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Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church

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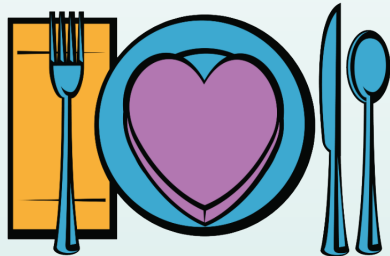
May 2023

Living God's Call

Meals on Wheels

Zion has the chance to help the community during the month of June when Zion provides volunteer drivers each day to deliver meals in and around Buffalo.

- Meals are picked up at Buffalo Community Center, 206 Central Ave. (across from post office).
- It's a great way for families of all ages to serve together!
- GPS on your phone or car makes the routes so easy to follow!
- Parking spots are available in the back parking lot behind the community center when picking up meals.
- Pick up at 11:00 am. Plan to spend 60-90 minutes delivering meals.
- Drivers are needed Monday-Friday.
- Sign up at ZionBuffalo.org/MOW or call the office at 763.682.1245 ext. 103.



Future Mission Trip Opportunities Mission Jamaica and Mission Zambia

By CAROL MOORE, GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

For many years, Zion has provided global travel opportunities to participate with our mission partners in Jamaica and Zambia. These mission trips combine a service project with time for reflection and spiritual rest. The mission trip schedule has been alternating odd and even years between Jamaica and Zambia. Participating in one of these mission trips is a great way to serve others and surround yourself with people of different cultures.

The next planned trips are expected to be in 2024 for Mission Jamaica and in 2025 for Village of Hope in Zambia. Each of these locations provides different life-long experiences with similarities of providing greatly needed support to those in these communities, growing in your personal faith, and expanding your relationships with other participants.

Mission Jamaica

The Mission Jamaica experience is a week-long trip where participants work at various locations throughout the week and stay at a local resort for lodging. Some of the service projects are helping build one-room Ja'Bode homes, providing medical clinics, and assisting at Westhaven Children's Home, and Clifton Boys' Home in the area. Mark your calendar for trip dates February 24-March 2, 2024, and the signup deadline is September 30, 2023.



Mission Zambia

Mission Zambia's two-week participants will stay at the Village of Hope and help with various projects. In the past, Zion members have helped build a new library, assisted with sewing projects, painting projects, organizing at the school, furniture building, and providing teacher training at the school.

Other Global Missions Opportunities

If you aren't able to go on a mission trip and you want to help, you can offer prayer support, keep in touch with Mission Jamaica and Mission Zambia via Facebook Groups for each partnership, join the Zion Global Missions Committee, or make a donation to these missions to help the cause. Look for links at ZionBuffalo.org/global.

For more information on Mission Jamaica or Mission Zambia contact the church office at 763.682.1245 or the Global Missions Committee chair, Minda Squadroni, at 763.529.5469.

Harvest of Hands Recipients

By JOY ARENS, COORDINATOR

The Harvest of Hands group continues to meet bi-monthly to create crafts in anticipation of the annual sale on November 4. Our group meets in the Wilderness Room at 7pm on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. We are currently working on creating earrings and wire jewelry.

We are happy that we are able to make more donations to help rid the world of hunger. This month, \$2,000 will be distributed to each of these five organizations from our November 2022 proceeds.

Feed My Starving Children

Mission: As a Christian nonprofit organization, Feed My Starving Children is called to feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. You will hear us say this again and again: "We want to reach everyone, until ALL are fed." We truly mean this. This means reaching the hard-to-reach people and places, the "least of these." They will be found, and they will be fed. With God's help we will work together with organizations and ministries across the globe to end hunger. fmsc.org

Mission Eurasia

Mission: We evangelize, train, equip, and mobilize the Next Generation in Eurasia to lead churches in transforming their nations for Christ. missioneurasia.ca

The Hunger Project

Mission: To end hunger and poverty by pioneering sustainable, grassroots, women-centered strategies and advocating for their widespread adoption in countries throughout the world. thp.org

The Water Project

Mission: The Water Project, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization unlocking human potential by providing reliable water projects to communities in sub-Saharan Africa who suffer needlessly from a lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation. thewaterproject.org

World Central Kitchen

Mission: A Hot Plate of Food When It's Needed Most. wck.org

All are welcome at Harvest of Hands craft sessions, either to work on the planned projects or to bring your own craft projects and enjoy a 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 and bring new, fresh ideas for projects for the event. 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. You are invited and encouraged to join one of our craft sessions for fun, fellowship, and to help eradicate the world of hunger, one craft at a time.

FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN



The
Hunger
Project.



Celebrating on Sundays

Sunday Worship Services

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

For drive-in worship at 10:30, please drive through the canopy at the front of the church to pick up a bulletin etc., before parking in the back parking lot and tuning your car radio to FM 87.9.

Holy Communion will be part of all worship services on the first and third Sundays of the month. All members receiving communion are asked to complete an electronic communion card at ZionBuffalo.org/card or text CARD to 763-335-1245.

If you are attending the online worship service, we know you won't have the exact same elements that we use when we are in worship in the sanctuary. Gather any variety of wine or fruit juice and any kind of bread product.

Baptisms

March 26
Aria Ruth Uter
Leo Matthew Lund

Funerals

March 30
Roger Bremseth
April 5
Ronald Uter

Spring Renewal

By CHUCK ZUMBUSCH, CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As I write, I am here at Zion, celebrating the Risen Christ. The buzz in the church is electric. People rushing in, kids in tow, scurrying to their seats to hear the Word and sing the great songs that accompany this amazing day. Spring is about renewal and restoring life. I know there is grass trying to come back and brighten our yards.

The updated narthex, timed with Easter services to be experienced by all. New paint, new furniture, tables to gather, and I especially like the large "Welcome" sign on the doors for everyone to see. Special thank you and gratitude to those who worked so hard to organize, plan, and execute the updates.

The [Wall Street Journal reports](#) that "Easter is the peak time for online searches of "Jesus," according to Google Trends website, which measures the popularity of online queries. But this February, interest ran higher than at any other time of year including Christmas" (*Our Many Jesuses, April 7, 2023*).

That news was surprising to me, but also very encouraging. I am, and many others are, seeking a closer relationship with Jesus, yearning for connection and purpose, and to better understand our Christian role on this earth. I think we all have an opportunity to be the liaison to connect others with Jesus and with Zion, if so desired.

What an awesome responsibility and call to service.



Zion Cemetery Update

BY DIRK FOSTER, CEMETERY BOARD

During its spring meeting, the Zion Cemetery Board approved a number of improvements at the Zion Cemetery for the summer of 2023. The Zion cemetery is located about two miles south of the church, at the intersection of Hwy 25 and 10th Street SE, and was the location of the original Carlslund Lutheran Church building.

In 2021, Zion purchased three acres of land, shaped in an "L" around the cemetery; approximately an additional 50 feet along the south and 300 feet along the east of the cemetery. The board is now ready to start preparing this land designated as the section E extension. The trees between section E and the extension have already been cleared.

The next step, which will start as soon as the ground and weather permits, is to remove the stumps along the tree line and to level the ground for a smooth transition between section E and the extension.

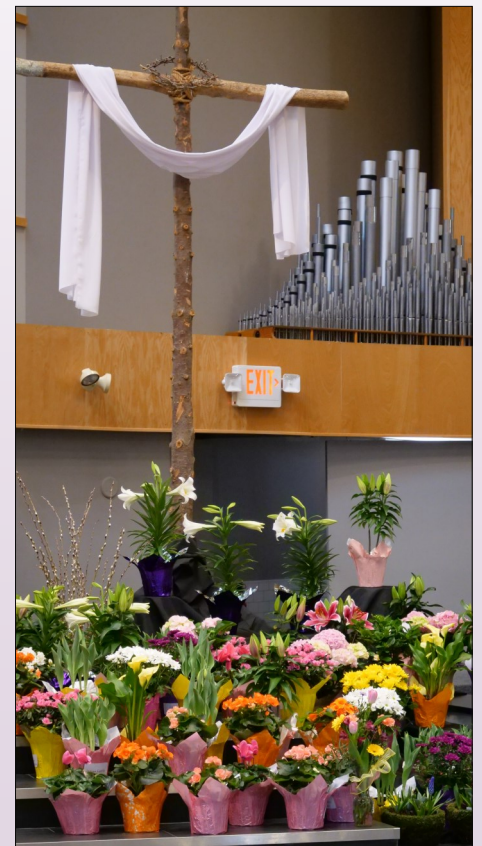
Finally, the ground will be smoothed, raked, and seeded for turf grass. The board also discussed extending the decorative fence which runs parallel to Hwy 25 all the way to the new south property line but that project still needs additional research. Finally, the board approved the removal of two large green ash trees located in section D. The trees are near their end of life and have already been dropping large branches.



Looking west along the tree line between Section E and the new Section E extension.



Zion Cemetery with sections and newly purchased land indicated.



Thank you to Easter Sunday volunteers and garden donors.. Photo by Anita Bazan

Connecting with Care

Handcrafted with Love

Women's Brunch 2023

We are God's handiwork; what an amazing variety of creativity! The 2023 women's brunch will be held in Trinity Hall at Zion on Saturday, May 6. Invite friends and family to hear from four speakers who live out their God-given creativity in their own ways, and enjoy music and a gallery of paintings, photos, textile arts, and woodworking by Zion members. Brunch will be served by Any Thyme Catering, and attendees will receive a calendar featuring the work of Zion artists. Please call the church office (763.682.1245) to see if tickets are still available.

Active Military

Vinnie Pecarina
Stationed in Alaska

Hope Kellerhuis
Stationed at Fort Drum, NY

Michael Christensen
Stationed in Virginia Beach, VA

Alexis Nichols
Stationed in Georgia

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
Serving in the Army.

*And members whose names cannot be
published for security reasons*

Quilting Group Update

BY NANCY ROGNESS

We have completed ten quilts to go to Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Center.

Eagles Healing Nest's mission is to provide assistance with the healing of the invisible wounds of war carried by our service men and women past, present, and future. They are a non-profit organization providing a place for 73 veterans to call home, so they can decompress and focus on healing. One way we can help is to make a quilt for each veterans bedroom, stitched with love and sealed with prayer.

Another organization we have donated baby quilts to is Wrapped in Love, an organization in Buffalo that provides new and gently used clothing free of charge to families with foster, kinship, and adopted children.

There is a need for volunteers to help us to continue to support and help others.

- We especially need someone that can sew the edges once the quilt is sandwiched together and tied. This would be done in your home.
- Like to sew baby quilts? These can be cut and completed in your home.
- We also need a volunteer to cut fabric squares in their home.
- We meet Mondays from 9-11 in the Heritage room to tie quilts and we would love to have your help.



Too Busy?

By PASTOR BAHE

My first Call was to serve a rural parish in North Dakota. The location was further north than I had ever traveled. I felt like I had gone to the ends of the earth. Still, I wouldn't exchange those first years of ministry in North Dakota for anything else. The ministry was challenging, but the people were warm and kind. They put up with my rookie ideas and my foolish mistakes. The parish was a three-point, which means there were three separate congregations to minister to. This means there were three council meetings to attend each month, three worship services each Sunday, three confirmation classes... you get the idea. It was a busy time.

The first person I met at the Petersburg-Dahlen-Lom congregation was Roscoe Kelly. Roscoe was the chair of my Call Committee. Mr. Kelly ran a huge farm. He was a busy man, but always seemed to have time. One of the first things he wanted me to do was to spend an afternoon with him in the fields. When he asked me, I thought to myself, "I'm far too busy to take time to sit on a tractor for an afternoon." It seemed, to my rookie self, that an afternoon was entirely too much time to spend away from the "real" work of ministry. I was about to be proven wrong and I've never forgotten the important lesson I learned.

As we spent the afternoon on the tractor, Roscoe taught me about the people I would be serving. He taught me about the community. He told me stories and was good enough to 'clue' me in on who was related to whom. In one afternoon, he opened the community to me. The afternoon flew by and as I climbed down from the tractor Roscoe yelled above the noise of the engine: "Remember, sometimes slowing down is the best way forward. Vivian and I will be praying for you." What a gift.

I was so certain that an afternoon on that tractor would put me behind for the week, so certain that it was unnecessary. How wrong I was! Mr. Kelly graciously gave me the gift of a "holy interruption."

I have a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in my office that reads: "We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God." Roscoe brought me such an interruption. And I almost missed it. Sometimes we are too busy for our own good. Sometimes we miss those 'God-moments' when we forget what is truly important in life.

The next time you find yourself thinking you are 'too' busy, worried, tired, doubtful, or cynical...remember Bonhoeffer's words and be ready for an interruption from God. They are all around if we pause long enough to find them. God's presence attends us daily. Sometimes God interrupts us to quiet us and help us reflect on what He is stirring us toward next. Those God-moment interruptions are life-changing and life-giving. It was true that day on the tractor. It is true for you as well! Take time out to be interrupted by God as we move from this long winter to this beautiful spring. You will be glad you did! Thanks be to God who interrupts us to enlighten and renew us!



Fishing Club

By LARRY KELLY

The Zion Fishing Club meets weekly during the summer, usually on Wednesday's at 6pm, to fish area lakes. See our Facebook group for more details such as specific lakes. The first outing for this year will most likely be Wednesday, May 17. All are welcome, and no boat is needed, but it is helpful to know a rough count before hand so we are sure to have enough boats available.

New Member Orientation

The orientation to membership gathering provides an introduction to Zion ministries and staff, an opportunity to meet others at Zion, and a little about what it means to be Lutheran and to be a member of Zion. Those who decide to become members will be formally received into our congregation on May 21.

This event will include:

- Lunch with the staff and Outreach Committee after the last worship service (11:45am).
- Plenty of informal conversation with staff and other prospective new members.
- An overview of a wide variety of Zion programs and ministries.

Please sign up at ZionBuffalo.org/membership.

Twins Baseball

This year's Lutheran Night game will be Monday, August 15. Contact Joan Halderson at 763-682-3389 with questions.

Connect Card

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

Finance & Stewardship

Memorial Gifts Received

A gift to The Memorial Fund in memory of Maurice Danielson, from Chuck & Chris Chastek.

A gift to AKCLI in memory of Yvonne Hagberg, from Kevin & Judy Bergquist.

A gift to Global Missions in memory of Yvonne Hagberg, from Linda Howland.

A gift to the grand piano in memory of Wendy Lindlief, from Gary & Monica Pogatchnik.

A gift to the Zion Foundation in memory of Roger Bremseth, from Warren & Sue Myhre.

Different Funds

General Fund

Operating expenses / day-to-day expenses like staff salaries, synod support, and committee expenses.

Building Fund

Building mortgage expenses.

Special Envelopes

Extra envelopes such as global mission and world hunger gifts, Sunday school & cemetery.

Zion Foundation

Gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones support a broad range of ministries connected to Zion. Gifts to this fund are invested, only the growth can be used to fund grants.

Memorial Fund

Gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones to fund specific items or projects at Zion.

Prayer Group

Members and regular attenders are invited to join the private Zion Lutheran Church Prayers group on Facebook (facebook.com/groups/zionbuffaloprayer) to share or respond to prayer requests.

Financial Report

BY JOHN LINDLIEF, FINANCE COMMITTEE

The income/offering to the General Fund in March again exceeds that given in March of 2022. This month's increase amounts to almost \$1,800 per Sunday. At the same time, our General Fund expenses for the month have exceeded our monthly income by about \$29,000. This month's deficit is primarily due to greater participation in our youth programs (a wonderful problem!), increased food costs for the Wednesday Night Suppers, and an additional payroll. Year-to-date General Fund giving is up over 11% from last year. Our expenses for the same period are up about 48%. The payroll timing issue will be resolved next month when the number of payrolls will again be equal.

The Building Fund giving for the month of March is up almost 14% over last March. We were just short about \$1,300 in meeting our monthly mortgage payment. Year-to-date payments have exceeded our income by only \$900. So we are well within our budget plan.

Thanks to all for your continued support of Zion's ministry - financial and otherwise. It is exciting to see what is happening each week.



Foundation and Memorial Fund

At Zion we talk about both the Zion Foundation and the Memorial Fund, but what is the difference?

One major difference is that the dollars donated to the Zion Foundation are invested, and only the gains from the investment are spent on projects (often called an "endowment"). All dollars given to the Memorial Fund are spent.

Another difference is that the Zion Foundation is a separately incorporated entity created to serve the ministry of Zion and the Foundation Board is comprised of Zion members. The Memorial Fund is a committee and fund inside the congregation's structure.

The Zion Foundation supports a broad range of ministries connected to Zion while the Memorial Fund is used for physical items often placed around the church building and property. In either case, these are items not included in the general church budget.

In both the Foundation and the Memorial Fund there are individual purposes or projects to which someone can designate their financial gift. Again, those purposes in the Foundation are broad and general categories such as mission, education, or internal Zion ministry, and within the Memorial Fund they are specific items or projects such as hymnals, music equipment, landscaping, or carpet.

(Foundation and Memorial Fund continued on page 9)

One similarity is that gifts are usually given to each in honor or in memory of loved ones.

Both the Zion Foundation and the Memorial Fund are great places to give a gift to honor your loved one, it kind of depends on what you want that gift to do.

Summer in the Northland

BY MIKE DAVIS, STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Summer will soon be here! After the deep snows in April, it seemed like we'd never see green grass again. As all Minnesotans know, summer will be fleeting, and we need to take advantage of the nice days while they are here. But just like the inevitable road construction season, Zion, along with most churches, will be facing the traditional 'Summer Slump.' The 'Summer Slump' is a slowdown in church attendance and giving during the summertime when many people are traveling and/or taking part in other activities. This can cause some strain on Zion's operating costs, which remain the same throughout the year. Here are some ways we can all plan for the summer and remember Zion at the same time:



- Have fun! Enjoy the nice weather and all that it has to offer. (However, I would like to request that summer could offer fewer mosquitoes.)
- If you are away, please remember Zion. There are numerous options for continued giving during the summer and year around.
 - Many members mail in their offerings when they are gone for a weekend.
 - Zion has an automatic withdrawal program available. If interested, please sign up at ZionBuffalo.org/give, contact Steve Peterson in the office at steve@zionbuffalo.org, or 763-682-1245 ext 111.
 - Credit card giving options are available, and information can be found at ZionBuffalo.org/give.
- Also, please remember to take advantage of your offering envelopes. It looks like the supply issue at the printer has been resolved and they have been distributed now.

Thank you for your generous support, both financially and in service! Together we can share the mission of Zion with others. Have a great summer!

Contact Info Corrections

If you have had any changes to your address, phone number, marital status, etc. please contact the office with your name, phone number and the changes that need to be made in our database.

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.

Subscribe!



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.

May 2023

Monday May 1

9:00am Quilters
6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal
6:30pm Spring Bible History Class

Tuesday May 2

9:15am Storytime with Jesus
11:00am Staff Meeting

Wednesday May 3

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study
9:00am Working Party Fellowship
2:30pm Kids' Place
3:00pm Blessing Closet Diaper Distribution
4:30pm Youth Open Gym
5:00pm Supper: Pasta
5:15pm Elevate Choir
6:00pm Lifted Choir
6:30pm Altared Choir
6:30pm Confirmation
7:15pm Senior Choir
8:00pm High School Youth Group

Thursday May 4

8:00am Newsletter Deadline
8:00am Men Seeking Wisdom Bible Study
9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends

Friday May 5

8:00am Women's Brunch Prep

Saturday May 6

9:00am Women's Brunch

Sunday May 7

Global Missions Sunday
Holy Communion at all worship services
8:30am Sunday School
8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)
9:30am Executive Committee
9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:30am Contemporary Worship (with drive-in)
10:30am Sunday School
11:30am New Member Orientation

Monday May 8

9:00am Quilters
9:00am Women's Ministry Committee
11:00am Yvonne Hagberg Memorial Service
6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal
6:30pm Spring Bible History Class

Tuesday May 9

10:00am Maintenance Department Meeting
11:00am CYF Ministries Meeting
4:00pm Fare for All
5:30pm Youth Board Meeting
6:00pm Outreach Committee
7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting
7:00pm Global Missions Committee Meeting

Wednesday May 10

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study
9:00am Working Party Fellowship
4:30pm Youth Open Gym
5:00pm Supper: Tater Tot Hotdish
5:15pm Elevate Choir
6:00pm Lifted Choir
6:30pm Altared Choir
6:30pm Confirmation
7:00pm Harvest of Hands Crafts
7:15pm Senior Choir
8:00pm High School Youth Group

Thursday May 11

8:00am Men Seeking Wisdom Bible Study
9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends

Friday May 12

Saturday May 13

Sunday May 14

Mothers' Day
8:30am Sunday School
8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)
9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:30am Contemporary Worship (with drive-in)
10:30am Sunday School

Monday May 15

9:00am Quilters
6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal
6:30pm Spring Bible History Class

Tuesday May 16

9:30am Naomi Circle
11:00am Staff Meeting
5:30pm Stewardship Committee
7:00pm Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday May 17

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study
9:00am Working Party Fellowship
4:30pm Youth Open Gym
5:00pm Supper: Pizza & Dessert
5:15pm Elevate Choir
6:00pm Lifted Choir
6:30pm Altared Choir
6:30pm Confirmation
7:00pm Church Council Meeting
7:15pm Senior Choir
8:00pm High School Youth Group

Thursday May 18

8:00am Men Seeking Wisdom Bible Study
9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends
10:00am Rebecca Circle

Friday May 19

6:00pm Middle School Fun Night

Saturday May 20

Sunday May 21

Holy Communion at all worship services
8:30am Sunday School
8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)
9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:30am Contemporary Worship (with drive-in)
10:30am Sunday School

Monday May 22

9:00am Quilters
6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal
6:30pm Spring Bible History Class

Tuesday May 23

10:00am Maintenance Department Meeting
11:00am CYF Ministries Meeting

Wednesday May 24

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study
9:00am Working Party Fellowship
10:00am Newsletter Assembly
4:30pm Youth Open Gym
5:15pm Elevate Choir
6:00pm Lifted Choir
6:30pm Altared Choir
6:30pm Confirmation
7:00pm Harvest of Hands Crafts
8:00pm High School Youth Group

Thursday May 25

8:00am Men Seeking Wisdom Bible Study
9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends

Friday May 26

Saturday May 27

Sunday May 28

8:30am Traditional Worship Service (with Livestream)

9:30am Coffee Fellowship

10:30am Outdoor Worship (with drive-in)

Monday May 29

Memorial Day - Church Office Closed

6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal

Tuesday May 30

Wednesday May 31

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study

Summer Worship Schedule

As the end of May approaches, Zion's worship options begin to change for the summer.

8:30 worship remains in the sanctuary for the summer months and 10:30 worship moves out to the north lawn platform beginning May 28 (Pentecost Sunday). In case of inclement weather, the 10:30 worship moves inside to the Zion sanctuary.

On Monday nights beginning June 4, weekly worship takes place at the historic Marysville church. The 7pm worship in "the old country church" is a great change for the summer and also an option if you're away on weekends.



Children, Youth & Family Ministry

STELLAR

SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

Kids, get ready for a Stellar adventure! This summer, our church will be transformed into an out of this world experience for kids. We will launch on a cosmic quest where kids will have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar will rocket kids on an out of this world adventure that is light years of faith building fun!

Our Stellar adventure will help us shine Jesus' light in practical ways when life feels dark, when people don't get along, when good things happen, when people are sad, and when people need help.

All kids ages preschool through 5th grade are invited to join our cosmic experience. Also, volunteers are needed to make our adventure a huge success. Please consider becoming a station leader, group leader or help us decorate to make this a success for our kids.

More information will be heading your way soon!
Let's shine Jesus' light!



VBS JUNE 12-16

New Children & Family Ministry Staff

Children & Family Ministry has two new members joining the team!

With a great deal of joy and excitement, we introduce Zion's two newest staff members.

The Children and Family Ministry team has been operating with only a few staff members for far too long. Kristin Lotthammer, our Coordinator of Sunday school, along with Lora Nichols, former Ministry Assistant with Kristin, have both done a marvelous job of making sure that our Children & Family Ministry has been strong and fulfilling. They have done that with too few hours and too many responsibilities. We owe them a great deal of thanks for their care for our kids, families, and Zion's children's ministry. Their love for ministry was unmistakable through all they had to take on in the absence of a fuller team. Thank you, Kristin and Lora! (Lora has since stepped down from her position with the Children & Family Ministry team, but still coordinates our Wednesday night suppers.)

We are so pleased to announce the recent addition of two new staff members to the Children & Family ministry team!

Kristi Wagner has accepted the position of Co-Director of Children & Family Ministry. Kristin Lotthammer is shifting her position to work with Kristi as Co-Director. Kristi is a Zion member and brings years of elementary education experience, as well as a deep love for our Lord, to her work here at Zion. Some of our kids will recognize her as their former elementary music teacher. Kristi brings many gifts to this position, and the fact that she has been a Zion member for years is an additional plus. How blessed we are to have Kristi join our staff with her enthusiasm for this new venture and her expertise as an educator.



Emily Comstock is also a new staff member we are so excited to introduce to you. Emily is a member of Zion as well. We are so pleased Emily has taken on the position of Ministry Associate. Emily will have an emphasis with our youngest kids and family members. Emily will direct the care of children in the nursery as well as introduce Zion to some new ministries for parents of young children. Emily also brings years of experience and a deep love for our Lord to her work. Emily has worked in early childhood education for 17 years. She will work alongside of Kristin and Kristi to support the mission to help families: Know God's love, Invite others, Do like Jesus, and Strengthen families. We are so blessed to have Emily join our team.



Please take time to welcome Kristi and Emily to their new roles on Zion's amazing staff! Keep them in your prayers, as well as all our children and families who make up this ministry at Zion.

They can be reached at KristiWagner@ZionBuffalo.org and EmilyComstock@ZionBuffalo.org.

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.

Contact Us

Connect Newsletter

Upcoming Deadlines

May 4 at 8am for June Issue

June 8 at 8am for July Issue

Send submissions to

Communications@ZionBuffalo.org

This Month's Cover

Outdoor worship begins May 28

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