

June 2023

CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church



Zion youth enjoying some pizza and time with church family after cleaning the building and grounds

Pastor's Message

*We welcome back
quest pastors:*

Roger Johnson

May 28th (Zion)

June 4th (Zion)

June 5th (Marysville)

John Folkerds

June 11th (Zion)

June 12th (Marysville)

Summer Worship Services

Sunday 8:30am:
Indoor Worship

9:30am:
Coffee Fellowship

Sunday 10:30am:
Outdoor Worship

Monday 7pm:
Marysville

“See, I am making all things new.”

Revelation 21:5 NRSV

“Making all things new.” Take note of the verb-tense. Making. In the Greek, that active voice of the verb is emphasized even more than our English language can portray. God is “ongoing-ly” making all things new. It’s not translated, “I made all things new,” but rather, “...I am making all things new.” The trajectory is clear—God is still working. God is still creating, still redeeming, and still blessing our world.

For our God, it is not just a one-time event at the beginning of time or at the beginning of our individual lives; it is on-going.



As a group, humans tend to shy away from change, and yet---think of the promise in those words: God is continually making all things new! That is pure grace. That means all of the mistakes I make, all of the times I miss the target in living as He would have me live—ALL the time, God is working on me, making me new.

In Minnesota, we have the privilege of truly seeing that aspect of God’s nature right before our very eyes as we transition from winter to spring and summer. Sometimes (most especially this year) when the snow seems to pile high and when the snowstorms keep coming and adding to that high pile---it seems as if there is no possible way that we will ever see Spring. It seems that the growth of new plants, the vibrancy of green grass, the hope of budding trees, and the sweet singing songs of birds are forever banished. And yet...and yet! Our God never fails. Sure enough winter wanes and new life springs forth. In fact, we witness all of creation being made new this time of year.

Translate that to your life. WOW! How remarkable. Take it one step further and translate that to our collective life together as the Body of Christ. Incredible!

God is making all things new. You. Me. Us.

Zion is experiencing that new life in so many tangible ways---the stories would fill too many pages for a newsletter! Did you know that our confirmation students (that is 6, 7, and 8th graders) have invited more than 20 of their friends to join them in our confirmation program? As in, not only come to see what it is like---but these 20+ kids are joining in, they are committing, they are “all in”. That is God making all things new through the lives and invitation of our Zion kids.

(Continued on page 14)

Summer Worship at Zion

Monday Nights at Marysville

Summer is the right time to enjoy the fresh air of the historic Marysville Church as you hear faith-filled sermons and scripture, and sing the old favorite hymns. Worship begins at 7pm each Monday between June 5 - August 28 with communion on the first Monday of each month. This beautiful historic country church is located on County Road 9 between Buffalo and Waverly.

If you'd like to be a worship host/usher or communion server at Marysville, contact Kim@ZionBuffalo.org.

Just remember ... this is a little country church with no modern amenities.

Weather Guidelines

Worship will be held if the temperature is above 60° and below 90° and the heat index is below 95° at 6pm that day. Worship will be canceled if there is a severe weather warning such as tornado or severe thunderstorm for the immediate area. Cancellations will be posted on Zion's Facebook page (facebook.com/zionbuffalo) and Zion's main phone line, 763-682-1245.

Summer Bible Study - Women's Ministry

"Salvation Now" is the theme for the women's Bible study on the third Tuesdays of June, July, and August at 1:30pm in the fellowship hall. The study is written by Rev. Anna Madsen, ELCA pastor and founder of a retreat center in Two Harbors, MN. 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 other studies.

June's study, "Promised Salvation Now—Jesus Brings Wellness" will be led by Pastor Roger Johnson.

From gathermagazine.org:

Of all the gospel writers, John is uniquely concerned about the effectiveness of Jesus' immediate presence. One clue is his regular use of the word "now," a tiny but powerful word which appears more here than the other gospels combined. Together, we'll note a few instances of the "now," and delve into John's observations about the way John focuses not so much on the "hereafter," but more on sharing the difference that Jesus makes in people's lives, straight away.

There's no cost; no need to sign up in advance. Dates for the study are June 20, July 18, and August 15 at 1:30pm at Zion.



Summer Music

Interested in providing vocal or instrumental music for worship at Zion this summer?

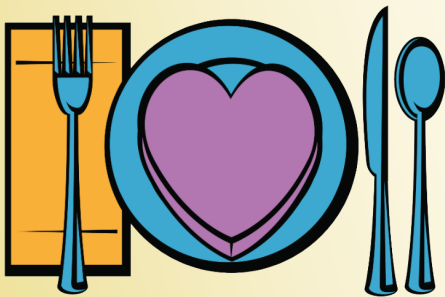
If you'd like to sing/play at a Sunday morning 8:30 indoor worship or a Monday night worship service at Marysville country church, contact Mike Walsh or Sherilyn Burgdorf.

If you know of someone else at Zion who would like to contribute some music during the summer, please invite them.

President's Message

Christ in Our Home

The new issue of the quarterly devotional "Christ In Our Home" for July/August/September will be available at the information desk the last week of June. 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.



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.

Call Committee Update

BY CHUCK ZUMBUSCH

I am happy to officially announce the Council has selected the members of the Call Committee for the Associate Pastor. I want to personally thank and recognize the congregants who have volunteered to be part of this important next step for Zion. The members are a good mix of individuals, with varied backgrounds, and are eager to initiate the call. Zion's constitution outlines the parameters for our Call Committees. We will have seven voting members and two alternates serving on the Call



Committee. Voting members will attend each meeting of the Call Committee. Those who are listed as "alternates" serve an important role and will have the opportunity to attend every meeting but will not have a vote [**unless a voting member leaves the committee, then the alternates will be given a vote*]. The group decided at the first meeting in May for the alternates to have a voice at the meetings, which is great to allow everyone to have their thoughts heard. Voting members include, Paula Herda (Co Chair), Brandon Prell (Co Chair), Taryn Bullert (Communicator), Heidi Gallert (Devotions Leader), Eric Mattson (Past Chair), Dusty Finke and Chad & Laura Peterson (sharing one vote). Alternates are Diane Paulu, and Jennifer Forsberg. Please join me in welcoming them to the committee and thanking them for their commitment of time, energy and perspective as they search for an Associate Pastor who will share in our mission at Zion. The group held their initial meeting on May 10th with Associate Bishop Pastor John Hulden, who provided an overview of the process, rules of confidentiality and answered questions from the committee members.

There are many steps in the process and I will highlight some of the upcoming near-term actions. The committee will update the Ministry Site Profile, a.k.a. Zion's resume, with key information about our church, community and ministries. Once final, this document will be provided to the Synod, who will help identify candidates seeking a call or pastors that would be a good fit for Zion. If you have any candidates to recommend, please send those names and their current church to Taryn at callcommittee@zionbuffalo.org for consideration, with assistance from Synod. Upon receiving a list and reviewing interested candidates, interviews will be scheduled and the selection process will begin.

I am sure you are thinking about how long the call process might take and while there isn't a firm schedule, trust the committee is working diligently to complete their work. They will provide periodic updates to keep us all apprised of their progress. Please join me in thanking and keeping each of the Call Committee members in your prayers as they continue in this endeavor.

Yours in Christ, Chuck



April 30th was a Sunday to celebrate!

Giving thanks to God for the work of our Sr. Pastor Call Committee, Zion welcomed Pastor John Hulden, Assistant to the Bishop in the Minneapolis Area Synod to preach the sermon and install our Senior Pastor. It was a day of celebrating a long-awaited new chapter in the life of our congregation.

The fourth Sunday in Easter is always Good Shepherd Sunday. It couldn't have been a better day for an Installation! Every year, the same Gospel text is read from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. We are reminded that Jesus is the true shepherd. We are encouraged to listen for His voice. We celebrated our Good Shepherd and prayed that we would be faithful in listening to Jesus' voice in our lives. We also baptized three new "sheep" into the fold.

Pr. Hulden had some fun with the text and our Pastor Bahe's (Baaa) last name, having us laughing in the aisles as he had Pastor Bahe "call" to the kids "here, sheepy, sheepy..." to demonstrate that they would follow her as the 'pretty good' shepherd. He went on to say that Jesus is THE Good Shepherd, and pastors are called to be shepherds of the 'flock' God has given them to lead.



We celebrated the work of the Call Committee: Eric Mattson [Chair], Phyllis Bengtson, Taryn Bullert, Dominic DesMarais, Jennifer Gustafson, Joan Halderson, Paula Herda, Andy Kohls, Josie LaFave, Hannah Peterson, Tyler Peterson.

We prayed together, made promises to support our pastor, pray for her and honor her leadership for the sake of the Gospel. She promised to pray for us, lead us, and guide us. Then, it was time to celebrate and rejoice!



A word of Thanks from Pastor Bahe:

It is an honor, to be called and installed to serve as your Sr. Pastor. I ask that you keep me in your prayers, that you come to me if you have a concern or something you are excited about doing—and that you lean with me—into God's amazing future.

Thank you to all who helped make Installation Day such a wonderful celebration. Thank you, Zion—for your presence, the prayers, cards, good wishes, and warm welcome. Thank you—Sr. Choir and Youth and Family Worship Team for such amazing music! Thank you to all who worked to make the reception so beautiful and such a wonderful celebration. Thanks for the flowers, the cake, and everything you did to make the day so special.

My husband, Brad and I—along with our son James—thank you for your warm welcome. Brad and I are so excited to be a part of the Buffalo community and most especially, to be a part of the Zion family.

I believe strongly in the Call process and the way that God works in bringing pastor and congregation together and I am looking forward to our continued partnership as we serve together, for the sake of God's so loved world!



Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Sunday School

By KRISTIN LOTTHAMMER

And that's a wrap!

What an ABSOLUTELY AWESOME Sunday School year we had!

We are Zion KiDS- Where we Know God's Love, Invite Others, Do Like Jesus, and Strengthen Families.

We had fun, made friends, and grew closer to God. Kids learned they are disciples and can go and do like Jesus every day. We love you God! Thank you, God, for being my best friend.





Take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you will go.

Calling the Graduating Class of 2023!

Your Zion family is so very proud of you and wants to help you celebrate this incredible milestone in your life. Join us; Sunday, June 4th, during the 10:30 worship service, as we honor where you've been and anticipate the places you'll go. God has a plan for your life and every milestone deserves notice. This is a big one! Enjoy a worship service dedicated to you, an uplifting message, a gift from your church family and celebratory treats and fellowship after the service. Email us at DYM@zionbuffalo.org with any questions. Check your email for a link to fill out and let us know you're coming! Feel free to invite friends and family, we'd love to fill the pews with the Class of 2023's biggest cheerleaders!

God's richest blessings to you and yours,

HOLLY & TAMMY



Finance & Stewardship

Memorial Gifts Received

A gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of Ron Uter, from Jill & Eldon Kathman.

A gift to the Swedesburg Cemetery in memory of Ron Uter, from Thyra Russell.

Gifts to the Memorial Fund in memory of Roger Bremseth, from Howard & Lisa Sickie.

A gift to the General Fund in memory of Frank & Betty Pfeifer, from the Kent Pfeifer Family.

A gift to the music department in memory of Gayle Whitesell, from Jill & Eldon Kathman.

A gift to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Loved Ones, from Del Haag.

A gift to the AKCLI in memory of Yvonne Hagberg, from Jill M. Steele, Dianne L. Jones, Arlene Nelson, and Jim & Audrey Onstad.

A gift to the sound and hearing systems in memory of Monty Imsdahl, from the Imsdahl Family.

A gift to the Senior Choir and Joyful Ringers in memory of Rudy & Joyce Tokkesdal, from the Tokkesdal Family.

A gift to the Memorial Fund in memory of Clarence & Fern Bodin, from Alvin & Linda Bodin.

A gift to the Zion Foundation in memory of Loved Ones, from Del Haag.

A gift to the Zion Foundation in memory of Yvonne Hagberg, from Mark and Louise Minkler.

Financial Report

By JOHN LINDLIEF, FINANCE COMMITTEE

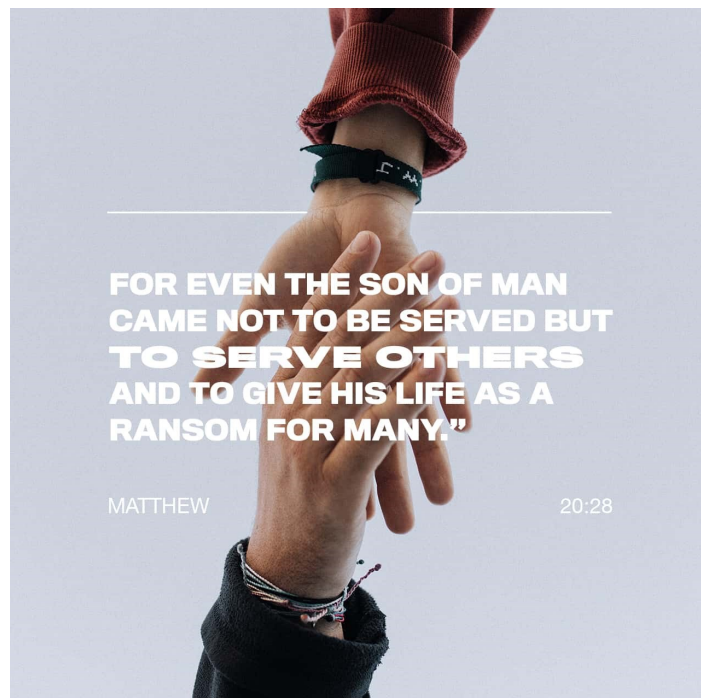
The Finance Committee would like to share the following information about Zion's finances as of the end of April 2023. Our General Fund income/offering for the month of April was about \$81,000 which is almost 3% lower than what was received in April of 2022. For the first four months of this year our average weekly income/offering is \$15,214 which is up about 1% over this time last year. Expenses for the General Fund for the year to date are up a little over 3% from those incurred in 2022.

As we look forward to the coming months, the biggest financial challenge we will be facing will be the addition of our second pastor. This will obviously enhance our ability to do ministry and add even more excitement to Zion's family, but we must remain aware of the financial responsibility that will occur when this happens.

The Building Fund income for the month of April is about 2.5% more than was received in April of last year. For the year to date, Building Fund income is running 5.75% more than last year at this time. This amounts to about \$3100 more than our mortgage expense.

We want to extend a sincere thank you to all who continue to make Zion alive through their financial support. We are so blessed that there are so many of you who make this a priority.

Zion's Finance Committee



ZionBuffalo.org/give

2023 Zion Annual Golf Outing

Golf to Support our Mission Partner "The School of Hope" in Zambia

We encourage golfers and non-golfers to contribute to this year's worthy mission project

Food Security Program for Youth

Our mission partner in Zambia, School of Hope, has embarked upon a new program of agricultural training for youth and young adults. This agricultural training program is approved by the government and includes the principles of "Foundations for Farming." The focus is training for youth to become effective small-scale farmers so that they can feed their families and also earn income to support their families. A volunteer from America is going to Zambia for one month to help set up their soil science laboratory, which is part of the program. The money raised this year during Zion's golfing fundraiser will go to help set up and equip this special lab for these students who are being given hope by the training they will be receiving at the School of Hope.



Monday, August 28, 2022

It is not too early to start practicing and getting your foursomes together for the annual Zion golf outing. This year's golf event will take place on Monday, August 28, 2023, at Albion Ridges Golf Course. The format will again be a Four- Person Team Scramble with a tee time shotgun start at 12:00 noon. Registration will be open at 10:30 am. The cost per golfer is \$80 which includes golf with a cart and a bag lunch. Beginning on July 9, 2023, you can register and pay online with a credit card at ZionBuffalo.org/golf. You will also be able to pay at the event with cash/check only or drop by church with your payment. If you don't have a full team we will get you paired up with others. Signups close Thursday August 24th.

How Can You Help If You Are Not a Golfer?

If you don't golf, you are encouraged to help in other ways. If you would like to join us at the golf course, we can use some help with registration and with some of the side games that the golfers participate in. You can donate some prizes (gift cards to a local business are good or a silent auction item). We are always looking for sponsors to help with our costs or giving a financial gift to help support our goal. If you can help or if you have any questions please call or chat with Steve Peterson at 612-819-7783.

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."

For more information, call
763.682.1245

Births

May 4

Erin Clarice Duske, daughter of
Taylor & Adam Duske

Baptisms

April 23

Isla Joy Beneke

April 30

Ada Mae Grean
Freyja Ruth Rogalski
Benjamin Nicholas Schouviller

Funerals

May 8

Yvonne Hagberg

June 2023

Thursday June 1

9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends
11:00am Meals on Wheels

Friday June 2

11:00am Meals on Wheels

Saturday June 3

Sunday June 4

Holy Communion at all worship services
8:30am Traditional Worship Service
9:30am Executive Committee
Coffee Fellowship
10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship
Senior Celebration Sunday

Monday June 5

11:00am Meals on Wheels
6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal
6:30pm wRight Ringers Rehearsal

Tuesday June 6

9:15am Storytime with Jesus
11:00am Meals on Wheels
Staff Meeting
4:00pm Fare for All

Wednesday June 7

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study
11:00am Meals on Wheels
3:00pm Blessing Closet Diaper Distribution

Thursday June 8

8:00am Newsletter Deadline
9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends
11:00am Meals on Wheels

Friday June 9

11:00am Meals on Wheels

Saturday June 10

Sunday June 11

8:30am Traditional Worship Service
9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship
11:30am Baptism Class

Monday June 12

9:00am Women's Ministry Committee
Stellar VBS
11:00am Meals on Wheels
6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal
6:30pm wRight Ringers Rehearsal

Tuesday June 13

Newsletter Proofreading
Stellar VBS
10:00am Maintenance Department Meeting
11:00am CYF Ministries Meeting
Meals on Wheels
5:30pm Youth Board Meeting
6:00pm Outreach Committee
7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday June 14

Stellar VBS
7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study
11:00am Meals on Wheels
7:00pm Harvest of Hands Crafts

Thursday June 15

Stellar VBS
9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends
11:00am Meals on Wheels

Friday June 16

Stellar VBS
11:00am Meals on Wheels

Saturday June 17

Sunday June 18

Father's Day
Holy Communion at all worship services
8:30am Traditional Worship Service
9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

Monday June 19

11:00am Meals on Wheels
6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal

Tuesday June 20

11:00am Meals on Wheels
Staff Meeting
1:30pm Women's Ministry Bible Study
5:30pm Stewardship Committee

7:00pm Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday June 21

7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study
11:00am Meals on Wheels
7:00pm Church Council Meeting

Thursday June 22

9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends
11:00am Meals on Wheels

Friday June 23

11:00am Meals on Wheels

Saturday June 24

Sunday June 25

8:30am Traditional Worship Service
9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:30am Outdoor/Drive-In Worship

Monday June 26

11:00am Meals on Wheels
6:00pm First Sunday Rehearsal

Tuesday June 27

10:00am Maintenance Department Meeting
11:00am CYF Ministries Meeting
Meals on Wheels

Wednesday June 28


7:00am 50+ Men's Bible Study
11:00am Meals on Wheels
7:00pm Harvest of Hands Crafts

Thursday June 29

9:30am Buffalo Area Dementia Friends
11:00am Meals on Wheels
1:00pm Blessing Closet Sorting

Friday June 30

11:00am Meals on Wheels

The background of the poster is a vibrant cosmic scene. The top half features a deep purple and blue nebula with scattered white stars. The bottom half shows a detailed, cratered surface of the moon or a planet, with a bright horizon line separating it from the starry sky above. A large, metallic, oval-shaped frame is centered in the upper half, containing the title and subtitle.

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

Wednesday Morning Workers

BY DIRK FOSTER AND BOB QUADY

Zion's Wednesday morning workers have been meeting for about three years. Just as the name implies, every Wednesday morning in the spring and fall, the group gets together to do whatever jobs are needed around Zion and Zion's properties. Bob Quady organizes the projects and lets everyone know where to meet and what tools might be needed for any given week. Past projects have included cutting trees at the Zion cemetery, clearing old equipment from the woods, cutting and killing buckthorn, planting trees near the amphitheater, and burning the prairie east of the church. The group helped out extensively during the Sanctuary remodeling project by removing pews, installing pew seats, and reinstalling the pews. Below is a picture of the group from Wednesday, May 3, having donuts, water and a little fellowship following spring clean up at Zion cemetery. If you would like to get on the email list and help, please contact the church office to get connected.



Harvest of Hands

BY JOY ARENS

Though the grass is getting greener, and the dandelions are growing taller every day and summer is just around the corner, Harvest of Hands is looking toward its November 4th Christmas Market event and planning for it.

Does your family have a very favorite Christmas cookie? And are you willing to share the recipe? Harvest of Hands is thinking of compiling a small collection of special recipes into a "ZION Families Favorite Christmas Cookies" booklet. Each recipe would have the donating family name mentioned. If someone passed the recipe along to you, they could also be mentioned - Grandma, Aunt, Friend. If two families offer the same type of recipe, they would both be mentioned. We would like to include our event favorites too - like sandbakkels, fudge, and crock pot candy, just to name a few favorites. If enough recipes are collected by a deadline date of August 1st, HofH will put them together for a mini-Christmas cookie book. With this booklet, you would no longer have to search the internet for Christmas baking because all the favorite recipes will be right in your cupboard waiting for you. If you have that special recipe, you can drop or send your recipes to Zion or email them to: Joy.arens@yahoo.com or nerothin@oal.com or rshessedal@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing what makes your Zion families taste buds happy.

The Harvest of Hands group continues to meet bi-monthly to create crafts in anticipation of the annual sale on November 4. We will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month - June 14 and 28. Our group meets in the Wilderness Room at 7 PM on Wednesday's.

We are currently working on alcohol ink projects.

All are welcome at our 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.

We would like to encourage you to join one of our craft sessions for fun, fellowship, and to help eradicate the world of hunger, one craft at a time.



Ukrainian Families Adjusting Well

By DAVE WRIGHT

Thanks to Zion members and the surrounding community for the tremendous support you have given to the Ukrainian families that have been displaced by the war. Over \$15,000 has been collected from individuals, Zion Foundation, St. Francis Xavier, Rotary, Thrivent, and the Easter Egg fundraiser.

Viktoria, the young woman who we had intended to sponsor, has elected to stay in Ukraine. Her boyfriend, who she thought had died in the war, was seen in a POW camp, and was recently released in a prisoner swap. We are thrilled for Viktoria and this turn of events.

Yevhen and Katya, the couple who visited Zion, are doing well. They and Katya's mother, Natella, live in Minnetonka where Yevhen has a job with Cargill. Katya and Natella continue to work on classes in English and certifications in their medical fields.

Dmytro and Alina Bushkin and their two children rent a house in Coon Rapids where Dmytro has also found employment. Dmytro's mother, Halyna, has completed cancer treatments but is waiting further tests to determine the next steps.

A third family—Alexander, Christina, and their daughter Varya, who is 6 months old, fled Ukraine and went to Germany. They recently arrived in the U.S. and are living with the Bushkins until they can find an apartment of their own. Alexander is a hairdresser and Christina was an international banker.

Although we are not the official sponsors for any of these displaced families, we have been offering support on an as-needed basis. Financial distributions have been approved by Zion's Ukrainian Family Support Group. We have reimbursed travel expenses for Dmytro's mother, occasionally assisted with utilities and rent, covered necessary out-of-pocket expenses, coordinated food assistance through the food shelf and local contributions, and are in the process of finding and delivering appliances and furniture that have been requested.

All of these families are grateful for the help they are receiving but are eager to become self-sufficient. Thank you again for your ongoing prayers and support.



SERVE Weekend

By KIM HAGGEN

Thank you to all those who took part in SERVE Weekend 2023. What a happy and productive weekend. It was delightful to see your smiling faces as we served together. We successfully met each of the goals that we set for serving this year. Here are a few examples:

- 20 teens fed -Timber Bay Meal
- 18 Kits completed and more started- Days for Girls
- 651 Thank you cards written for school staff
- 13 Fleece blankets for Camp Noah
- 13 Fleece blankets for The Blessing Closet
- 100 Care Kits for LWR
- 5 Ushers supporting Buffalo Community Theater
- 284 people fed- community breakfast
- 50 birthday Bags- Buffalo Food Shelf
- 105 bikes to area children in partnership with Allina
- Mulch around worship platform and trees- Zion
- Donations to Flower Subscription/Sign ups to arrange flowers with seniors at The Glenn
- Bingo at Lakeridge Care Center
- Ring & Sing at Parkview Care Center
- 20 cat mats for donation- Crossroads Animal Shelter
- 6 sign-ups for Be The Match
- 8920 items of clothing donated through The Blessing Closet
- 319 people served through the mobile food pantry
- Set up, take down, clean up and more
- 500 completed service hours!

(Continued from page 2)

WOW. Thanks be to God.

A Zion staff member was recently visiting a family member in the nursing home when the nurse came into the room, singing a bit under her breath. "I have to tell you, you have a beautiful voice, do you sing professionally as well as working here?" Nurse responds: "No, I used to sing at church, but quit going after Covid and haven't gotten back into the habit." "Yeah, I think that is true for lots of people." I'm kind of thinking about joining that big church by the golf course. "You mean Zion?" Yes, that's it. I've heard good things are happening there. Do you know anything about it? "Well...as a matter of fact, I do! I work there." By the end of the conversation, another person is excited about walking through our doors to experience welcome, Jesus, and seeing many lives being made new through Christ! Maybe she will even be singing with our choir or one of our worship teams some day?

One Sunday morning, not too long ago---three little ones were being held by their parents at the baptismal font. We welcomed them in. We prayed for and made promises with them and their parents. Too often, I have baptized children and not seen their parents again until Sunday School or sometimes---ever. I get it. Life is busy. Especially with little ones. But guess what? All three of these families have been in worship since that day of baptism. I think that is because they experience something being made new at Zion. I also think it is because you are genuinely welcoming to children.

Now, just because something is being made new, doesn't mean the old was bad, wrong, or no longer valid. In fact, my experience has been that God never throws away the old. He transforms it. Who we were yesterday is of significant importance to God; after all, He knew each of us in our mother's womb. That goes for us as a collective as well. He knew Zion before we were Zion. He takes all that we are and all that we are going to be and makes us new and alive in each new day.

A grieving family is offered the option of having their loved one's service live streamed. "Oh, you would do that for us?" "Of course, anything we can do." Tears of grateful relief begin. "That means his dad can see the service. Thank you." A few years ago, Zion would not have even contemplated live streaming a funeral service and now it is another way of reaching out and sharing Jesus' hope and promises at a very difficult time in a parent's life. That is God making us new.

My guess is, it wouldn't take you long to think of the ways you have seen God at work in your life and in our collective life at Zion. God will continue to transform our community with the addition of an associate pastor, as well as with the addition of new members, new visitors, and renewed members coming home. What an amazing gift God's continual investment in us is.

It is a privilege to invest my own time, money, energy, and faith into this place with you. God is making us new, and God is sustaining our history and encouraging our future. Thank you for the ways you invest in this community too. Together, we partner with God and with each other to bring the new life of community, welcome, forgiveness, strength, laughter, love, and acceptance into everyday lives, in the name of the Risen Lord. That in and of itself is renewing, refreshing—that is co-creating with the Creator of all that is, seen and unseen! What a hope-filled, joyful mission we are on together. Thanks be to our continually renewing God who makes us see and experience His great love anew, every single day. May we always be faithful in helping others experience that newness in their lives as well. May we always be faithful in lifting up what is possible for all people, because of the new life we have in Jesus!

PASTOR BAHE

Narthex Refresh

As part of Zion's mission to help people experience the JOY of Christ by Celebrating on Sundays, Living God's Call and Connecting with Care, Zion's Council and Pastor Bahe created a new task force in the fall of 2022 called Refresh to Welcome. The overall goal of the task force is to create more updated and welcoming spaces throughout the building.

Because we want to create a joyful, welcoming experience as soon as you walk in the doors, the task force focused the first phase of their efforts on the Narthex. We are excited to announce that this first phase has been completed. And, we are especially proud to be able to say the bulk of the work and décor was done by local companies.

Work was completed over the course of several months and the updated Narthex debuted on Easter Sunday. If you haven't seen it yet, you are in for a treat. Zion's guests are now greeted with a huge *Welcome* sign as they pass through the front entrance that was designed by Choice Signs & Graphics. The narthex was painted with a more modern color scheme by Fresh Coat Paint of Buffalo. Furniture was updated to provide comfortable conversational sitting areas. And, one of the most popular additions has been the new Coffee Bar which was custom built by J.G. Woodworking of Buffalo. High-top tables throughout the space provide additional areas to gather and enjoy your coffee and conversations.

A special thank you goes out to the Zion Foundation which provided a grant to help cover the cost of some of this first phase. We hope you'll come visit soon and enjoy these new welcoming spaces as much as we do. If you'd like to contribute to future phases of the Refresh to Welcome Task Force's efforts to create modern, welcoming spaces in the building, please consider giving additional offering in support. Just record "Refresh to Welcome" on your gift.

God Bless,

MELISSA GALVIN, FACILITY COORDINATOR



Blessing Closet

Thank You for your support and volunteering at the Blessing Closet, mobile Food Pantry, Community Breakfast, and Bike Giveaway by setting up, sorting, and distributing. We had a very effective and gratifying distribution totaling \$15,275 of product value given away as just a portion of SERVE WEEKEND.

BLESSING CLOSET

Families = 133 Kids=274 Items=8,920
Cities=38
Product Value=\$6,000

BIKES & HELMETS FOR KIDS

Bikes = 105
Product Value=\$2,625

FOOD PANTRY

Families = 136 Kids=224 Adults=319
Birthday Bags=50
Product Value=\$5,230

Community Breakfast

People Served=284
Product Value=\$1,420

Blessings to all of you,

ROGER AND SANDY BRENNY



New Roles, New Adventures, and Many, Many Thanks

BY PASTOR BAHE

For 16 years, Angela Bengtson has served as Zion's Communications Coordinator. In that time, she has led Zion into a new era of communication mission, vision, and implementation. Angela has not only been key in sharing Zion's mission, but she is also seen as a leader in church communications circles throughout our Synod and beyond. Her development of Zion's newsletter was often lifted up as the example of "how to do a newsletter well". Of course, her work went well beyond the newsletter. She fostered Zion into a new age of social media presence with website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. She led the way in establishing communication guidelines and goals. All the while also serving as Zion's manager of the database and membership records. Now... before this gets to sounding too much like she is leaving her job at Zion, let us say: she is not leaving her work at Zion! She is, however, transitioning.

First: we owe her many, many, many thanks for the work she has so faithfully accomplished. This article won't do that justice but suffice it to say Zion has been served well by her skills, talents, gifts, commitment, and faithful love for Zion and our mission. We give thanks to God for all the ways Angela's work has helped Zion.

What sort of transition is going on? Angela is reducing the number of hours she will be working at Zion. Moving from an average of 30 hours a week to an average of 15 hours a week means that Angela will be giving up the communications portion of her job. That includes: newsletter, website, social media, slides, posters, graphics, our outdoor sign, and several other aspects which were a part of her job description as Coordinator of Communications. We can't thank her enough for all her work in this area. Being such a creative person, Zion has been blessed by her innovative work and creative eye. We give thanks to God for her and for her work!

What does this all mean? Angela will retain her work as the Coordinator of Database Management and Membership. The rest of the staff is grateful for this because Angela is the staff person who is always at the ready to help the rest of us figure out our robust database system. She is also the person who will help you navigate our F1 mobile app and maintain current info so that we can stay in touch with you [by the way...please remember to keep us updated when you change address, phone, etc.]. Angela is the person who keeps the prayer list, Holy Communion, confirmation, wedding, Holy Baptism, and funeral records up to date. Our database management system is capable of way more than we've been able to utilize it for, so we are excited that Angela's job will now allow her to focus on helping all of us utilize that resource to the fullest.

What next? Obviously, the communications work of a congregation is never ending. During this interim time, as the Zion Personnel Team works on hiring an interim communications coordinator*, several of our current staff members have been asked to take on additional tasks.

(Continued on page 17)

We know you will be patient and understanding as they stretch themselves even further. Your staff has been very willing to do what it takes to keep you informed and engaged with our ministries, and Angela has been working to make this a very smooth transition.

In the interim:

- Holly Husom is responsible for bulletin and worship graphics, and social media.
- Kim Hagen is responsible for the newsletter.
- Melissa Galvin is responsible for some of the website work.
- Tammy Zumbusch is responsible for outreach through our electronic sign.

All of them are doing this additional work along with their current duties. We are working as fast as is prudent to move these additional tasks off their plates.

You will see changes in each of these communication areas:

- 1/ because we bring our own gifts to each task,
- 2/ because these staff members are not allotted the same number of hours or amount of focus on these tasks as someone solely in the position can be afforded,
- 3/ they are juggling their current workload to attend to the immediate needs we have in the interim, but they are first responsible for their ministries to which they were hired,
- 4/ therefore by necessity, they cannot and will not be expected to maintain everything as it has always been.

*If you or someone you know might be a great fit to serve as Zion's interim Coordinator of Communications, please let us know by emailing office@zionbuffalo.org or pastorbahe@zionbuffalo.org. This is an interim-part-time position, with flexibility on when the hours are worked and could possibly be done remotely.

*We are also in need of people who are willing to take photos of Zion events and send them to office@zionbuffalo.org so if you have some good Zion photos on your phone or find yourself at one of our many events--take a few photos and send them our way!



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
June 29 at 8am for mid-July issue
Send submissions to
Communications@ZionBuffalo.org

Church Office

Zion Lutheran Church
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Jill Davis: Worship Assistant

Sherilyn Burgdorf: Worship Coordinator
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Melissa Galvin: Facility Coordinator
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Lyle Jans : Custodian

Michael Walsh: Director of Music

Bob Strommen: AV Coordinator

Jenny Pecarina Kids' Place Director

Lora Nichols Wednesday Supper Coord.
Lora@ZionBuffalo.org

Congregational Council

Jim Bischoff
Cheryl Bohnen
Joan Halderson
Amy Intrieri
Andy Kohls
Josie LaFave

Mary Mahlberg
Ashley Mattson
Deb Rude
Dale Schmidt
Tamara Wuollet
Chuck Zumbusch



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Our dashing servers for the
Zion Women's brunch with
their guide, Nancy Johnson.