

the herald

NEWS OF ZION LUTHERAN

SEPTEMBER 2026



LUTHERAN † ANOKA

Let's Grow What's Next
Strengthen. Renew. Create.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In-Person Worship

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

Livestream Worship

9 & 11 am (Sun)

Cable TV

5 pm (Sun)

Radio Broadcast

106.1 (BOB-FM)
9 am (Sun)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 5-6

John 1:1-5

September 12-13

Matthew 18:21-35

September 19-20

Matthew 20:1-16

September 26-27

Matthew 21:23-32

Let's Rally - Together!

Why limit the excitement of Rally Day to just one day?

This year, we're making Rally Day a celebration that lasts all month long! Join us **September 13, 20, and 27** as we kick off a new program year at Zion. And this isn't just about rallying the kids. **We are all part of what God is growing at Zion.** Together with Christ, we are becoming a home—a place where every person is known, every story is honored, and every heart is welcomed with love. Each of us brings gifts God has placed within us, and when these gifts are joined together through Christ's unending love, something beautiful happens. We grow what comes next—a community where all belong and all are welcome.

So come for worship. Come for the fellowship. Come ready to celebrate, connect, and discover the many ways God is calling us to grow and serve together.

Stewardship

On **September 27**, our final Sunday of Rally Together will also mark the beginning of our **Season of Stewardship**. It is a natural next step in our journey. As we celebrate all that God is growing at Zion, we will also look ahead and ask how we can help **grow what's next**. Over the following four weeks, we will explore what it means to create a stronger future together; strengthening connections, renewing our space, and creating room for the future. We'll reflect on **belonging, purpose, impact, and invitation**; and consider how each of us can be part of what God is doing at Zion.

Stewardship packets will be mailed out the week of September 28. The Stewardship Breakfast will be October 4 at 10 a.m. and Gratitude Weekend will be October 17 and 18.

Let's Rally, Zion—and grow what's next, together!

CYF Rally Sunday Activities

On September 13, as part of our Rally Together kickoff celebration, we will have fun activities for everyone in the upper lobby from 10-10:50 a.m. Make a craft while meeting up with old and new friends. CYF staff will have fun take-home resources for the whole family. We look forward to seeing you as we launch into our program year!

pastor's corner



I have a puzzle for you embedded in these words: something is occasionally missing. I'm betting you'll figure it out pretty quickly.

Jesus frequently uses agricultural and botanical metaphors—seeds, soil, plants, farmers—in the parables he tells. “The Kingdom of God,” he often intones, “is like a sower going out to sow,” in Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8. “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise, night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how,” he declares in Mark 4. “The kingdom of God is like a teeny, tiny, often overlooked

mustard seed,” he says in Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 13. “It’s like a barren fig tree the landowner wants removed while the one working the orchard is committed to tending the soil and packing it with manure, perhaps hoping against hope that the tree will eventually bear fruit,” Jesus says in Luke 13.

It’s tempting to think of “the Kingdom of God” as heaven, a far away place we long, hope, and perhaps strive for; but the point of Jesus’ parables is less about pointing us toward a final, eventual, someday destination and much, much more about opening our eyes and inviting us into God’s ruling activity unfolding all around us. Often it’s easy to overlook, like a mustard seed, maybe especially in comparison to the bombastic and spectacular visions we are tempted and distracted by all around us in this dumpster fire of a world. Sometimes, God’s activity around and among us seems to be unstructured and without intention, like a sower scattering seed here and there willy-nilly, things forgotten or overlooked—not a multi-row, well-designed, deliberately measured corn planter in sight. At other times it is focused and calculated, like the orchard tender aiming to improve a barren tree’s chances at production. But the stories are always invitational for Jesus’ audience and for his disciples: every single day this God of grace and mercy and love is at work in and through the common and ordinary and overlooked, and that work includes YOU.

This is the spirit of the planting and tending God is doing among us here at Zion and throughout the north metro. “Together with Christ, We Can Grow What’s Next!” is our rallying cry—can you see and hear the spirit of Jesus’ parables? We believe that the spirit of the living Lord Jesus is at work in the world around us. We believe that this same living spirit is constantly calling and inviting the common, ordinary, and sometimes overlooked to be a part of that work. We believe that, as this past Sunday’s text from Matthew 16 revealed as Jesus commended Simon Peter’s confession of his faith in Jesus’ identity as Savior and Son of God, not even the gates of Hell can prevail over God’s work in and through Jesus and his followers. Some of us might even remember what Luther’s Small Catechism teaches us about what we’re praying in the Lord’s Prayer: God’s good and gracious kingdom will come with or without us, but here we pray that we would be a part of the program. Or, to put this into the terms of our aims through this theme...

- Together we can become a place where every person is known and every story honored.
- Together we can build a community where all belong and are welcome.
- Together we can strengthen connections, renew relationships, and grow a future for tomorrow.

These are tall, lofty goals, especially in the face of a spirit loose in this world that seeks to divide. But remember the faith in which we are planted:

- We believe that the spirit of the living Christ is already working among us.
- We believe that not even the gates of Hell can prevail against Jesus. (Hello?! Cross and empty tomb!!)
- We believe God is calling us to be a part of what Jesus is doing.

None of this will happen perfectly smoothly. There will be fits and starts. It will be easy at times to overlook and to be distracted. But there will also be signs of growth, sprouts, and buds all around us. Oh...and did you figure out what was missing? Not in all cases or places—but it’s U!

Keep your eyes and ears peeled. Read this newsletter as an invitation. We are the soil and the seeds and the farmers and the fruit. And when U become a part of it, it all makes better sense. See you in worship.

Pastor Mike

a personal reflection



Do You Regift?

The following are stories of regifting that make me chuckle. A coworker of mine received a towel set for a wedding present. On the surface, it could be thought of as a nice practical gift. However, my coworker recognized the towels as those she bought for that same friend's wedding two years prior. Another story involves a friend's relative. We'll call him "frugal." The entire extended family have come to expect a gift from him that he initially received from, you guessed it, these same family members.

What if I told you there's an infinite list of gifts that are designed to be regifted? Consider your smile. A smile when greeting someone is universally accepted as friendly and in many situations, words aren't even necessary. Some gifts God has bestowed on us are not as ubiquitous. Consider the words of Apostle Paul, *"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."* Romans 12:6-8 NIV

I invite you to take a moment to reflect on your own personal gifts of God's grace. If you are thinking that you aren't gifted in one area, let alone two or more, make a list of things you enjoy doing and consider sharing your joy with others. When we give our God-given gifts away, we never run out; God makes sure there's always more to share. When we give alongside other Christians, we have the power to change lives for both the givers and the receivers. *"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*

Romans 12:4-5 NIV

generosity in motion - leaving a legacy

Generosity is about more than what we do today. It is also about the difference we can make for generations to come. That is the vision behind the **Zion Foundation**. Established in 1987, the Foundation provides a way for members and friends of Zion Lutheran Church to leave a legacy gift that will continue to support ministry and make a difference beyond their lifetime. For nearly four decades, the Zion Foundation has helped expand our congregation's mission by investing in ministries and organizations that share Christ's love and serve others. An eight-member board governs the Foundation, and its investment funds are held in trust and managed by the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. Only the income generated by those investments is used for grants, helping preserve the principal so that the Foundation can continue its work well into the future. Today, the Zion Foundation awards more than **\$60,000 in grants each year**. Grant recipients include ministries and programs here at Zion, as well as organizations serving our local community and people around the world. These grants support four important mission areas:

- **Youth Development and Education**
- **National and Global Missions**
- **Local Causes**
- **Lutheran Legacy**

A gift to the Zion Foundation is an opportunity to think beyond ourselves and invest in what comes next. Whether through a planned gift, a gift in a will or estate plan, or another legacy gift, each contribution helps ensure that the ministries and values we care about today will continue to bless others tomorrow. **This is generosity in motion**—not just meeting the needs of today, but planting seeds of faith, hope, and service for the future.

What kind of legacy will you leave?

welcome

Our Neighbor's Table

Our Neighbor's Table, sponsored by Zion's Social Justice Team, is an opportunity to cross boundaries and express our support and welcome to immigrants in our community by gathering for a fellowship meal at an immigrant-owned restaurant around the north metro. Beginning in February, this group has enjoyed, and at times been challenged by, cuisines from Venezuela, the Middle East, Ethiopia, Mexico, Jamaica, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Thailand. We would LOVE to have you join our adventures as we gather for lunch (noon) on the 2nd Thursday of each month and dinner (6 p.m.) on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We encourage you to wear your Zion name badge so that we can identify each other, and restaurateurs we're supporting can know where we're from. Contact Pastor Mike if you are planning on attending (if possible) so advance notice can be given to the restaurants, or if you would like to recommend a location that is within a 10-mile-or-less radius of Anoka mpancoast@zionanoka.org.

This month, we'll be visiting:

- Lunch (noon), Thursday, September 10: **Jawad Grill** (Greek/Mediterranean), 641 125th Ave NE, Blaine
 - Dinner (6 p.m.), Thursday, September 17: **Hello! Hyderabad** (Indian), 2711 Coon Rapids Blvd, Coon Rapids
- Places we've already been:
- Ethiopian: **Bole**, 15609 Grove Circle N, Maple Grove
 - Jamaican: **Time & Place**, 3064 Coon Rapids Blvd NW, Coon Rapids
 - Mexican: **El Tarasco Taqueria**, 506 E. River Rd, Anoka, literally right around the corner from the church and **Mrs. Taco**, a woman-owned and operated place, 1574 154th Ave NW, Andover
 - Middle Eastern: **Baba Saj**, 8685 Central Ave NE, Blaine and **Mr. Shawarma**, 2500 Coon Rapids Blvd, Coon Rapids
 - Thai: **Hom Dee Thai Cuisine**, 13939 St. Francis Blvd NW, Ramsey
 - Ukrainian: **Tasteful Delights**, 3726 N. 7th Ave., Anoka
 - Venezuela: **Arepas to Go**, 9801 Xenia Ave, Brooklyn Park
 - Vietnamese: **King Baguette**, 7912 Sunwood Dr NW, Ramsey
 - **Asian Village** in the Northtown Mall features a variety of Asian options, at least 6 or 7 different places in the food court.



OUR NEIGHBOR'S TABLE
AUGUST 20, 2026
ASIA VILLAGE NORTHTOWN MALL

Baptism Class - September 13

Wondering about baptism? If you are expecting a baby, have recently welcomed a child into your family, or are in the process of adopting, we invite you to join us for a baptism class on Sunday, September 13, at 12 p.m. in the Library. This class is an opportunity to learn more about the meaning of baptism, what to expect, and how we celebrate this important sacrament at Zion. To register, contact Kristine Johnson at kjohnson@zionanoka.org.

Cinnamon Roll Sunday - September 20

On Sunday, September 20, Zion youth will be serving fresh-baked cinnamon rolls during coffee hour as a fundraiser for their 2027 summer mission trip. Grab a cup of coffee and a roll (or two) and help support our youth!

American Red Cross Blood Drive - September 28

Zion is hosting a blood drive on Monday, September 28 from 1-6 p.m. in the CLC. To sign up, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and enter Sponsor Code: Zion.



**American
Red Cross**

worship



Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 8, 9 & 11 a.m.

Livestream on Sundays at 9 & 11 a.m.

Cable TV Channel 6 Broadcast Sundays at 5 p.m.

Radio Broadcast BOB-FM 106.1 Sundays at 9 a.m.

Creation in Christ Sunday - September 5-6

Since the seventh century, September 1 has been celebrated in the Byzantine tradition as a day marking the creation of the world and the beginning of the church year. On Creation in Christ Sunday, we celebrate God's ongoing work of creation through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all things together. We hear of the triune God who created the sun and moon, the shining stars, the creatures of the sea, the birds of the air—and, yes, even human beings. God continues to care for all of creation and invites us to join in that work as caretakers of this beautiful world God has made.

Noisy Offering Returns October 3-4

Start saving your loose change! The Noisy Offering buckets will be out the weekend of October 3-4. There will also be a bucket at the Welcome Desk to drop off your Noisy Offering during office hours. All proceeds go to Zion camp ministries. Thank you for your continued support!



Music Department News

New Youth Choir Begins September 23

We are thrilled to announce the beginning of a brand new choir for grades 6 and up led by Callie Pendergrass and LeaAnn Barnett. Meet in the Theater on Wednesdays from 5:30-5:55 p.m. beginning September 23.

Choir Rehearsals Begin

Rehearsals Beginning on September 9

- Ringmasters Bell Choir: 6-7 p.m. in Handbell Room
- Adult Choir: 7-8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room

Rehearsals Beginning on September 16

- Worship Team: 6-7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Rehearsals Beginning on September 23

- Kids Choir (Grades K-5): 5:55-6:20 p.m. in the Theater
- Youth Choir (Grades 6 and up): 5:30-5:55 p.m. in the Theater

Zion Pages 2026-2027 Reading Schedule

The Zion Pages Reading List is out and the books promise to bring out lively discussions each month! Zion Pages meets the fourth Monday each month (except in December when the schedule changes to the third Monday) at 6:30 p.m. in the Legacy Room. All are welcome!

- September 28: *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah
- October 26: *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger
- November 23: *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller
- December 21: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi
- January 25: *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick
- February 22: *Code Talker* by Chester Nez
- March 22: *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff
- April 26: *The Correspondent: A Novel* by Virginia Evans
- May 24: *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts

The Chosen Season Five Small Group Study

Our first small group study of the fall begins the week of September 13 as we continue our viewing and discussions centered around *The Chosen* Season Five. Below is the schedule for September:

- Week of September 13: Episode 1 - "Entry"
- Week of September 20: Episode 2 - "House of Cards"
- Week of September 27: Episode 3 - "Woes"

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk so we know how many weekly resources to produce.

Adult Faith Forums 2026-2027

Our adult forums will be following a pattern this year by being oriented around three broad categories:

1. Outside community connections—This could be a Zion Foundation recipient or a community ministry with Zion ties, such as ACBC, Family Promise, or LSS-MN.
2. Bible, theology, or practice—This could be a stand-alone, topical Bible study or a type of faith practice (prayer for example) led primarily, though not exclusively, by Pastor Mike.
3. Internal mission/ministry groups—such as interviewing new Children, Youth and Family (CYF) staff or groups like ZAAM, Altar Guild, Grief or Cancer Support, Creation Care, Our Neighbor's Table, Prayer Teams, etc. The possibilities are endless.

It's our prayer that these broad topics, and the specifics that will eventually be presented, will guide us into living into our Rally Theme: "Together with Christ, We Can Grow What's Next" and its bulleted points:

- Together we can become a place where every person is known and every story honored.
- Together we can build a community where all belong and are welcome.
- Together we can strengthen connections, renew relationships, and grow a future for tomorrow.

If you have any suggestions about what you'd like to learn about on a Sunday morning from any of these three categories, please be in touch with Pastor Mike mpancoast@zionanoka.org.

Our first Adult Faith Forum is scheduled for Sunday, September 20 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall where we will be given an opportunity to meet Zion's new Director of Middle and High School Ministry, John Patton. Pastor Mike will be interviewing John, and there will be plenty of opportunity for questions. Stay tuned for the rest of our Adult Forum schedule as it becomes available.

Welcome to Children, Youth and Family Ministries!

Zion CYF Staff welcomes you to Fall 2026! For more information and to register for programs visit Zion's website www.zionanoka.org/registration-events/ or scan the QR code to the right.



Zion Kids Sunday School Begins September 20

Join us for fun family faith formation activities for kids of all ages and their families! We meet from 10-10:50 a.m. during the school year. New families may join at any time!

- Holy Shenanigans Sunday School for kids 0-5 and at least one parent or guardian. Family-style gathering with music, Bible stories, and community! Meet at the Chapel on the upper level. Activities to follow in the Spark Park! Questions? Contact Lee Neitge lneitge@zionanoka.org.
- Kid City Sunday School for gr K-5. Experience the story of Jesus and reflect his love in the world. Meets in the Theater for opening and then into groups for activities. Contact Tim Stammeyer Tstammeyer@zionanoka.org.

Preschool Music and Dance Begins September 23

Children ages 0-5 plus a grown-up. Wednesday mornings September 23-April 28 from 10:30-11 a.m. in the Theater. Sing, dance, and grow in faith! Contact Lee Neitge lneitge@zionanoka.org.

Toddler Tuesday Begins September 22

Families with children ages 0-2. Zion PreK + Early Childhood Ministry are pleased to partner up for Toddler Tuesday! Join us most Tuesdays during the school year from 9-10:30 a.m. for a free, fun-filled morning of play and community building. Contact Lee Neitge lneitge@zionanoka.org.

Whirl Wednesday Begins September 23

Kids in grades 3-5 meet from 5:30-6:50 p.m. An optional pizza dinner is provided at 5 p.m. WHIRL stands for Welcome, Hear, Respond, and Launch - the four key elements of this mid-week ministry. Gym games with Coach Glen, Kids Choir with Callie and WHIRL lessons with Tim. Contact Tim Stammeyer Tstammeyer@zionanoka.org.

Kids Choir Begins September 23

Kids grades K-5. Rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 5:55-6:20 p.m. in the Theater, sing in worship throughout the school year. Contact Tim Stammeyer Tstammeyer@zionanoka.org.

Zion Confirmation Begins September 16

Youth in grades 6-8 meet Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. An optional pizza dinner is provided at 5 p.m. Confirmation is an important milestone in your son or daughter's faith journey that began at their baptism. It is our joy to partner with you in helping you fulfill the promises you made at baptism and help your child grow in their relationship with God. Contact John Patton jpatton@zionanoka.org.

Youth Group Begins September 13

Youth in grades 6-12.

Coffee & Crafts: 12-1:30 p.m. 1st Sunday of the month **beginning September 13.**

Lutheran Late Nights: 3rd Friday of the month **beginning September 18.**

Youth Choir Begins September 23

Youth in grades 6-12. Rehearse before Confirmation on Wednesdays 5:30-5:55 p.m. and sing in worship throughout the school year.

caring for each other

GriefShare Support Group

Join Pastor Sue and Leslee Curtis for a grief support group Tuesdays, September 15 through December 8 at 11 a.m. in the Library. Sign up at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/300543> or stop by the front desk. If you have participated in this support group in the past, you are welcome to continue to use your old book or, if you are new to the group, you will need to purchase one for \$21. Contact Pastor Sue for more information swallager@zionanoka.org.

Cancer Support Group

Pastor Mike Pancoast facilitates a Cancer Support Group the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. and the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., both of which meet in the Fireside Room. This group is for anyone with cancer, post-cancer, family members and friends, or if you KNOW someone with cancer and want to be supportive of them; September 8, October 13, and November 10. Cost is \$15 which covers the cost of the book *God Meets Us in Our Suffering* which was co-written by Pastor Mike. Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Prayer Ministry

If you have a celebration or concern you would like the Prayer Team to include in their prayers, complete a green prayer card located in the Sanctuary pew racks, in Zion's Chapel and also at the front desk or you can email your celebration/concern to prayer@zionanoka.org. If you would like to be a part of Zion's Prayer Team Ministry or would like more information, contact Pastor Sue swallager@zionanoka.org.

Thank You Recent Radio Broadcast 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 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.

Tina Erickson
Mike & Julie Kunz
Kristine Johnson
Craig Bakken
Lois Peterson

Jane Freeburg in memory of Carol Freeburg
Jean Goldsberry in memory of Jim Townsend
Pinky Pendergrass in memory of Shirley Dussl
Marilyn Herbold in memory of Dave Dilcher

about our people

Baptisms

August 2 - Graham McMichael
August 16 - Kellen Olsen
August 23 - Ada Wingness
August 23 - Markus Wingness

Deaths

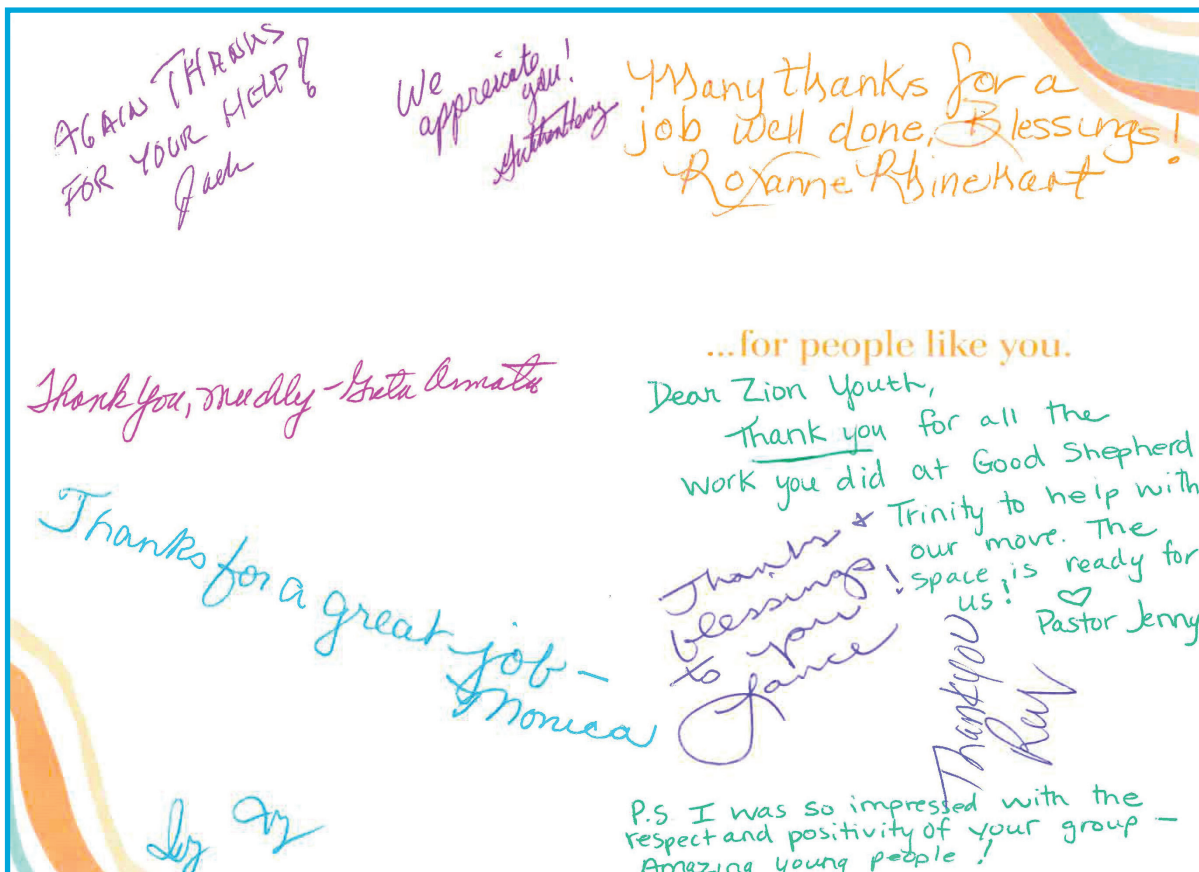
Thomas Heidemann
Sandra Falck
Donna Legrid
Audrey Alban

Weddings

Erika Hjort & Samuel McKinney
Samantha Zgutowicz & Hunter Trautman

Mission Milwaukee

During the month of July, a group of high school youth traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where they worked on cleaning projects at local churches, harvested produce at an organic garden, sorted clothing and other items at a local donation center and packed frozen food for redistribution at Feeding America. Below is a thank you note the youth received from Good Shepherd Trinity Church, one of the churches they served during their time in Milwaukee.



Meals on Wheels - More Than Just a Meal

Zion volunteers continue our long-standing commitment to deliver meals prepared at Mercy Hospital to our neighbors in the Anoka and Champlin area. We are in partnership with other area churches and take our turn every 6 weeks. There are 7 routes requiring a total of 35 volunteers each week. Zion volunteers continue to be an integral part of our mission in this community by not only providing a meal to a neighbor, but a kind word and a friendly smile as well. If you are interested in more information about Meals on Wheels and how you can help, contact Suzanne Gaboury sgaboury@zionanoka.org.

Anoka County Brotherhood Council (ACBC)

ACBC Food Shelf still needs eight volunteers each week to help with packing emergency food boxes on Thursday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. Please sign up at Zion's front desk. Inside the sign-up folder is a message for volunteers about parking and which door to enter.

Family Promise Hosting Week - September 13-19



Family Promise is an organization that supports families experiencing homelessness as they work toward stable housing. Before COVID, Zion hosted families overnight for a week, providing meals, transportation, activities for children, and overnight hospitality. One of the greatest gifts of that ministry was the opportunity to build relationships with the families we served. Since the pandemic, our hosting weeks have looked very different. We've prepared and delivered hospitality baskets to families staying at other locations, with little opportunity for personal interaction. In September, we will be returning to a more hands-on way of serving families.

During our hosting week, September 13–19, volunteers are needed to:

- Prepare and share dinner with the families on Sunday and Tuesday evenings.
- Prepare and serve Saturday morning breakfast.
- Help entertain the children on Tuesday evening while their parents attend a meeting at the Family Promise Guest House.
- Potentially help with a family activity on Sunday evening.

Because Family Promise has updated its volunteer policies, everyone serving during the week will need to complete a new volunteer training developed by the national Family Promise organization. If you're interested in volunteering or would like to learn more, please contact Pat Stearns at pat.stearns@comcast.net.

An in-person training session is also available on Tuesday, September 1 from 3-4:30 p.m. Please contact Pat Stearns pat.stearns@comcast.net if you plan on attending.

Every Meal. Fill a Backpack. Fill a Need



EVERY MEAL
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

As a new school year begins, so does one of Zion's important partnerships with Every Meal at Lincoln Elementary.

Every Meal works to fight child hunger by providing food to children and families during the times when school meal programs are not available—including weekends, summers, and school breaks. Through our partnership with Lincoln Elementary, Zion helps make sure that children have food to take home when they need it most.

And this is where you come in. We need volunteers to place bags of food into the backpacks of Lincoln Elementary students who participate in the program. Volunteers typically serve on Fridays, as well as on the last school day before a holiday or extended break. It's simple, meaningful, and a wonderful way to make a difference in the life of a child. Training is provided, and you can sign up through SignUpGenius or by contacting Pastor Connie.

A bag of food may seem like a small thing. But for a child and family who are struggling, it can mean the difference between an empty cupboard and a meal. If you would like to be part of this important ministry, please contact Pastor Connie at ctiede@zionanoka.org.

Equity Team Umbrella

From the Social Justice Team

Between 1869 and the 1960s, hundreds of thousands of Native American children were removed from their homes and placed in boarding schools operated by the federal government and churches. Native children were voluntarily or forcibly taken to schools far away from their homes, where they were punished for speaking their native language, banned from practicing their traditional culture, and stripped of their clothing, hair, and personal belongings.



Orange Shirt Day is a nationwide day of remembrance on September 30 to raise awareness of our nation's history of these boarding schools and to acknowledge the trauma and intergenerational impacts they had.

Zion's Social Justice Team encourages you to wear an orange shirt on September 30, as well as to church on the weekend of September 26 and 27. Please visit our informational table in the lower commons that weekend to learn more about the boarding schools and the new State of Minnesota seal.

From Zion Addiction Awareness Ministry (ZAAM)

Greetings from the Zion Addiction Awareness Ministry. We meet at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month during the program year. Our mission is to offer faith-based, confidential, non-judgmental care and hope to those who seek information and direction about drugs, alcohol, and mental health issues that affect self, family and our surrounding community.

This year we will continue to educate ourselves so that we can promote awareness, educate, promote prevention and provide resources. As a ministry team we will be reading and discussing the book *Faith Communities and Addiction Recovery: A Practical Guide for Faith and Community Leaders* by Rev. Dr. Ed Treat. We will learn about understanding addiction as a disease, the role of the faith communities in recovery, how to create safe and supportive spaces and much more.

In addition, we will be inviting speakers to present at adult forums on various aspects of addiction and recovery as well as mental health. We plan to draw on some of the rich resources and people in the Anoka community who can inform and guide our congregation about how to build an effective ministry and support system for people in need of spiritual support and knowledge of resources. Also, there will be a special emphasis on mental health this year.

Anyone from our congregation is welcome to join the ZAAM team. No past experience is required. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Connie Tiede ctiede@zionanoka.org and she will put you in touch with someone on the team.

Upcoming Equity Team Umbrella Meetings

- Creation Care Team - September 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.
- Social Justice Team - September 3 at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room.
- NET - September 8 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- ZAAM - September 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library

A Whirl of Creativity



This year's Mini Camp Create It was another success with 25 campers and 8 Z-Team middle/high school volunteers. Classes included: Junk Journaling, American Sign Language, Duct Tape Art, Cardmaking, Woodworking, and Button Making!

Pre-K News

DID YOU KNOW?

- Zion Pre-K serves children starting at 33 months (almost 3) to almost 6 year olds (not yet in Kdg).
- You can choose 9 a.m.-12 p.m. or 9 a.m.-2 p.m. to attend Zion Pre-K.
- We have options for Mon/Wed/Fri or Tue/Thur or all 5 days of the week.
- Our teachers are top-notch, combined we have 48 years of early childhood education experience.
- There is still time to register for this school year, classes start Monday after Labor Day. Scan the QR code on the right.
- The best way to reach us is via email pre.k@zionanoka.org or phone 763-506-8181!



WELCOME

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

CONTACT US

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Anoka MN 55303
763.421.4656
www.zionanoka.org