

CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church



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September 2022

Celebrating on Sundays

Baptisms

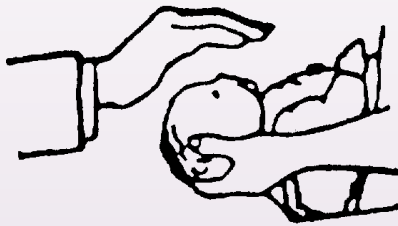
July 10
Gavin James Lee
Waylon Robert Jude

July 24
Russyl Charles Dale Weigert
Dean Jacob Adrick

The Baptism Class

Anyone wishing to schedule a baptism is asked to attend a class prior to the date of the baptism. Expectant parents, as well as those who already are parents, may attend the class. Scheduling of baptisms will take place at the class.

The next classes are Sunday, October 9, and Sunday, December 11, at 11:45am. Register at ZionBuffalo.org/Baptism or by calling the office.



Music for All Plan for the Fall!

BY SHERILYN BURGDOFF, WORSHIP
COORDINATOR

One year ago we were doing re-entry into rehearsals and music ministry. This year, there will be a few schedule changes but all of Zion's music directors are preparing for a great year of music, shared in worship and in the community. We're ready to be singing and ringing!

New Start Times

Note that the elementary and youth choirs have new start times. Since the Elevate singers begin at 5:15, Zion planners are guessing that parents will bring the young singers to Zion instead of sending them to Kids' Place as in the past. The later start time will make it easy for parents to bring the young singers before the 5:15 rehearsal and then stay for an easy family meal at Zion, served from 5-6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Ring Forth and Class Ring will continue in their after school time slots. Plans are underway to give ringers an option for transportation from schools to Zion. Schedule changes for this fall mean there is little or no need for Kids' Place (2:30-5pm). If your family would benefit from child care during that time, please contact Sherilyn@ZionBuffalo.org with your thoughts.

Online sign up for any of the vocal or bell choirs is available at ZionBuffalo.org/music.

- All elementary and youth music groups (Elevate, Lifted, Heirborn, Ring Forth and Class Ring) will begin on September 21.
- Adult groups (Senior Choir and Joyful Ringers) will begin on September 7.



Vocal Choirs			
Senior Choir	Michael Walsh	Adults	Wednesday 7:15pm
Altared	Amy Intrieri	Gr. 9-12	Wednesday 6:45-7:30pm
Lifted	Amy Intrieri	Gr 5-8	Wednesday 6:00-6:30pm
Elevate	Amy Intrieri	K-Gr. 4	Wednesday 5:15-5:45pm
Bells			
Joyful Ringers	Sherilyn Burgdorf	High School & Adults	Wednesday 6:30pm
Class Ring	Jason Chalupnik, Sherilyn Burgdorf	Gr. 6-12	Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm
Ring Forth	Jason Chalupnik, Sherilyn Burgdorf	Gr. 3-5	Wednesday 3:00-3:45pm

God is our Strength for Today & Hope for Tomorrow

BY PASTOR BAHE

The truth revealed in these words provides a daily guide. God is the author and sustainer of all things and is the strength we need for today and the hope we have for tomorrow. When the way forward seems unclear, God's people have learned to rely on the truth that God is always at work. It is true for us individually and collectively.

**"God will make a way. He works
in ways we cannot see."**

It is a line in a song written by Don Moen. The words are based in Biblical truth. They are based in personal truth as well, aren't they? We worry, but God always makes a way. We fear, but God always makes a way. We are uncertain, but God always makes a way. Always.

God is always guiding us, preparing us, and leading us. Even so, sometimes the future seems to bring more questions than answers, doesn't it? So, then what are we to do?

Let's look at two events, among hundreds, in Scripture that teach us the answer. First, from the Old Testament: when the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, they kept getting ahead of God. God provided them with a **daily** supply of manna. They still didn't understand the truth that God was at work providing a way for them. God was working in a way they could not see at first. However, when they learned to rely on God, the way was much clearer and smoother!

And from the New Testament: what do we pray every time we pray the prayer

(Strength & Hope continued on page 16)



Sunday Worship Services

- 8:30am: Traditional Worship (with livestream)
- 9:30am: Coffee Fellowship / Adult Education / Family Events
- 10:30am: Contemporary Worship

Fall Worship Schedule

Zion begins the fall "Strength for Today and Hope for Tomorrow" focus on Sunday, September 11.

At 8:30 worship, the Senior Choir will be back in place beginning September 11. Their rehearsals begin on September 7. If you'd like to add your voice to the choir, there's a place for you!

The Jubilee Worship Team will be leading music outdoors at 10:30. Come to listen to the favorites from the first worship team that led at Zion from the early 1990s until around 2014. You'll recognize many familiar musicians who continue to lead worship at Zion in various ways: Kevin Bergquist, Gene & Sheila Blandford, Jan Carlson, Doug Gregerson, Tim Lungstrom, Carol Moore, Lisa Schiltz, & Bob Strommen. Bring your lawn chair and come early for worship so that you can hear their prelude songs, too. Rainy weather would mean 10:30 worship moves indoors. The music's great in either location!

The 10:30am worship service returns indoors for the fall on September 18.

Connect Card

If you have questions, prayer requests, a new mailing address, etc., please fill out a connect card online at ZionBuffalo.org/card, text CARD to or find a card in the pew racks. The same card can be used to record your participation in Holy Communion.



Connecting with Care



Bible History Class

Rick Johnson will present an 8-week Bible History class beginning Monday, September 12 and ending Monday, October 31. The class will run from 6:30 to 8:15pm in the library. This class will examine Jewish and Christian history in the first and second centuries (CE) and how Christianity eventually spread apart from Judaism. This class is for anyone interested in Bible History whether you have been in a previous class or not. Please register online at ZionBuffalo.org/events.

Fall Volunteers

Would you like to get involved and meet more people at Zion? There are many opportunities to serve, which are often also wonderful opportunities to meet people and fellowship.

Contact Kim Hagen in the office at 763.682.1245 ext. 103 or kim@zionbuffalo.org, watch for a sign up booth at ZFest, or visit ZionBuffalo.org/volunteer. There may be something that is the perfect fit for you!

Quilters

The Zion Quilters will begin meeting every Monday from 9 until 11 am starting September 12th. We meet in the craft room directly behind the kitchen. Please join us!

ZFest Planning

By MELISSA GALVIN, FACILITY COORDINATOR

Hello Zion Friends and Families. As I'm sitting down to write this, I realize in my almost three years here at Zion, this my first newsletter article. As the Facility Coordinator, I have somewhat of a behind-the-scenes job focused on scheduling, building security and IT duties. I've had the privilege to see many programming events and celebrations, as well as just the day to day bustling of the church. I'm very excited for the first time to be taking on a role this fall that will have much more direct involvement.

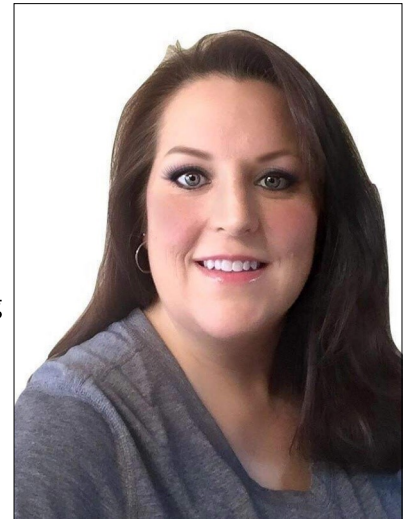
I have been asked to take the lead on ZFest planning this year. I love organizing events! Every event is a chance to create experiences that people will remember. And ZFest, in particular, is a chance to show the historic character and traditions of Zion while incorporating a vision of new and exciting things to come to both our congregation as well as community members who join us. Events like this bring people together, foster relationships and create lasting change. I can't wait to see the blank canvas of our front lawn transformed into a memorable event for everyone!

Our theme for ZFest this year will align with Pastor Bahe's fall message of Strength For Today and Hope For Tomorrow. Throughout ZFest you'll see fun new nautical images like the anchor representing strength and the lighthouse representing hope. We have all new games and activities planned. We will be offering tours inside the building for newcomers and community members to get a first-hand look at what Zion has available to them, especially in our Children, Youth and Family Ministry departments. And, new this year: FOOD TRUCKS!! We have some amazing food planned that you won't want to miss. Zion will be providing lunch but be sure to bring your wallets to sample the additional tasty treats that the food trucks will have available.

Keep an eye out throughout the building for invites you can grab and share with your friends and neighbors for this FREE event jam-packed with great food, games, and fun!

Invite your friends and neighbors at ZionBuffalo.org/ZFest

If you're looking for opportunities to get involved, we've got you covered. We couldn't pull off this amazing event without equally amazing volunteers! We have several areas to choose from: games, activities, food and more. There is no greater JOY than to serve. Sign up at ZionBuffalo.org/ZFestVolunteers and find Jesus, others and yourself throughout this event of fellowship and fun.



You won't want to miss
ZFest on September 18!

The celebration begins after the 10:30am
sanctuary worship service.

All are welcome to this FREE event

Games, Activities, Noah's Ark Rides, and More

New This Year: Food Trucks!

Lunch will be provided, but be sure to bring your
wallet to grab other fun treats from the food trucks.

T-shirts will be available to purchase.

Feel free to bring your own chairs or blanket and
don your best nautical or fishing gear.



STRENGTH
FOR TODAY
& **HOPE**
FOR TOMORROW

Living God's Call

God's Work. Our Hands

Keeping Warm and Dry

The SERVE planning team is offering a fall service project to highlight the ELCA God's Work. Our Hands theme in September. Between September 4-18, bring boxes of diapers or pull-ups for infants and toddlers or children's hats, mittens, scarves.

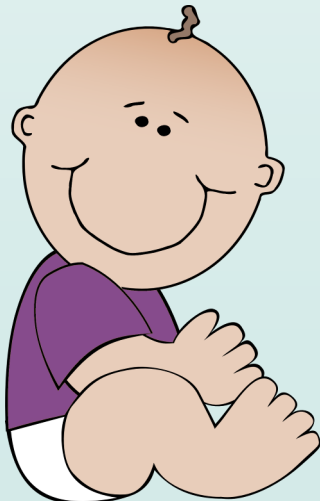
The diapers will be distributed through the Blessing Closet and also to Redeemer Lutheran's diaper drive. The winter wear will be donated to the Blessing Closet's Coats for Kids drive in late fall. If you'd like to make a financial donation, the SERVE planning team will do the shopping for you.

- Use the online giving page at ZionBuffalo.org/give, select "Other Fund," and put "diapers" in the comment
- Use a pew envelope, check "special" and write "diapers" on the line.

When you bring donations, put your name in a drawing to have the chance to win a home-baked treat:

- Sherilyn's chocolate chip cookies (September 4)
- Kim's homemade bread (September 11)
- A voucher for a pie from the kitchen of Mary Bischoff (September 18)

A new drawing each week gives the chance to donate every week! It's a heart-warming time of sharing!



"Seed money" for the project is given through a Thrivent Action Grant.

CAT Survey Results!

BY PASTOR BAHE

The CAT is the Congregational Assessment Tool. It is designed to help congregations make better decisions about the future, with more confidence, because it provides an opportunity for everyone to let their voice be heard.

Over 400 of you took part in the survey---thank you! The Transition Team, Council, and Staff have heard from the CAT Survey consultant and are eager to share the results with you. The results will help you:

- Learn about the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregation.
- Identify the critical success factors for Zion.
- Pinpoint the strengths of Zion's culture.
- Discover what members are committed to for Zion in the future.
- Gauge readiness for change.
- Discover what gifts members are most hoping for in our next senior pastor.

We are providing 3 different opportunities to hear about and discuss the results of our survey.

- Sunday, September 18 (the same day as Z-Fest), Fellowship Hall 9:45am.
- Sunday, September 25, Fellowship Hall 9:45pm.
- Wednesday, September 21, Fellowship Hall 5:30pm.

The executive summary of Zion's CAT survey results may be read at ZionBuffalo.org/CAT.



Call Committee Update

The members of the Call Committee have the responsibility of prayerfully considering who will be Zion's next Sr. Pastor. They were prayed for and blessed during worship services on July 17th. We are grateful for the commitment and on-going work. Please keep them in your prayers: Josie LaFave, Andy Kohls, Dominic DesMarais, Taryn Bullert, Phyllis Bengtson, Eric Mattson, Jennifer Gustafson, Joan Halderson (alternate), Paula Herda (alternate), Hannah & Tyler Peterson (alternate).

A few things to remember about a Pastoral Search ...

The Call Process Is a Time of Prayerful Discernment

Process is the perfect word, because things work in a sequential order, guided by the Holy Spirit. However, it is not a time-line based process. Because there

(Call Committee Update continued on page 17)

The Village of Hope Tackles Food Security Challenges in Zambia

By MINDA SQUADRONI, GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Twelve years ago at our Global Mission partner, the Village of Hope, Zambia, Benedict Schwartz bought 1,000 fingerling tilapia for the 7 acres of wetlands on their site. This year, Benedict designed a cage for catching tilapia, and two months ago they used it for their first catch. They emptied the cage and there were enough fish to feed all 70 people in the Village of Hope for one month. The cage went out again the next month and again the catch was enough fish for the second month to feed everyone for the month. The supply seems to replenish each month as God is multiplying the harvest.

These fish, along with all of the other home grown farm produce means there is food security for the children of the Village of Hope and School of Hope.

This year the Village has purchased commercial ovens for a bakery for making bread. Benedict wondered who they were going to train on how to use the equipment? While talking to Steve, one of the house fathers, the man shared with Benedict that he worked in a bakery for years with the exact same equipment that is at the Village of Hope. Steve trained their baker on how to operate the oven and other equipment, and no outside training was needed.

Benedict has purchased grain and is starting a program to provide child-sized loaves of bread for children at neighboring schools.

To read about the program go to breaderworld.com.

1,000 sponsors are needed to provide 1,000 loaves daily of nutritious whole wheat bread for hungry kids in the area.

This new program, BreaderWorld, will provide food security for children at local schools.

Recently the Village of Hope purchased equipment for butchering their cows, and pigs to make meat available to their employees. Benedict talked to the baker, Steve, and wondered where there would be someone for the job of butcher, and what training would that person need? Steve said to Benedict, "you are talking to the wrong person, as there is another house father, Kunda, who has experience as a butcher. He worked for three years for Zambeef." So Kunda became the VOH butcher.

Workers at the Village of Hope can purchase meat and bread at a reduced price giving food security to the employees.

The Zambian government has officially certified the Village of Hope to begin formally teaching young people through a full-time, one-year course, on how to

(Food Security continued on page 16)

What's for Supper?

We have a plan for you!

If you're in charge of Wednesday supper at your house, there's no need to be puzzled when someone asks you "What's for supper?" We've got you covered at Zion!

Beginning Wednesday, October 5, a meal is served every Wednesday from 5-6pm in the Fellowship Hall. There is no need to sign up, just come for a great meal with your family or with your friends.

Wednesday Night Suppers is always open to new faces, so if you would be interested in joining one of the supper teams, or if you are interested in being a sub or helping out with more than one team, please feel free to reach out to Lora at Lora@ZionBuffalo.org. We'd be happy to have you join us!



Finance & Stewardship

Have You Remembered

Zion Lutheran Church Foundation in your estate planning?

When you update your will, trust, or asset beneficiaries, please consider including a gift for ministry, using the following legal directive:

"I bequeath ___ % of my estate (or my fund) to Zion Lutheran Church Foundation, located at 1200 Hwy 25 S, Buffalo, Minnesota, EIN #41-1385843."

Foundation gifts are welcome at any time. A gift to the Zion Foundation keeps on giving.

For more information, call 763.682.1245, visit ZionBuffalo.org/foundation, or email foundation@zionbuffalo.org.

Weekly Announcement Emails

In addition to this monthly newsletter and ministry specific emails, the weekly announcements are available by email which is sent on Thursdays and also available at ZionBuffalo.org/announcements. Printed announcements are available upon request from the information desk for those who do not have internet access.

Financial Report

By CRAIG FAUTSCH, FINANCE COMMITTEE

Zion's offerings in July 2022 were \$59,900, about \$9,500 more than July 2021. July 2022 was a five-Sunday month as compared to July 2021 which was a four Sunday month.

August 2021 was a five Sunday month so the offering year-to-date comparison will even out in next month's report. For July 2022 year-to-date, Zion's total income is about \$427,000 which is about \$5,000 less than July 2021 year-to-date total income.

As Zion is reestablishing programs and staff, and with utility costs rising, expenses for July 2022 are about \$11,000 more than July of 2021.

July 2022 year-to-date expenses are greater than July 2021 year-to-date expenses by about \$70,000. For July 2022 year-to-date, Zion's expenses have exceeded its income by about \$44,000.

The Finance Committee anticipated expenses would exceed income while Zion rebuilds its programs and staff. The dollars received from offerings, building rent, fees, and miscellaneous income along with the PPP and ERC programs permitted Zion to sustain and rebuild. Thanks to all who are financially contributing to Zion.

Correction: June 2022 year-to-date total income compared to June 2021 year to date total income was actually \$15,000 less rather than the \$5,000 less stated in last month's Finance Committee's report.



Lutheran Night at the Twins

By JOAN HALDERSON

My carpool of 7 noticed 96 degrees on the vehicle's temperature gauge for the ride to the game. A total of 13 attended this Tuesday night's game, on August 2nd, with a 5-3 loss to the Detroit Tigers. Although the humidity was high, Zion Buffalo was well represented and on the scoreboard during the 4th inning as attending this game.

Greetings from the Zion Stewardship Committee!

BY MIKE DAVIS

Summer is quickly passing by and we now find ourselves at back-to-school time and preparing for the fall harvest. Many are excitedly looking forward to fall sports and concerts, college football and the change in seasonal colors. Exciting times are coming to Zion too! Sunday school (offered at both services this fall!), confirmation, and new youth programming are all gearing up for the 2022/2023 year. The Call Committee is working hard in the search for our next Senior Pastor. Once that step has been completed, Zion will then begin to focus on the addition of an Associate Pastor. The results of the CAT survey showed a strong desire for expanding our programs for youth and children. To that end, we have been evaluating staffing levels. Just to return to pre-pandemic staffing levels, that would mean hiring in the following positions: Director of Children & Family Ministries, a coordinator and staff for the nursery, and a Family Events Coordinator.

As we plan and prepare to return to staff levels not seen since the pre-pandemic era we need to consider our growth not just in staff and members, but also in our budget. Zion's personnel budget will need to grow to accommodate these changes. As we prepare for the fall, we on the Stewardship Committee would like to ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help support Zion's mission and be a supporting part of our growth.

If you'd like to contribute, there are numerous ways in addition to the offering plate. More information can be found at ZionBuffalo.org/give.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and continued

support. Although the correct spelling for the word 'church' does not contain the letters 'W' and 'E', you would be hard pressed to find a vibrant church without them. We are the church, and exciting times are coming!

Thank you and God bless.



Women's Ministry

Two Bible Study/Circle Options Each Month

Starting in September, there are two options for women's Bible study each month. The Naomi Circle meets on the third Tuesday of each month (September 20 @ 9:30am) and the Rebecca Circle meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month (September 15 @ 10am). Meetings are at Zion each month and no sign up is needed.

Both groups will use the Bible study from the ELCA women's ministry Gather magazine. This fall, the series is written by Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. September's session highlights trees, a fitting topic for the beautiful changing leaves of fall.

Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith

Jesus often turned to the natural world in teaching, opening our eyes to see creation not just as something to be cared for, but as our teacher and kindred. It is no mistake that Jesus, who lovingly spoke of soil and plants, was thought to be a gardener that first Easter morning. This three-session Bible study will shift our perspectives and allow nature to be our teacher, through the words of Jesus and other parts of Scripture. The trees, the soil and the creatures will offer us new perspectives on the character of God and challenge us to deepen our stewardship of God's precious creation.

from gathermagazine.org

gather

September 2022

Thursday September 1

9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends

Friday September 2

Church Office Closed

Saturday September 3

Sunday September 4

Garden Exchange

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 September 5

Church Office Closed for Labor Day

6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal

Tuesday September 6

11:00am Staff Meeting

4:00pm Fare for All

6:30pm Jubilee Rehearsal

Wednesday September 7

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study

9:00am Working Party Fellowship

3:00pm Blessing Closet Diaper Distribution

6:00pm Zion Fishing Club

6:30pm Joyful Ringers

7:15pm Senior Choir

Thursday September 8

8:00am Newsletter Deadline

8:00am Men Seeking Wisdom Bible Study

9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends

Friday September 9

Church Office Closed

Saturday September 10

3:00pm Wedding

Sunday September 11

Garden Exchange

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

Monday September 12

9:00am Quilters

9:00am Women's Ministry Committee

6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal

6:30pm Fall Bible History Class

Tuesday September 13

5:30pm Children & Family Ministry Team

5:30pm Youth Board Meeting

6:00pm Outreach Committee

7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting

7:00pm Global Missions Committee Meeting

Wednesday September 14

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study

9:00am Working Party Fellowship

6:00pm Zion Fishing Club

6:30pm Joyful Ringers

7:00pm Harvest of Hands Crafts

7:15pm Senior Choir

Thursday September 15

8:00am Men Seeking Wisdom Bible Study

9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends

10:00am Rebecca Circle

Friday September 16

Church Office Closed

Saturday September 17

Sunday September 18

Holy Communion at all worship services

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)

9:30am Look at the CAT

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

10:45am Z-Fest

Monday September 19

9:00am Quilters

6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal

6:30pm Fall Bible History Class

Tuesday September 20

9:30am Naomi Circle

11:00am Staff Meeting

5:30pm Stewardship Committee

7:00pm Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday September 21

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study

9:00am Working Party Fellowship

5:30pm Look at the CAT

6:00pm 6th Grade Confirmation Parent Meeting

6:30pm Joyful Ringers

7:00pm Church Council Meeting

7:15pm Senior Choir

Thursday September 22

8:00am Men Seeking Wisdom Bible Study

9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends

Friday September 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday September 24

Sunday September 25

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)

9:30am Look at the CAT

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Contemporary Worship (with Drive-in option)

Monday September 26

9:00am Quilters

6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal

6:30pm Fall Bible History Class

Tuesday September 27

Wednesday September 28

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study

9:00am Working Party Fellowship

10:00am Newsletter Assembly

6:00pm Confirmation Guide Meeting

6:30pm Joyful Ringers

7:00pm Harvest of Hands Crafts

7:15pm Senior Choir

Thursday September 29

8:00am Men Seeking Wisdom Bible Study

9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends

Friday September 30

Church Office Closed



Just Around the Corner

BY JAMESON WAKEFIELD, CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe but fall is just over the horizon. With fall comes all kinds of new opportunities for Zion's members. Families, ministries and youth all have new adventures and missions to engage in as we move into September:

- Sermon series on Strength for Today and Hope for Tomorrow, beginning September 11
- ZFest on September 18 with a brand new nautical theme!
- Special emphasis on Sabbath for children & youth every Sunday in September
- Sunday school will expand to include 8:30 classes in addition to 10:30 classes
- Confirmation orientation, registration & connection events
- Choir and handbells will start back up
- Bible History class beginning September 12
- Outdoor worship at 10:30am through September 11, returning to the sanctuary September 18.
- So many opportunities to connect and to serve! Contact our Shared Ministries Director, Kim at kim@zionbuffalo.org to get connected

If you are interested in getting involved with Zion, there is a world of opportunity and something for everyone. Being involved is the best way to make lasting connections at church and is proven to strengthen faith and increase happiness. Sunday morning greeters and ushers are always welcome. If you want more involvement, we are looking for candidates for Church Council. Volunteer for a whole host of service opportunities including Blessing Closet, Wednesday suppers or other events. Maybe you want to learn more about the Bible or our faith history? You could attend Bible history class starting September 12.

On a related note, I would like to thank everyone who has attended services this summer, the staff, volunteers, and council members that helped make the services run smoothly, and all of the congregational members that have continued to give to Zion to continue our valuable ministries. Your gifts and support go a long way to continuing the mission we have committed to in support of our church and our community.

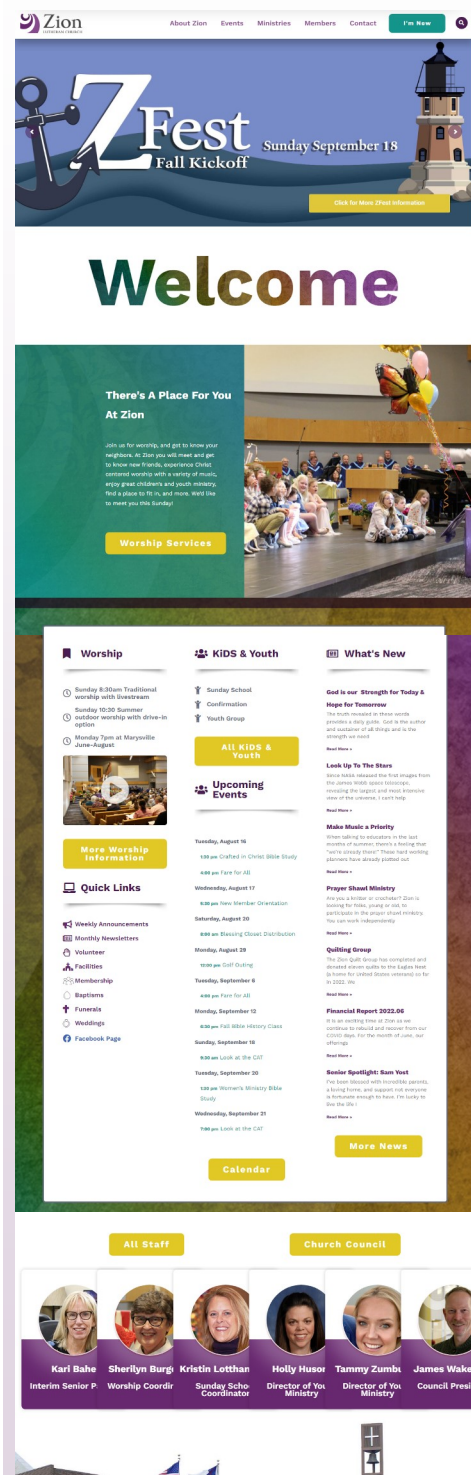
Thank you and God bless,

Jameson



New Church Website

After months of work alongside local company Red Technologies, we have finally launched our new church website at ZionBuffalo.org. If you have comments or questions about the site, please contact Angela in the church office.



Children, Youth & Family Ministry

ZFest

Sunday, September 18

Fun ~ Food ~ Music

Sunday School

Age 3 to grade 5

Starts October 4

Choose 8:30 or 10:30

Sign up at ZionBuffalo.org/SS

Confirmation

Grades 6-8

Starts October 5

Sign up at ZionBuffalo.org/Confirmation

Bells & Choirs

See page 2 for Details

Sign up at ZionBuffalo.org/Music



Fall 2022 at Zion!

BY PASTOR BAHE

Our mission is to partner with families for faith formation and connection. We are always looking for ways to connect with you and to be helpful to families as they seek to raise their children in the faith. There is nothing like fall in Minnesota! But, there is also nothing like the busyness that accompanies it. Registrations, new schedules, new routines, new forms to fill out and keep track of, new school supplies to find and purchase, and new anxieties to calm. We started asking: what if the church found a way to curb some of that, instead of participating in it?

We started asking parents: "Would it be helpful if we moved the start of Sunday School and Confirmation to October?" And, overwhelmingly, parents told us that would be AWESOME and helpful. So, Sunday School (both at 8:30 & 10:30 this year!) will begin Sunday, October 2nd, and Confirmation will begin Wednesday, October 5th.

September will be focused on connecting your family to the joy of Sabbath. We hope you will be connecting back to worship if you've taken some time away. To help you focus on Sabbath and worship this Fall, the 10:30am outdoor worship service is continuing into September. Children love the chance to dance, run, and worship under the trees, and Zion has the perfect set-up. It is casual, low-key, a little bit shorter, and filled with music. Bring chairs or a blanket and worship outside the first two Sundays in September. Then, be ready for Z-Fest on the 18th! Food trucks! Games! Fun!

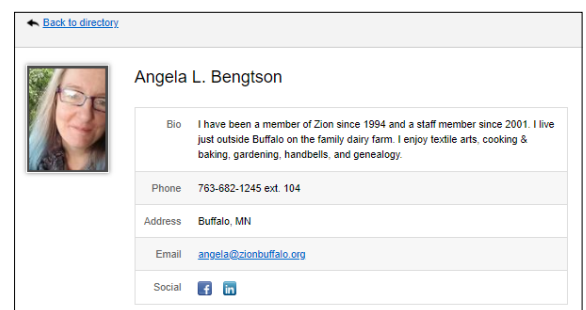
Each Sunday in September will have extra special ways of connecting with children & youth in worship (beyond our ever-popular children's sermon time. Enjoy the breather and grace this new start date will provide and connect with friends old and new at worship this September. After all, God has commanded Sabbath rest, because we need it!

InFellowship Directory

BY ANGELA BENGTON, COMMUNICATION & MEMBERSHIP

Zion uses Fellowship One membership database to take care of and connect people. InFellowship is the portal that congregation members use to connect with groups and other members. One feature of InFellowship is a digital member directory.

The InFellowship online directory is the place to find real-time updated contact information. All members and attenders are requested to opt into the InFellowship Online Directory, which can be viewed by other Zion attenders and members who have also opted into the directory. Visitors and the general public cannot access the InFellowship online directory.



(InFellowship Member Directory continued on page 17)

Meditation Trail

By WES MAHLBERG, OUTREACH & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Are you aware of Zion's meditation trail just to the south of our main parking lot?

The trail has a new theme of "Peace " for its second year, chosen by one of Zion's confirmation groups (pictured). What perfect timing as the whole world seems to be searching for peace in our troubled world.

Please take some time to find your own peace of mind by walking this trail and reading scriptures along the way.

My personal favorite from these verses is John 14:27.

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you,
I do not give to you as the World gives. Do not let your
hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Hope to see you on the trail!

Welcome to

Zion's Meditation Walking Trail

This trail is open to the public.

You are invited to walk, meditate and enjoy God's creation.

- No motorized vehicles beyond this point.
- Open hours are sunrise to sunset.
- No hunting is permitted.
- All pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6'. Please clean up after your pet.
- No camping or fires allowed.



Our Mission...

Zion seeks to
Share Christ's Word,
Strengthen faith, and
Serve those in need.



Our Vision...

Helping people
experience the joy
of life in Christ by:

1. Celebrating on Sundays:

Creating Sunday morning experiences that invite, welcome, engage, and inspire people to live for Christ.

2. Living God's Call:

Engaging people in a process of discipleship which inspires them to trust in Christ, grow in faith, and serve God's world.

3. Connecting with Care:

Creating a community where people are connected in relationships and supported in need.

Meet the Council

Deb Rude

My name is Deb Rude. My husband, Keith, and we have been married for 50 years. We have lived in the same house just south of Buffalo for 44 years, where we raised our three daughters, Karen, Kathy, and Becky.

I grew up on a farm near Young America. My Dad was a farmer and a rural mail carrier, my Mom was an RN & farmer's wife (which as many of you know is a career of it's own!). I had 3 brothers, and no sisters, so was thrilled when God gave us our 3 girls! My parents believed that a Christian education was an important part of our growing up, and made sacrifices so that we could attend parochial schools at St. John's Lutheran in Young America, and later at Mayer Lutheran High School. As a child one doesn't fully understand how valuable that education was until you are parenting yourself.

I attended Lutheran Deaconess School of Nursing and became an RN in 1972. In 2014, after 34 years, I retired from the nursing job that I loved the most (Buffalo Hospital). I truly believe that nursing is a ministry. You are with people at their most vulnerable stages in their lives. I often was asked to pray with people, witness to them, and share our Lord with them. This was a blessing and a privilege for me.

Our daughters are married and have blessed us with 5 grandchildren. Our oldest daughter, Karen (Jacob) & family live in NY. Daughter Kathy (Shane) Reding & daughters are members of Zion & live in Buffalo, and daughter Becky (Naia) lives in St. Paul.

My favorite hymn (I have many!) right now is "Borning Cry." It talks about your journey through life with God by your side (although you might not always realize it) and your journey from beginning to end. My favorite Bible verse is Ephesians 2: 8-9,

"For by grace you have been saved, through faith, & that not of yourselves, it IS the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

This was also my Dad's favorite Bible verse. He had me type it up and place it in his room, so that when people saw it and asked him about it, he could witness to them.

My parents are my heroes. As I said, they often made sacrifices to ensure that we had a good education, but were also there as role models for not only me, but for our daughters and their families as well. They nurtured my love for our Lord, with not only regular church attendance, but also church involvement. There is a certain joy that comes from being involved in your church and it's community. We have been blessed to call Zion our church home for the past 25 years.



"Advent" Appreciation

By KIM HAGGEN, SHARED MINISTRY COORDINATOR

After two years of waiting, the Zion staff was delighted to be able to share a fun celebration honoring some of our wonderful volunteers on August 3. We enjoyed worship with communion and a picnic lunch, followed by some light entertainment. We are so grateful to each of our volunteers! Please know that you matter and each of your contributions make a difference. Every time we think of you, we give thanks to God for you!



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*

Sunday Announcements

The relationships of our members with one another bring a richness to our lives and we want to foster these relationships. If you would like your church family to be aware of any special celebrations in your life or the lives of your loved ones through the bulletin announcement insert, please let the church office know by Thursday at 10am.

(Strength & Hope continued from page 3)

that Jesus teaches? We pray—give us today our **daily** bread. That part of the prayer is about more than food. Jesus taught us to pray that petition in the Lord's prayer to remind us that God provides **daily**. To remind us to not get ahead of God. But, rather to trust **daily** in God's continual care and guidance for us; as individuals and as a faith community.

There are times when we are overloaded with more questions than answers. That is especially true for congregations going through an interim time. Add in the ingredient of uncertainty and rapid changes in our world and it can become overwhelming. What's the solution? The solution is remembering that God will make a way. God is always at work...in ways we cannot always see.

The way is very clear. The steps are clear. They require prayer, imagination, trust, and a belief that God is providing for us **daily**. The solution is remembering what we know to be true: God is our strength for today and our hope for tomorrow. Always.

PS: I'm so excited about what your staff has planned for Fall 2022: Strength for Today & Hope for Tomorrow! You will find lots of energy when you connect at Zion this Fall. Look for specifics all throughout this newsletter and be sure to BE at Z-Fest on September 18th!

(Food Security continued from page 7)

effectively farm, yielding food for the young adults and their families.

This course will provide food security by teaching agriculture.

The Village of Hope is currently constructing three dedicated agriculture classrooms and an agricultural lab for soil science and animal science.

Like much of the developing world, Zambia is experiencing a food crisis. These four programs (fish farming, Bread World, butchering, and agricultural education) show the ways that our Zion Global Mission partner, All Kids Can Learn International/Village of Hope, is working to help the growing hunger and poverty crisis within and around their community.

Thank you for your continued support of their efforts in our Global community.



are many variables, we can't give a precise time-table, which can be frustrating in a world that demands quick fixes. Taking time to pray and ask: "Is this the person the Holy Spirit is calling us to be in relationship with?" and then listening for God's direction is essential to the future relationship with that new pastor and to the mission and ministry of the congregation.

Pastors are Called to Serve, Not Hired.

What's the difference? A Call is a mutual understanding and commitment between God, pastor, and congregation. Both the congregation and the candidate must have a sense of Call from God regarding the relationship and the candidate must have an internal and external sense of Call that this is where God is leading him/her to serve in public ministry. The relationship of pastor and congregation begins when all voting members of a congregation have had the opportunity to pray, consider, discern, and vote on the particular Call of a specific pastoral candidate.

Commitment to Confidentiality

The congregation will be kept informed about the process, but who the Call Committee is interviewing is, by necessity, a confidential matter. Please do not ask the members to break that covenant by asking who the candidates are.

Relationship with the Synod/Bishop's Office

The Call process is specific to each congregation, but integrally connected to all other ELCA congregations. Therefore, we work in concert with the Bishop's office all throughout the Call process. The pastoral candidates must be a member in good standing of the ELCA Roster. Therefore, all interviewees will be contacted first by the Bishop or a member of the Synod staff on behalf of the Bishop. We cannot know all of the moving parts in a congregation where a candidate may be presently serving, so we rely on the Bishop's office to help discern which candidates are available to interview at a given time and to help us find good matches.

National Search

The ELCA has a system that matches pastoral candidates from the entire ELCA to find potential candidates for interviews. Members of Zion are also welcomed to submit names of pastors who are currently serving ELCA congregations to the Call Committee, who will turn those over to the Bishop's office. The Bishop will then let us know if that pastor is currently available to interview or not.

(InFellowship Member Directory Continued from page 12)

Use the check box at the bottom of the Account > Privacy Settings page to opt into the InFellowship online directory, and the privacy sliders to fine-tune who can see which parts of your information in the directory. (Remember to click 'Save privacy settings' at the bottom of the screen when you are done.)

Learn more about InFellowship features, including giving history and groups connections, at ZionBuffalo.org/infellowship.

Harvest of Hands

The Harvest of Hands group is meeting to create crafts for the annual sale on November 5. November is just around the corner.

We are starting to work out more details for our fall event. We need volunteers to help with several areas to be a success. We need people to help set up on Thursday and Friday (November 3 and 4). We need many volunteers on the actual event day - greeters, cashiers, brunch workers, white elephant helpers, and more. Please consider volunteering and help make this a momentous event. If you are interested, please contact Joy Arens at 763.300.4542. We cannot do it without you!

The craft group meets on the second (September 13) and fourth Wednesday (September 27) of the month in the Wilderness Room at 7pm. We will start meeting more often soon. We are working on finishing many projects this month.

All are welcome to come! Join us for fun, fellowship, a sense of accomplishment and meet some new friends in the process! We love and are always looking for innovative ideas for projects and creations, please reach out to Joy Arens (joy_aren@yahoo.com) with any suggestions.

Have you been crafting at home; please consider donating to Harvest of Hands. Prefer to work at home? We have supplies available to pick up for Harvest of Hands creations.

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.

Please help Harvest of Hands in continuing this long tradition of fellowship and charity.

Thank you for your help. We appreciate it.



Contact Us

Connect Newsletter

Upcoming Deadlines

September 8 at 8am for October Issue

October 13 at 8am for November Issue

Editor: Angela Bengtson

Angela@ZionBuffalo.org

This Month's Cover

Photo by Jerry Starr

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Lyle Jans : Custodian

Michael Walsh: Director of Music

Bob Strommen: AV Coordinator

Jenny Pecarina Kids' Place Director

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Jim Bischoff

Dirk Foster

Joan Halderson

Kris Harlan

Amy Intriери

Mary Mahlberg

Ashley Mattson

Deb Rude

Nick Sjolín

Jameson Wakefield

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CONNECT

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Look at the CAT!

Hear about and discuss the results of our congregational survey.

- Sunday, September 18, at 9:45am
- Sunday, September 25, at 9:45pm
- Wednesday, September 21, at 5:30pm

More information on page 6

