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July 2022

Connecting with Care

Care Team Update

Deacon Jill Davis has made the decision to resign her part-time position as Director of Congregational Care. We give thanks to God for her ministry with us. We are grateful that this is a change in her role and not a good-bye! Deacon Davis is employed as a Hospice Chaplain and says that role takes time and energy which makes it difficult to focus on Congregational Care in the way she'd like to. You will still see Deacon Jill Davis leading worship and helping in children's ministry as her schedule allows. Thank you, Deacon Jill!

What's next?

Congregational Care is such a vital part of who we are at Zion. We are blessed to have an incredible group of members who serve on the Congregational Care Team who will continue their work. Pastor Bahe, along with Council President Jameson Wakefield and the Personnel Team will be discerning how best to move forward to support this vital ministry. We continue to seek an Interim Associate Pastor who would be able to take leadership in this area---please keep that process in your prayers.

Daily Devotional Books

The new issue of the quarterly devotional "Christ In Our Home" for July, August, and September is now available at the information desk. This resource includes a scripture, devotional thought, and prayer for each day, and is provided by the Women of Zion in regular and large print editions.

Refugee Support

In May, Zion's church council approved the creation of a Ukrainian Refugee Working Group to investigate the opportunities and possibilities of sponsoring a Ukrainian refugee family in Buffalo. The group is researching and learning about the different opportunities offered by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (lirs.org/ukraine-crisis) and Arrive Ministries (arriveministries.org), and investigating sponsorship with other area churches, and will make a recommendation to the council on the best path forward.

In the midst of that work, several in the group learned of the Bushkin and Dzhelali families who fled Ukraine and are living with relatives in Montrose. Some in the group decided they wanted to help as individuals and began doing so because the needs are great for this family.

So, we have two things going on in support of refugee families:

1. Helping with the immediate needs of the family who is already here.
2. Exploring more long-term opportunities in sponsoring an individual or family.

Specific known needs for the Bushkin and Dzhelali family (volunteering, needed items, and financial support) are updated at bit.ly/zionrefugees.

Background Information

In May a discussion began among men in a Bible study group regarding possibly looking into sponsoring a family from Ukraine. This discussion helped lead to the development of the refugee working group which is looking into possible sponsorship of a refugee family. This also started Kevin and Judy Bergquist thinking about what they could do individually to help. After reading a news story in The Drummer (thedrummer.com/drummer/journey-mariupol-ukraine-montrose) about a family already in our community and desperate for help, the Bergquists and the Leffs jumped into action and met with the Bushkin and Dzhelali families. They are all from Mariupol and had to leave because everything they owned was destroyed in the war. After a grueling and frightening month-long trip through several countries, they made it to Montrose to live with a relative. They are working through the Minnesota Council of Churches to get help with work permits and documentation. As this newsletter went to print, their greatest need was a vehicle, and volunteer drivers to get them to appointments. An updated list of needs and online giving information is posted at bit.ly/zionrefugees.

Mariupol to Montrose (In Their Own Words)

The life of each of us was divided into "before" and "after" February 24, 2022. This morning we woke up from a terrible explosion. At first we thought that it seemed .. but then the second followed, the third .. The first thing that came to mind was to call our family and friends and find out who has any information about what is going on. The most terrible thing was confirmed - this is a war. Inside in our hearts all emotions and feelings were in horror. Until the last moment, we were sure that there would be no war. Nobody from my environment stockpiled water, food, medicines and

(In Their Own Words continued on page 16)

Teen Time

To Err Is Human

BY TAMMY ZUMBUSCH, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

“To err is human”

~ Alexander Pope

The stress of life has been heavy for me these last couple of weeks. Nothing noteworthy, just a lot of un-noteworthy things. Have you ever noticed bad things come in threes? I have no scientific proof of this, just life experience. Last Tuesday was a perfect example of this;



1. I went to the wrong place for my long-awaited appointment and therefore was just late enough that we had to re-schedule.
2. I found out that something for my daughter's wedding is going to cost 3x as much as we budgeted for.
3. I made myself a mid-day life-saving coffee that spilled all over my lap on my way to work so I had to go back home to change.

When I walked in the door I saw my kid was home from school. I peeked in with the intention to say hello and ask how he has been doing, as between studying for final exams, school, work, and end-of-year events we hadn't been connecting much. When I tried to push the door open it was met with resistance. I pushed harder and looked behind to see what the problem was. It was a huge pile of dirty clothes. As I scanned the room I also saw 2 plates, 4 water bottles, trash everywhere but the garbage, and three pairs of shoes haphazardly thrown off of his size 13 foot and left there to die. I swung my head around to look at him. He had his head in his phone oblivious to the mess around him. I said, "Eli!" He raised his voice an octave higher than his now natural baritone., "Hi mom! It's so good to see you!" What a gift. My teenage son was excited to see me AND wanted me to know.

Did I treat that situation like the gift it was? Did I treat him like the gift he was? No, I did not. I let him have it. He had just sat down on his bed and was decompressing from the day, and I came into his safe space and made it unsafe. I was in a terrible mood and seeing his room like that was the straw that broke this middle-aged mama's back. I started screaming. Things like, he was too old for me to have to constantly remind him to keep his room clean (forgetting that I have given many presentations explaining to parents the exact opposite is true.) I told him that he has zero respect for me or this house. I let him know he's a slob and I even went so far as to tell him the person he ends up marrying will be disgusted with him if he doesn't learn to keep his space clean. It pains me to admit and to remember.

Not surprisingly he shut down. His excited voice turned to soft and defeated. "Okay, mom. I hear you. You don't have to keep yelling." I slammed the door

(Teen Time continued on page 12)

Active Military

Hope Kellerhuis
Fort Drum, NY
Michael Christensen
Stationed in Virginia Beach, VA
Alexis Nichols
Stationed in Georgia
Vinnie Pecarina
Stationed in Hawaii
Adam Hartung
Stationed at FE Warren AFB, WY
Will Dobbins
Stationed in Hawaii
Luc Persson
Stationed at Aviano AFB, Italy
Jordan Thompson
Serving in the National Guard
Tyler Marr
Serving in the Air Force
Ben Pecarina
Air Force Reserves
Brianna Marschel
Serving in the Army
Christian Marschel
Serving in the Army
Collin Lesch
Stationed at Fort Wainwright, AK
Greg Bremseth
Stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, AK
Fred Pierce
Stationed at Kaneohe Bay, HI

And members whose names cannot be published for security reasons

Twins Baseball

Lutheran Night at the Twins is back! The game is Tuesday, August 2, 2022, against the Detroit Tigers. Tickets are \$37. Contact Joan Halderson at 763-682-3389 to reserve a seat.

**Lutheran
Night at
the**



Living God's Call

Crafted in Christ Study

The monthly women's Bible study continues its theme of "Crafted in Christ" on July 19 at 1:30pm in the library. The study is taken from the ELCA Gather magazine, and each month's lesson stands on its own so even if vacation takes you away from Zion for a month, come for the others.

We'll use the images of "Quilt Cutting and Piecing" to explore how our lives and Christian communities come together into a cohesive whole, including people of all shapes and sizes, abilities and talents.

No need to be a quilter, but if you are, you're welcome to share some of your insights and creations with fellow studiers! There's no cost; no need to sign up in advance. The final study on this quilting theme will be August 16 at 1:30pm at Zion.



Call Committee Update

BY PASTOR BAHE

The Council has appointed the 7-member Call Committee, along with alternates. A Call Committee is tasked with discerning the will of God for our future. It is a tall order! Let us surround them and the work they do with our prayers.

- Phyllis Bengston, Taryn Bullert, Dominic DesMarais, Jennifer Gustafson, Andy Kohls, Josie LaFave, and Eric Mattson.
- 1st Alternate: Joan Halderson, 2nd: Paula Herda, 3rd: Tyler & Hannah Peterson [one vote].

The Call Committee is given the responsibility and privilege of interviewing the potential pastoral candidates.

This is a holy task that is to be done prayerfully, with integrity and faithfulness to the process.

The foremost question for the call committee in its beginning is:

What is the mission, ministry and future to which God is beckoning this congregation?

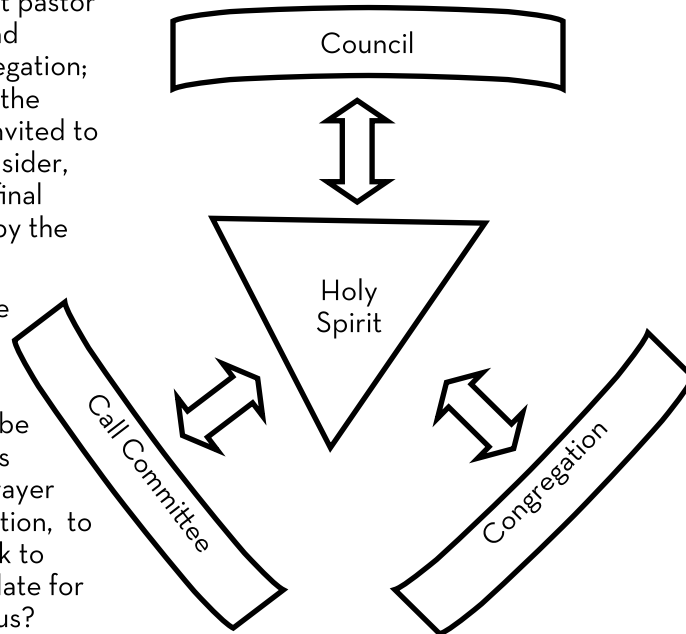
The process of Calling a pastor is much different than a hiring process.

The Call Committee will, after prayerful consideration, select a candidate to present to the Council for recommendation to the congregation.

But the call to the next pastor is the responsibility and privilege of the congregation; all voting members of the congregation will be invited to a meeting to pray, consider, and then vote on the final candidate presented by the council.

As the Call Committee is installed, they will be asked:

- Are you willing to be open to the Spirit's leading, and, by prayer and holy conversation, to undertake this task to seek a final candidate for Senior Pastor for us?
- Will you be diligent in your seeking, careful in your listening, purposeful in your questioning, and respectful in all that you do?



(Call Committee Update continued on page 8)

That is God for You

BY PASTOR BAHE

As I write this, it is the 3rd day of Vacation Bible School. I am not exaggerating when I say that I wish every one of you were able to witness what happens during a week of VBS. There is transformation all over the place. The transformation is beautiful to witness because it isn't just a transformation of the physical space it is a transformation of hearts. It is a transformation into hope.

First, the physical transformation. There was no doubt we were all in for something amazing. Walking into the building was an adventure! A testimony to the creativity, passion, and dedication of Zion. This was not going to be a few decorations hung to set the mood. The space was transformed from a building into an adventure. And, as the kids walked in they saw not one but TWO trains, two train tunnels, mountains, streams, a train station, RR crossings, trees, and balloons and so much more. They also saw smiling faces who had been waiting for them and who were ready to welcome them in. Faces who were ready to celebrate all the goodness of God together.

As the VBS participants started to arrive, so did the excitement, joy, and wonder. And, that was all there because God was calling us together. Hope arrived, too. That was clearly God's doing as well. It had been two years since we were able to gather like this. It felt electric and hope-filled. It felt transformative.

It began right away the first day the kids walked through the doors. As they walked into Trinity Hall to begin their weeklong journey at Rocky Railway VBS, the transformation was all around. Kids wearing bright, sunny yellow T-shirts overtook Trinity Hall! And, so did an overwhelming sense of hope for the future. God's future.

Pure happiness and a 'buzz' of energy wafted throughout the building. We were all transformed. What a privilege to watch a Jr. High student leader kneel and help a Preschooler who was having a tough time saying goodbye to Dad for the day. What a joy to watch this team of leaders, from all across the age spectrum, commit to one goal: connecting with kids as we shared our faith and learned from each other. To hear kids laughing, singing, praying, and celebrating the gifts of God was like watching hope come alive. Every day, in multiple ways, we witnessed transformative moments of faith float around like confetti at one of the finest parades. God's transformative power reigned down on us.

That is God for you. God transforms us every day from what was...to what might be. We know it most profoundly on Easter morning. But, God's transformative power is all around, every day. We have collectively lived in the chaos of the nearly minute-by-minute changes forced upon us because of a pandemic. We are emerging and we ought to be celebrating.

(That is God for You continued on page 13)



Baptisms

May 29

Blake Kevin Bebus

June 19

Kinsley Jane Mans

Parker Guy Neumann

Weddings

June 18

Grace Husom & DJ Shefland

Funerals

May 20

Pete Weis

June 3

Janeva Grist

Red Cross Blood Drive

Zion will be hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Thursday, July 14. Appointments are available from 12:30-6:30pm.

You may still donate blood, platelets or plasma after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Knowing the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine is important in determining your blood donation eligibility. You are encouraged to bring your vaccination card with you to your donation appointment.

Please postpone your donation for 10 days after a COVID-19 diagnosis, positive test, or any symptoms.

Appointments can be made at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or by calling 763.682.2979.



Celebrating on Sundays

Summer Worship Services

- Sunday 8:30am: Indoor Worship (with livestream)
- 9:30am: Coffee Fellowship / Adult Education / Family Events
- Sunday 10:30am: Outdoor Worship (with drive-in)
- Monday 7pm: Marysville

Watch the weekly announcements email for updates on Marysville worship. There will be a worship service on July 26 as part of the Ice Cream Social (see page 5). Other July worship at Marysville will be determined towards the end of June, depending on attendance in June.

The 10:30 worship service will be led from the outdoor platform as often as the weather allows, giving attendees the choice of drive-in or bringing chairs or blankets to sit on the lawn. If weather prevents the service from being led outdoors, it will still be broadcast on the FM frequency for drive-in attendees.

Feeling Social on Sundays?

Volunteers make Sundays run smoothly and provide a welcoming experience for visitors. New volunteers are always welcome on Sundays. It isn't just necessary, it can be rewarding and fun!

Greeters

Say "hello" as people enter the building. Welcome them to worship. Families can help together. Everyone loves to be greeted by cute kids!

Ushers

Hand out bulletins as people enter the sanctuary and help to collect the offering. Collecting the offering is not tricky- there will be someone there to show you what to do.

Set up Communion

Do you already have experience with this? If not we will teach you what you need to know.

(Sunday Volunteers continued on page 7)

The Virtue of Patience

BY JAMESON WAKEFIELD, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I think almost everyone has heard the phrase "patience is a virtue." We are counseled to be patient and good things come to those who wait. Of course, it can be easier said than done. Ask any seven-year-old during Christmas time. The members of Zion have had many opportunities over the past two years to work on this virtue. We have managed through adversity and change far beyond anything our church has ever seen. Throughout, we have asked questions like "When is all of this going to end?" and "When can we get back to 'normal'?" Well, I'm going to ask for an additional period of patience as the church continues to work its way back to normal.

Before I get into that I would like to review some of the great things that your patience, support, and faith have helped make happen.

- Your generosity of time and treasures helped update our Sanctuary
- We have had numerous people step into leadership roles and volunteer roles that have made Sunday school, youth ministry, and VBS all possible again
- We have continued to provide those in need in the Buffalo area with children's clothing, food, school supplies, coats, and, of course, a place of worship and spiritual support

While these are a small sampling, these are all things we should be proud of because they are a huge part of the overall Ministry of Zion Lutheran. But none of it happened overnight. It literally took years to get some of these things moving again and youth activities continue to grow as we see more and more engagement from members and new faces coming to Zion.

Of course, the primary question I hear from many of you is regarding the search for a new Senior Pastor. We are making progress, but we still have a journey in front of us if we are going to be thoughtful about our call to a new pastor. This is where I am asking for continued patience. Zion is in a unique situation in this post-COVID environment. We have an opportunity to be deliberate in how we approach this call. The Transition Team has done tremendous work to learn about what the Congregation is looking for in a new Senior Pastor but in the process have discovered that we as a congregation also have the opportunity to recreate Zion in ways that will continue to support a wide variety of members while offering programs and activities that can help attract new members into our spiritual family.

We have reached the middle of the year. The first half has seen great strides in ministries in the church and the second half offers great promise. Expanding Sunday school, continuing to grow the youth ministry and looking inward to perhaps reinvent Zion to serve more members and the community at large. Thank you for the patience you've shown and thank you, in advance, for continuing to practice this virtue as we move ahead in our work at Zion.



Meet the Council

Chuck Zumbusch

Chuck Zumbusch was selected to the Zion Council last year for a one-year term. He also serves on the Stewardship Committee, and has previously served on the last Capital Campaign, Finance Committee, and helped with the annual external review of the books and records testing and attestation work.

He is married to Tammy, who is a lifelong member of Zion.

Together we try to raise 5 kids ranging in age from 11-22 and our yellow Lab named Pretzel, also known as Zel.



Chuck was raised in the Catholic church and attended St. John's University, where he graduated two credits shy of a Theology minor, and has been a member of Zion since 1997.

God is a rock of stability and compass for my life. Before we got married, Tammy and I had many conversations about our joint church home and Zion's community and teachings were a great combination that made the decision clear.

When he's not at Zion, you can find Chuck close to family or doing something outside. He enjoys playing with his kids, hiking, golfing, hunting, fishing, and maintaining the yard. He likes to travel, especially to warm places during the doldrums of Minnesota winter. His favorite food is pretzels.

My whole family is also addicted, hence our dog's name...

Chuck does not have one favorite Bible verse but enjoys reading the assigned lessons before Sunday worship.

I reflect on the words and what they mean to me and I am always interested in the Sermon and the Pastor's perspective helps me more fully understand and interpret.

Chuck values the energy and feeling of safety and connectedness of church and hopes that Zion continues to carry on the important works that have been done by those before us and continue growing in faith and reaching out to those beyond our congregation.

(Sunday Volunteers continued from page 6)

Serve Communion

Maybe you have helped with this in the past or you would like to learn. With communion returning to the first and third Sunday, we really need more helpers.

Clean up Communion

Just like it sounds. This is a quick but important job.

Online Host/Information desk

This is so easy! You will watch worship on Facebook (on your device or Zion's) and in the chat feature, welcome the others watching online. At the desk, you greet folks and answer questions.

Parking lot Hosts

Greet people as they arrive for outdoor worship and guide them to the best parking spot. With outdoor worship back on the schedule, we could really use these important outdoor helpers.

Coffee Fellowship

After 8:30 worship, Make sure the coffee, cups, cream/sugar, and donuts are out. Fellowship with people. Afterward, empty coffee pots and rinse, put away cups and creamers and such, and wipe tables and counters.

Sign up to help any individual Sunday that works for you ,or you can sign up to be part of a team that works together one Sunday each month.

Sign up for individual Sundays:

bit.ly/SundayWelcome

Join a Sunday Crew (Once/month commitment)

bit.ly/ZionSundayWelcomeCrews

Finance & Stewardship

Memorial Gifts Received

Gifts to Global Missions and AKCLI in memory of Gunnie Mahlberg from Julie Swaggert & Dennis Hennessy and Wes & Mary Mahlberg.

A gift to AKCLI in memory of Morrie Corhouse from Marlys Corhouse.

A gift to the Zion Foundation in memory of loved ones, from Delvin Haag.

Sweet Corn Sale

The Mission Jamaica Sweet Corn Fundraiser is back and will follow the same protocol as last year for sales. Our first sale of the year will tentatively be on Sunday, July 31, 9:30am-1pm ... It is easy to find, just 2 miles from Zion so stop by after any worship service.

- Purchase and pick up corn at 2537 10th Street NE, Buffalo, MN ~ the corner of County Rd. 34 and Carling Ave. NE, about a mile east of Target on Cty. Rd. 34).
- Cost is \$6 per dozen.
- The sweet corn has been donated by the Gleasons, and all proceeds from Sweet Corn sales on that day will go towards Zion's 2023 Mission Jamaica trip.

Sweet Corn can also be ordered to be picked up at another time by calling Denny at 612-723-5777. Additional dates are possible depending on when the sweet corn is ready (watch the weekly email announcements and/or Facebook). Thank you for your support!



Financial Report

By JOHN LINDLIEF, FINANCE COMMITTEE

The finance report for the month of May looks much like those of recent months. Our income last month was a little over \$58,500 which is about 5.5% more than was given in May of 2021. Income for the year to date still lags behind last year's by about \$16,000 or 4.8%.

With the resumption of our programming, expenses for the month were about \$10,000 more than we incurred in May of 2021. For the year to date our expenses are about \$53,000 more than we had spent at this point last year. That's about an 18.% increase.

As in the past months, our expenses in May exceeded our income. This month it was about \$4,000. For the year so far our income has fallen short of our expenses by about \$24,500.

It is exciting to experience all the activity that is going on at Zion! Thanks to all for your part in making this happen.

(Call Committee Update continued from page 4)

- Will you seek the Lord's guidance through Holy Scripture and prayer and in your deliberations with your fellow committee members?
- And finally: Are you ready to accept and faithfully carry out the duties of this appointment?

They will be asked to consider the task before them and invited to answer;

I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

In concert with those questions, the congregation will be asked:

- Will you support these members of the Call Committee?
- Will you remember them in your prayers and respect their responsibilities and honor their efforts?

Much like our answers at the Affirmation of Holy Baptism, we will recognize that this undertaking can only be successful if we undertake it with God's help and guidance. So you will be asked to consider your support and invited to answer:

I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

The entire process is wrapped in our collective prayers and listening for God's Holy Spirit in this new chapter for Zion Lutheran Church. Thank you to those who have agreed to serve as our Call Committee.

Annual Golf Outing

Monday, August 29

Start getting your foursomes together for the Annual Zion Golf Outing, scheduled for August 29. The event will again take place on the beautiful rolling hills of Albion Ridges Golf Course. It will be a four person scramble format with a shotgun start at 12 noon. Registration will be open at 10:30 am. The cost per golfer is \$80 which includes golf with a cart and a hotdog or brat lunch. Sign up online at bit.ly/zionbuffalogolf, pay online with a credit card, pay at the event with cash/check only, or drop by church and pay with cash or check. If you don't have a full team, we will get you paired up with others. Signups close August 25. So get those clubs polished, your swing perfected and your teams together or sign up as an individual and we get you paired up with other golfers.

All proceeds from this year's event will provide home building materials for our Mission Jamaica mission partner. Our church has been involved in the Mission Jamaica project for many years and have sent many mission teams to Jamaica. These mission teams have provided medical services, support to an orphanage and have helped build numerous small homes in Jamaica. The funds that we raise through the golf outing will be used to purchase the building materials needed for the house our next mission team will be building. Our golf outing goal is to raise at least \$5,000 to help purchase the needed building materials.

There are a couple of ways you can support this project. You can physically participate in the Zion Golf Outing on August 29th or if you are not a golfer, you can still provide support with a financial gift to the mission project. If you are interested in helping with planning the event or want to help at the event, or would like to sponsor a hole or provide some prizes, please call or chat with Steve Peterson at 612-819-7783.



July 2022

Friday July 1

Church Office Closed

Saturday July 2

Sunday July 3

Holy Communion at all worship services

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

11:45am Executive Committee

Monday July 4

Independence Day - Church Office Closed

7:00pm No Worship at Marysville Tonight

Tuesday July 5

11:00am Staff Meeting

Wednesday July 6

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study

6:00pm Zion Fishing Club

Thursday July 7

Friday July 8

Church Office Closed

6:30pm Softball Game

7:30pm Softball Game

Sunday July 10

Camp Wapo

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

Monday July 11

Camp Wapo

6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal

7:00pm Worship at Marysville

Tuesday July 12

Camp Wapo

11:00am Staff Meeting

4:00pm Fare for All

5:30pm Children & Family Ministry Team Meeting

6:00pm Outreach Committee

7:00pm Global Missions Committee Meeting

Wednesday July 13

Camp Wapo

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study

6:00pm Zion Fishing Club

7:00pm Harvest of Hands Crafts

Thursday July 14

Camp Wapo

8:00am Newsletter Deadline

11:00am Red Cross Blood Drive

5:30pm Youth Board Meeting

Friday July 15

Camp Wapo

Church Office Closed

6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal

7:30pm Softball Game

9:30pm Softball Game

Saturday July 16

Camp Wapo

3:00pm Wedding

Sunday July 17

Camp Wapo

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

Monday July 18

6:00pm Ice Cream Social

7:00pm Worship at Marysville

Tuesday July 19

11:00am Staff Meeting

1:30pm Women's Ministry Bible Study

5:30pm Stewardship Committee

7:00pm Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday July 20

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study

6:00pm Zion Fishing Club

7:00pm Church Council Meeting

Thursday July 21

10:00am Rebecca Circle

Friday July 22

Church Office Closed

6:30pm Softball Game

7:30pm Softball Game

Saturday July 23

Sunday July 24

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

Monday July 25

6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal

7:00pm Worship at Marysville

Tuesday July 26

11:00am Staff Meeting

3:00pm Blessing Closet Sorting

Wednesday July 27

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study

10:00am Newsletter Assembly

6:00pm Zion Fishing Club

7:00pm Harvest of Hands Crafts

Thursday July 28

Friday July 29

Church Office Closed

7:30pm Softball Game

8:30pm Softball Game

Saturday July 30

Sunday July 31

Service of Prayer & Healing during worship

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

Ice Cream Social ... and Pie, too?

The Marysville Ice Cream Social is back! Come to the wonderful Marysville church on Monday, July 18, beginning at 6:00pm (note the date is one week earlier than usual).

We'll have ice cream flavors ready for you, served for a free-will donation to support the Marysville Preservation Fund. First Sunday will provide a hymn fest of music during the ice cream social, and for the 7pm worship service that follows inside the church.

Bring your own chair if you'd like for the outdoor ice cream social and hymn fest.

We might even be able to offer pie with the ice cream! Contact Sherilyn (763.682.1245 ext. 108) if you'd like to bring pies to share.



Harvest of Hands

By JOY ARENS

The Harvest of Hands group meets semi-monthly to create crafts for our annual sale in November. The meeting dates are the second (July 13) and fourth (July 27) Wednesday evening of the month in the Wilderness Room at 7pm.

We are working on embroidered and other card projects in July.

All are welcome at the craft sessions, either to work on the planned projects or to bring your own projects and enjoy the morning or evening with friends. Join us for fun, fellowship, and a sense of accomplishment. We are always looking for new volunteers to join us. We are also looking for new ideas for projects for the group. If you have any idea suggestions, please contact Joy Arens.

Crafters can also work on projects at home. Supplies are available for home projects. Contact Joy Arens for more information.

Harvest of Hands is a dedicated group that works together throughout the year to help rid the world of hunger by creating crafts to be sold at the annual sale in November.

We encourage you to join one of our craft sessions for fun, fellowship, and a sense of accomplishment.



(Teen Time continued from page 3)

and walked away. In the moment I had felt so vindicated. Screaming felt like the release I so desperately needed after the day I had. But now, as I walked away from his room, I felt nothing but guilt and sadness for how our first interaction in days had gone. Now, that doesn't mean I wasn't still pretty upset about how his room looked. I wasn't saying anything that wasn't true. (Although I have no idea if the person he may marry someday will be a clean freak or not.) The point was, I took out all of my frustrations on him at that moment. I was a tea kettle and walking into his room made my blood boil just enough to blow my steam. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Poor kid.

"To err is to human,"

A quote by the great English poet Alexander Pope. We often miss the second half of that quote;

"... to forgive, divine."

Learning to ask for forgiveness is not just important for the relationship between you and your teen, it's crucial.

When your teen messes up, and they will, they could really use the advice and encouragement from a trusted adult to help them navigate their way off the rumble strip and back into the correct lane. Many mistakes teens make can be marked with shame, insecurity, and embarrassment. But we can turn those mistakes into an exercise that can help build character and develop accountability and empathy.

But how? Do as I say, not as I do-hasn't and will never work. With children, especially teens, much more is caught, than it is taught. My little faux pas with Eli, was a perfect opportunity to have Eli 'catch me', being accountable for my actions. I wasn't excited about the next interaction, but I knew it was necessary for our relationship that I mend what I had just broken. I needed to walk the walk. If I am to expect my teen to apologize and change their behavior when they are wrong, so then, shall I.

I sheepishly walked into an Eli who was already on the defense, angrily picking up his room. When I started to talk, he cut me off as if to say, "No more! My young fragile psyche can't handle anymore of your criticism." But he didn't say that. Instead, he said, "YES, MOM, I'M DOING IT, SEE!" I instantly realized I had single-handedly made my 16-year-old go from excited and happy to see me, to defensive and angry. My heart sank. "Eli, I'm here in your space to apologize to you. I am so sorry. When I came in and noticed you were home, I was so happy I got to see you because I've been really missing you. Instead, I inserted myself in your safe space and unloaded my entire day's frustration on you. You didn't deserve that and I'm sorry." Still wounded and not quite ready to grant me grace he said nothing. I asked if I could come in and help him. He said quietly, "You don't have to, it's my responsibility." There's that contagious accountability bubbling to the surface. I said, "You're right, it is. But I want to help. I have to go to work so I only have a little time, and I'd like to spend it with you."

I picked up a few things in silence before he started talking. In this quiet space working alongside each other is where the magic happened. His heart softened,

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(That is God for You continued from page 5)

I'm reading a new book, *What If It's Wonderful?*, by Nicole Zasowski. I love that title. As we collectively and intentionally look into an unknown future [after all, that is what happens during an interim time], what if we asked ourselves that very question? What if whatever is coming next is wonderful? We can ask that boldly because we know that God is all about transformation. We can ask it because we know that God's will toward us is good. This week felt like a long-awaited celebration. After two years of not being able to have VBS, it felt like a triumph to see Trinity Hall packed, to hear the laughter, and to feel the energy. It was a celebration, really. Celebration is God's healing balm for our broken world and to our scarred hearts¹. It is the exercise of actively remembering and enjoying the goodness of God in our lives². There is much to celebrate, Zion! We will be hearing more about that collectively as we look more deeply into the results of our CAT survey and celebrate our strengths as a faith community. Just think how transformative it will be if we pray together about Zion's future. And what if our prayers were to ask: What if it is WONDERFUL?

¹Nicole Zasowski, *What If It's Wonderful?* p.170

²*ibid*

(Teen Time continued from page 12)

he saw me as a flawed human who was willing to take accountability, and in turn he did the same.

Then ... he forgave me and probably himself in the process. He stood tall, looked at me, and said, "Oh yeah Mom, I forgot to tell you! That test I was so worried about, I aced it!" I said with excitement "Eli! I'm so proud of you!" And I didn't just mean about his test.

Forgiveness, divine.

That night before I fell asleep, I thanked God for allowing me to raise His precious child, Eli. I also asked Him for forgiveness for the times I don't do right by that role He trusted me with. And lastly, I thanked Him for the awesome gift of forgiveness.

Jesus taught us through the cross that the person with the most power in any given relationship is responsible for starting the reconciliation process. If our goal is to raise teenagers who can take ownership for their actions and apologize in a way that is emotionally authentic and will improve the chance of future healthy relationships in their lives, we need to model exactly what that looks like.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

Blessings!

Tammy

Pictured: Eli & Tammy

**THAT IS GOD
FOR YOU.
GOD TRANSFORMS
US EVERY
DAY FROM
➡ WHAT WAS ... ⬅
TO WHAT MIGHT BE.**







More VBS Photos on Facebook!

To support the Bushkin and Dzhelali family (volunteering, needed items, and financial support), check the list at bit.ly/zionrefugees.

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Pictured: Mira, Valentyna, Tim, Marina, Natella, Dmytro, Alina, and Matthew

gasoline. No one was packing a "emergency suitcase" like in 2014, because no one believed that this was possible in the 21st century. A few hours later, when the feeling of panic and denial of what was happening subsided a little, it was decided that the whole family would gather in one place and find a safe place in case of a bombing. From our family at that moment only women and children remained in Mariupol: my aunt is 80 years old, I (Natella), my niece Alina with children (Miroslava 8 years old and Matvey 1.5 years old), my daughter Katya. Alina's husband is a seaman. He was at sea. Katya's husband, an employee of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe] mission in Ukraine, was on rotation in Donetsk a week before the start of the war. Three days remained before the return of his group from a business trip to Mariupol. He could not return to the territory controlled by Ukraine. He was evacuated with other members of the mission. But that's a completely different story.

On the third day of the war, it was already dangerous to stay in the apartment. We arrived at our bomb shelter with minimal food, a small supply of water, medicines and documents. Of clothing we only had what was on our backs. Everyone was sure that it would not be for long, that there would be an opportunity to return home and take everything you need. But how wrong we were. On the 5th day of the war, mobile communications and the Internet disappeared. Power went out on the 6th day. We were isolated, no information was given to us. Gas and heat were not available. The frost hit and snow fell. The room was +10° C [50° F]. I had to stretch the food, although due to stress I didn't really want to eat. Water





had to be conserved. We also collected snow and melted it. The shelling became more frequent and intense every day. After a week of staying in this shelter, about 100 people were gathered there. We had many children with us. The smallest were our Matvey and a 3-day-old baby. They cried all the time, because food suitable for Matvey was almost depleted. 3-day old baby was named Christina. And Christina's mother had little milk. Stocks were quickly running out. Food was then brought to us by ZSU [military forces of Ukraine], volunteers and the Azov Regiment [a unit of the National Guard of Ukraine formerly based in Mariupol]. Food was cooked on fires, water was also boiled .. While the food was being prepared, shells flew overhead. We have learned to distinguish between arrivals and departures .. shells fly towards us or through us. But the worst thing is the sound of a flying plane, and then exploding bombs. The most terrible moments were when two cars that exploded next to ours (the front door of the driver was driven from the shock wave). A few days later, a shell flew into the office courtyard, close to our shelter. One car was pierced through, the rear side glass of our car was knocked out with fragments and the interior lining was damaged. The windows of the building were shattered. The fragments were so small that they resembled snow. And I will never forget the whistle of a bomb falling on our building .. we fell to the floor, covering the children with ourselves. But the bomb that fell nearby did not explode. lives were spared.

In mid-March, we received information that there was an opportunity to leave the city, and a humanitarian corridor had been opened. We left at our own risk on the morning of March 16th. By this time, almost nothing remained of the city. Destroyed houses, broken roads, broken wires, dead people, graves in the yards .. This whole nightmare is beyond words. We tried not to even look around. We drove almost 12 hours to Berdyansk (90 km [56 miles]) due to the huge number of cars, destroyed roads, broken bridges and I had to go around

many cars on country roads. We spent the night there and left for Zaporozhye. We also traveled to this city for 12 hours. Before the village of Vasilyevka, we counted 15 checkpoints of the invaders. These were Russians, Chechens, and the DPR military.

At one of the checkpoints, we were forced to peel off the tin film from the windows of the car with our nails, threatening to break the windows with the butt of a machine gun, because according to the laws of Russia, tinting car windows is prohibited. We were released because we could not remove it. But they warned that we had to drive past each checkpoint with open windows so that we would not be shot, because it was not clear who was sitting in the car, although there was a sign CHILDREN on the glass. There was the first Ukrainian checkpoint behind the village of Vasilyevka. We began to drive up to him, and shells flew from behind. The shelling of the civilian population began right on the highway. Clouds of black smoke hitting cars with people in front of us. They were killed and wounded. Ambulances and soldiers run to their aid. I had to go around burned-out cars, broken military equipment, unexploded shells that were sticking out of the asphalt. This section of the road was just awful. We screamed and cried and prayed...

Two more days we were driving to the Moldovan border. Our car was broke down when was 200 km left to Moldovan border . We had to leave the car at a gas station.

In Moldova we were met by volunteers. We went to Romania. From there we went to our Ukrainian friends to Italy. We stayed with them for 2 weeks, and there we learned about the possibility of crossing the border using a humanitarian password through Mexico. It was very frightening to fly, but there was nowhere to return. Thanks to our sponsors, we flew from Italy to Mexico City and from there to Tijuana. Then we crossed the border into San Diego, California.

Support the Bushkin and Dzhelali family at
bit.ly/zionrefugees

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Connect Newsletter

Upcoming Deadlines

July 14 5 at 8am for August Issue

August 11 at 8am for September Issue

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Camp Wapo July 2021

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who made VBS amazing
in June! Check Facebook
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