet) and KT (accordion) played for everyone. Troy the balloon guy was also a huge hit making balloon animals.

A special thank you to the Neighborhood Engagement Team for hosting the event, the quilters for donating two quilts to raffle off, knitters for knitting washcloths for us to give away, Steve for dropping off and picking up tables, chairs, music stands and prizes.



School Supplies Needed

Zion is partnering with Anoka United Methodist Church to gather school supplies for their "United for the Community: Back to School Event" on August 17 from 5-7:30 p.m. Needs this year are Crayola colored pencils (12 count box), Crayola watercolor paint sets (8 color) and glue sticks. We can also use 2-pocket folders in red, yellow, blue, and green, spiral or composition notebooks (wide and college rule) in the same colors, #2 pencils, pens in blue or black ink and highlighters. We will also be collecting gift cards to Cub, Walmart, and Target that we will give to Anoka Middle School for the Arts. Drop off supplies in the bins by the Welcome Desk no later than Sunday, August 6. Contact Pastor Connie or Glen Semanko if you have any questions.

Ice Cream Social

"I scream, you scream, we all scream for ICE CREAM!" Join us at Akin Riverside Park in Anoka at the pavilion on Thursday, August 10 from 6-8 p.m. for ice cream and conversation! Last year's events were a hit and we didn't want the summer to go by without gathering again. Blue Moo Ice Cream truck will be on hand with a variety of free ice cream treats!



Baptism Class

If you are expecting, have had a baby or adopting and would like to know more about baptism, we will be having a baptism class on Sunday, August 27 at 12 p.m. in the Library. To register for the class, contact Kristine kjohnson@zionanoka.org.

Parking Lot Project is Complete!

Zion's parking lot project was completed on June 30 and we are using the main lot again. The expanded patio area at Door #2 is also complete and we even have new patio tables with chairs and umbrellas. Many thanks to the Property Committee for all of their work planning and managing the project. It turned out great!



Weekly Worship Opportunities

In-Person Worship

Saturdays @ 5 pm and Sundays @ 8 am, 9 am & 11 am

Livestream Worship

Sundays @ 9 am & 11 am

Radio (BOB-FM, 106.1)

Sundays @ 9:10 am

Cable TV Channel 6 Broadcast

Sundays @ 10 am & 5 pm

Jonathan Campbell to direct Ringmasters Bell Choir

Beginning this fall, Zion's handbell choir, the Ringmasters, will be directed by Jonathan Campbell, Zion's Director of Music and Worship. We were deeply saddened by the death of Mike Hiatt, who directed the Ringmasters for more than 25 years. We are grateful that Jonathan has agreed to assume the leadership mantle for the handbell choir. Rehearsals for the Ringmasters will resume in September.

A personal note from Jon:

Zion suffered a terrible loss last spring with the passing of Mike Hiatt. But I know he has now joined the "choir eternal" and is leading the angels and saints with his passion for music. It's a blessing to assume leadership of Zion's handbell choir—which in my own mind will forever be the "Mike Hiatt Handbell Choir." My service for the handbells will begin this fall and I'm excited for the task. Thanks to all of Zion—especially the Ringers—as we continue to build on Mike's rich legacy.

CYF Fall Registration Opens August 15

Registration for our Children, Youth and Family 2023-2024 program year will open on **Tuesday, August 15!** This includes Holy Shenanigans (ministry for families with children ages 0-5), Kid City (Sunday School, K-5th grade), Confirmation (Wednesday nights, 6th-8th grade) and Common Ground (Sundays 12-1:30 p.m., 9th-12th grade).

To register (beginning August 15), click on the links below or scan the QR codes to the right.

Sunday Ministries - <https://cutt.ly/ZionSun23-24>

Wednesday Ministries - <https://cutt.ly/ZionWed23-24>

Join us for Rally Sunday on September 10 as we kick off our programming year!



Sunday
Ministries



Wednesday
Ministries

Adult Learning Opportunities

As the summer winds down, we begin to look at all the opportunities to learn and gather at Zion for the new program year! Rally Day is September 10 and we come “back to church” to center ourselves once again together as a community. It is also the start of our Adult Learning Opportunities!

Small Group Studies

Our small group studies will resume the week of September 10. Our first fall study is called “Resilient – Restoring Your Weary Soul in These Turbulent Times” by John Eldredge. The longing for joy is one of the deepest yearnings of the human heart. After times of trial, including the pandemic, economic turmoil, wars and rumors of war, and grief, our desire rises to the surface demanding relief. We've had to rally. Yet at some point, we have to replenish our soul's reserves or we will burn out. In this study, Eldredge provides the awareness and skills we need to strengthen our weary souls. Drawing on wisdom from scripture, Christian tradition, and practical experiences, *Resilient* offers powerful supernatural graces to sustain us through these trying times, helping us receive from Jesus the strength that prevails, preparing us for future storms. Our schedule is as follows:

- Week of September 11: The Strength That Prevails
- Week of September 18: Glory or Desolation
- Week of September 25: Unconverted Places
- Week of October 2: The Deep Well Inside Us
- Week of October 9: Don't Look Back

Books for this study will be on sale for \$16 starting August 13 and can be purchased at the front desk. Sign up for a class at the Welcome Desk. Classes will be offered at the following times:

- Monday at 1 p.m. in the Legacy Room taught by Pastor Sue
- Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. in the Legacy Room taught by Ken Johnson, Greg Bergeron and Pastor Brent
- Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Legacy Room taught by Pastor Connie
- Thursday at 1 p.m. on Zoom taught by Pastor Amie Odahl and Pastor Jim; Zoom ID: 818-243-3193; Zoom passcode: 818-243-3193

Adult Forums

Adult Forums are held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Below is the upcoming schedule:

- September 17 – Hospitality Training: We once believed that as a majority culture in North America, everyone knew all there was to know about a church and its surroundings. This certainly is no longer true in a post-Christian North American culture. Most people in our neighborhoods are completely mystified about who we are, what we do, and who is welcome. How do we welcome the stranger into our community? How do we share our values and hospitality to others in order to deepen and enrich our congregational ministries and our relationships with one another and with God? Join Pastor Brent and Pastor Connie and the Neighborhood Engagement Team (NET) for this important training!
- September 24 – Security Team Update: We want people to not only come and feel welcome at Zion, but also to feel safe. To that end, we have made some changes and updates to our facility and our training here at Zion. Come learn what we are doing at Zion to keep each other safe.
- October 1 – Exodus Lending: Exodus Lending is the only nonprofit dedicated solely to helping Minnesotans get out of predatory lending debt. Join Executive Director Anne Leland Clark and board member Kim Miller as we learn more about this important ministry.

care

Hospital Visits and Pastoral Care

If you or a family member are in the hospital or have had a change in your health status and would like a pastoral visit, please call the church office at 763-421-4656, email Kristine kjohnson@zionanoka.org or Pastor Sue swallager@zionanoka.org or let any of the pastors know. The pastoral staff is very happy to visit you and provide pastoral care.

Matthew Bag Ministry

Thank you to all who have generously donated to the Matthew Bag Ministry. You may wonder "Where do these bags go?" Besides parishioners handing them out to those they see in need, the bags also go to the following: Salvation Army store at Northtown, ACBC, Hope4Youth, Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center, Anoka Ramsey Community College, Anoka Technical College and Hennepin Technical College. We are still in need of crew socks. Donations can be dropped off in the Matthew Bag donation bin at the Welcome Desk. Again thank you for your continued support.

Radio Broadcast Fund Donors

Every Sunday morning at 9:10 a.m., Zion's worship service is broadcast on BOB-FM (106.1). Our radio broadcast covers a good portion of the State of Minnesota and reaches several hundred listeners each Sunday, including many who do not have internet capability. Special gifts to support Zion's Radio Broadcast Fund are welcome. Gifts may be given in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion such as a wedding anniversary. To make a gift to the Radio Broadcast Fund, note "radio broadcast" on the memo line of your check. If it is in memory of a loved one or in honor of an anniversary or birthday, enclose a note or post-it.

Thank you to our recent Radio Broadcast Fund donors:

Dianne Carlson
Lyle & Marlene Willock
Greg Nelson
Cara Fish
Bev Fraser
Craig Bakken
Kristine Johnson
Lois Peterson
Tom & Nancy Blaska

Cindy & Mike Pipenhagen in memory of Mary Braught
Margaret & Al Steinbring in honor of great-grandson Jack Kelley Boyer
Gary & Linda Nelson in memory of Chadd Nelson
Gary & Sheryl Fahnhorst in memory of Susan Worsham

about our people

Baptisms

May 21 - Lake Neuerburg
June 4 - Liam Margulies
June 10 - Palmer Fenwick
June 17 - Harlen Rygg

Baptisms

June 18 - Ellie May Kiser
July 8 - Wesley Crowe
July 9 - Cora Johnson

Deaths

Shirley Sundeen
Aina Essig
Judy Syring
Sue Syring Stafford
Sharon Bauer
Lorayne Thompson
Jocelyn Kilpatrick

New Members

David Margulies &
Rebecca Loose

Weddings

July 8 - Ashely Small &
Neil Paulson

The Equity Team Umbrella

Zion's Equity Team has divided into different teams to best address the concerns and issues facing our church and community. These teams are:

- **Neighborhood Engagement Team (NET)** – formally our Evangelism Team, led by Randy Korus. The team works with being in our neighborhoods as well as inviting others into a welcoming community where God's grace is shared and faith is deepened. This group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Randy or Pastor Brent for more information.
- **EcoFaith Team** co-leaders are Carol Dixon and Ellen Johnson. The mission statement for this team is: "The Zion EcoFaith team seeks to build awareness among our congregation and as individuals to create a more sustainable, just, and equitable community. As a congregation, we will strive to take action to better care for God's Creation." This team meets the first Tuesday of each month and will also be sharing other ways the congregation can join in creation care. You are welcome to join us on August 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Legacy Room. Contact Carol, Ellen or Pastor Connie if you have questions.
- **Social Justice Team** led by Liz Fenwick and Amy Norquist. The mission statement for the Social Justice Team is: "As we strive to walk humbly with our God, the Zion Social Justice Team seeks to listen, learn, and advocate for a more just and equitable community. As a congregation, our mission is to find strength in our diversity, embrace cultural differences, and to be united by our common humanity." "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28.

You are invited to an introductory meeting on September 11 from 6-7 p.m. in the Legacy Room. For more information on this team, contact Liz, Amy or Pastor Connie.

- **Zion Addiction Recovery Team** led by Ron Gray, Mary Sheie and Pastor Michael Wittkamper. America is in the middle of a severe alcohol and drug addiction crisis. Can faith communities prevent people from falling victim to substance abuse and help them recover from it? The answer is "yes". A study by the National Institutes of Health in 2019 showed that "faith is indispensable in preventing and recovering from substance abuse". This study cited "hundreds of other evidence-based studies that demonstrate the positive impact of faith on health and well-being." Estimates are that 25-50% of people either have an addiction issue or have loved ones struggling and they are likely among us in our faith community.

A small number of Zion members have formed a team to help create an appropriate and sustainable response to this crisis in our local community: The Zion Lutheran Addiction Recovery Team seeks to "offer a safe place of hope, support, and advocacy for those seeking recovery so that we can build resilience and thrive in our lives and communities." The Zion Church Council also approved a partnership with The Center of Addiction and Faith, an organization dedicated to helping faith communities perform this role. Their vision is that every faith community in America will care about what addiction is and be able to help people who struggle.

Anyone is welcome to join the Zion Lutheran Addiction Recovery Team whether you have experience in this area or not. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Connie.

From Zion's EcoFaith Team

What is a Carbon Footprint?

Have you heard the term “carbon footprint” and wondered, “What does that mean? Does it apply to me?” According to the Nature Conservancy, it’s the “total amount of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide and methane) that are generated by our actions.” These gases are the by-products of burning fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas, and are detrimentally warming God’s Earth.

Key drivers of our carbon footprint include, but are not limited to: how often we drive our vehicles; how efficient those vehicles are; the types of fuel our energy suppliers use to generate our homes’ and businesses’ electricity, along with our homes’/businesses’ heating and cooling activity; how much of that energy we use; and how efficient our furnace/air conditioner/appliances are.

In the United States, a person’s average carbon footprint is 16 tons; globally, the average is 4 tons. It can be overwhelming when we consider how much energy we use from fossil fuels, and admittedly, pretty discouraging. We can, though, take several small steps to reduce our carbon footprint; collectively, we CAN make a difference. And not only will we help to save God’s Creation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but – BONUS! – save money, too!

To determine your own carbon footprint, there are calculators that can help. The calculators will also show how you compare (on average) to your neighbors and offer tips on how to reduce your own footprint. Check them out!

<https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator>

Did you know . . . ?

- The recycling industry in Minnesota supports 40,000 jobs?
- Anoka County currently recycles 53% of its waste, with a goal to recycle 75% by 2030?
- Recycling an aluminum can saves up to 95% of the energy it takes to make a new can out of virgin material?
Tip: after rinsing, don’t crush or flatten the can – keep it whole instead. A flattened can is difficult to sort out, and may end up in a different recycling stream, such as paper, thus contaminating the paper recyclables.

Help! My shredder (or other appliance) is broken!

Do you have a toaster that’s lost its toasting edge? Or a lamp that no longer illuminates? Or your favorite jacket’s zipper zips no more? Or any other item needing repair? Don’t toss it in the trash (especially electronics, which is illegal to do in Minnesota). Help extend its life by bringing it to an upcoming Fix-It Clinic! (First come, first served. Check with your local County for more details.)

- Anoka County: August 5, 2023, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Blaine - Northtown Library
- Hennepin County: August 12, 2023, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Maple Grove - Maple Grove Community Center
- Ramsey County: August 26, 2023, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Shoreview - Ramsey County Library

Habitat for Humanity - July 11-14

Thank you so much to the workers and food volunteers who helped this year's Habitat for Humanity project. It was a labor of love for our community. Thanks also to Zion members whose benevolence contributions help to fund a project like this. We are truly a stronger and healthier community when we join together to help one another in times of need.

This year, Zion volunteers painted a house at 3334 Colfax Ave N in Minneapolis. Instead of hammers, our volunteers wielded scrapers and paint brushes. We worked with an arm of Habitat entitled "A Brush With Kindness". This program works with residents that have been cited by the city for code violations to help bring them into compliance. We had nine volunteers on Tuesday and Wednesday, six on Thursday and eight on Friday. We also had several volunteers help with food, and some of our food was purchased using funds from an Action Team grant provided by Thrivent. Our site supervisor Joe provided great leadership, and our AmeriCorps volunteer Chloe also provided lots of help. ABWK volunteers work Tuesday to Friday. Tuesday was spent setting up ladders, scraping loose paint, filling holes and sanding and preparing the walls for painting. Wednesday we primed all the walls and Thursday and Friday we put two coats of finish paint on the walls and trim. All of our work was done on the outside of the house so we were fortunate with good weather. We are both grateful and thankful for the finished product.

Thanks again for your help in making this project a great success! Bill Norquist and Sylvan Flaten





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We are making the most of summer at Pre-K+! Planting and watching our garden grow, playing, and helping the monarchs.

WELCOME

You are invited, you are welcome to come and experience God's love at Zion Lutheran Church.

CONTACT US

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