



In This Issue

- From The Corner
- The Present Moment
- Mission Planning Update
- Council Updates
- Reformation 2017
- August Calendar
- Fall Music Schedule
- Youth Gathering 2018
- Lambo Update
- Outreach News

You're Invited! 2nd Annual Celebration of Ministries New This Year: Outdoor Worship! Sunday, August 27 | Celebration Farms



Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Celebration of Ministries on Sunday, August 27th, 2017. We will gather at The Celebration Farm to worship, eat and celebrate all the Zion Lutheran Ministries. This event is a chance for our members to gather and recognize all the wonderful things happening at Zion. All are welcome, members are encouraged to bring a friend to join in the celebration!

Worship will begin at 10:00 am at the Celebration Farm Amphitheater. Following worship, we will gather in the Double Round Barn for a meal and time to recognize the various Zion Ministries. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear about the various ways you have contributed to Zion's mission and how you can be more involved. After lunch, we will head to the Timber Frame Barn for various fun family activities. Games, crafts and dessert included!

New this year, we are having a silent auction of "Talents and Services" and "Live Pie Auction" in the Timber Frame Barn following lunch. All auction proceeds will support our youth attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. The "Silent Talent and Service Auction" will feature service packages donated by Zion members. Some examples might include: babysitting services, an hour of time teaching a new skill, yardwork services, helping a member in need of transportation. The "Live Pie Auction" will include homemade delights donated by the wonderful bakers of Zion.

To donate to the auction of "Talents and Services," please contact Maggie DeZeeuw at dezeeuwmaggie@gmail.com or 641-691-3503 by Sunday, August 13th. The options for donations are endless. Take a minute to reflect on your passions and gifts – be creative!

To donate a pie to the "Live Pie Auction", please contact [Maggie Atkinson](#) or sign-up [online](#) by Sunday, August 13th.

Plan on joining us for this fun-filled event. RSVP by calling the office at 319-338-0944 or email Jennifer@zionlutheran-ic.org. Check out the Celebration of Ministries page on the Zion [website](#) for more information and ways you can participate in the event.

From the Corner

Four Times

*There's an opportune time to do things,
a right time for everything on earth. (Ecc. 3:1, The Message)*

I

Sitting in the shade with a cold, iced tea in hand, the fragrance of fresh mown grass, watching the sun set over the neighbor's canopied beans, let's *time* flow like a lazy river. However, it's moments like this that frustrate the children: "Come on; let's do something." Regardless of one's perspective this *time* is CHRONOLOGICAL (time ticking by with the second hand) from the Greek χρόνος (chrónos). Considering *time* during the summer helps us wonder some about *time*: might seem like we have plenty or maybe not nearly enough.

II

BEGINNINGS are a mark of *time*. The starter's pistol may not be near when we take life's first breath though our first breath begins our breathed existence. So too with relationships, jobs, academics and callings: each has a beginning. First day of class, first day on the job or at any starting line comes awareness of the moment – butterflies stir within us: we are about to launch.

III

ENDINGS also mark *time*. Culminating moments are when we finish: the race is ended; the assignment is completed; the job is accomplished; a calling is fulfilled. Yet too, the ending may be an interruption: quit the race; accept a different assignment; drop the class or take an incomplete; leave the job; resign the calling.

IV

These days Zion is attending to what could be named the 4th *time*. This is not to diminish this *time* but too amplify and celebrate the 4th *time*. This *time* is the KAIROS (Χαίρος). Kairos is a critical *time* when beginnings and endings converge. The kairos is the *time* when the ticking clock (the chronology) seems to stop to make way for this kairotic moment prior to a new launch. The kairos is cognizant of what has come before while being focused on what is now. Many suppose the kairos is a future tense and while the kairos does shape what will come, the kairos is a *time* fuel for the next launch.

Zion

Zion is a mission-minded congregation since Zion's inception (1856 thru being established 1860) with 25 or more preaching points and various mission partners over time. Zion's leaders have consistently had their sights on *time*: sustaining momentum and occasionally naming the kairos. For such a *time* as this President Randy Willman and the Zion Council are leading in this important kairotic work.

Psalm 103:1



This Present Moment

This summer as you walk into the nave, some movement in the front of the church may catch your eye. To the right of the pulpit hangs a large mobile of paper doves suspended from the ceiling. Cascading downward in a spiral, each dove turns on the end of its string as it is blown by the fans. These doves first appeared in our sanctuary on the festival of Pentecost and now accompany us as we move towards the fall.

From where I sit in the chancel, they form an interesting backdrop during worship. While someone reads or proclaims the Word, or offers the prayers, there are the doves, symbolizing the Holy Spirit, waving behind them, watching over them in a protective way. Standing in the pulpit, I imagine them as a sentry to my left ensuring that I don't veer too far afield in my sermons. As people on the organ side of the church return to their pews after receiving communion, I wonder how they encounter the doves. Do they see these figures floating above their heads and wonder if the Holy Spirit has come upon them in their Baptism as it did upon Jesus? As low as some of the doves hang, they practically are at head height for many worshipers. Could the Holy Spirit whisper something to them as they pass by the doves?

I find it quite comforting to have this symbol in our midst. It is a good reminder to me that as we seek to be God's people and live out our faith, the Holy Spirit always hovers close by. Our theology teaches us that the Holy Spirit helps us understand God's word, that it strengthens us through the body and blood of Christ, and that, in our prayers, it intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. We know that we do not travel alone on this journey of faith. The Holy Spirit accompanies us as the people of Zion.

This reassurance is timely as we move through this season of change in our congregation with our strategic plan and Pastor Pries' upcoming retirement. The Holy Spirit is guiding us each step of the way as we begin to live into our mission plan this fall and make changes to enhance the life of our community. Just as the Spirit has guided Zion under Pastor Pries' care and leadership over these last ten years, so the Spirit will lead us in these months ahead as we enter this time of transition. The doves in the front of our sanctuary can serve as a good reminder of this. We are being led. We will be given wisdom and discernment. The Holy Spirit does hover close by and is guiding us on the path ahead.

-Pastor Lutz

Congregational Happenings

Message from Council

Randy Willman, Council President

During the summer months, your Council has been heavily involved in Zion's Missional planning process being led by Dr. Brown for Kairos. Please take the time to review Dr. Brown's update report included in this publication.

After Pastor Pries' retirement announcement, some of you have approached me about whether a Transitions team is being put in place to help lead Zion and Council through Pastor Pries' retirement, selection of an Interim Pastor, and establishment of a Call Committee. The answer is "no" at this point. Pastor Pries is our Senior Pastor until his retirement date in late November. Bishop Burk meets with your Council September 12 to outline the process for selection of an Interim Pastor and Call Committee. I will then update the congregation with the advice and direction given by Bishop Burk and Synod staff about these important steps in the life of Zion. And, in my view, you have a very dedicated group of Council members serving as your Transitions team at present.

Council would like to thank all involved in a very successful VBS week. Your church staff has also been heavily involved in the planning of adult VBS to occur in early August, as well as the Celebration of Ministries event to be held August 27, 2017 at Celebration Farm. Please attend the Celebration! It was a great event last year and will only get better this year! Enjoy your summer!

Message from the Treasurer

Ed Scheetz, Treasurer

Our mid-year income is tracking as planned. Expenses are a little high due to the large projects already completed. Shannon is working on the mid-year contribution statements using our new software called REALM.

	Jun-17	YTD 2017	% BUDGET
Income	83,170	535,009	51%
Expense	103,888	565,327	54%
	Jun-16	YTD 2016	% BUDGET
Income	81,134	773,431	79%
Expense	108,429	758,719	76%
16' wo/LOC+SWA			
Income	81,134	508,431	52%
Expense	108,429	493,719	49%

Membership Updates

August Birthdays

Maxine Ruppert (8/2), Joan Luhman (8/12), Eugene Hanson (8/17), Howard Field (8/22), Phyllis Cunningham (8/23), Helen Kottman (8/27), Lloyd Baumgartner (8/30)

Baptisms

Adley, daughter of Aaron and Signe Coombs (7/2)

Alexandra Mae, daughter of Jerry and Amy LaGrange (7/29)

June Tai, daughter of Wallace and Lucy Tai (7/29)

Lily Rantanen, daughter of Jason Rantanen and June Tai (7/29)

Olivia Rantanen, daughter of Jason Rantanen and June Tai (7/29)

Ian Bruce, son of Jason and Maggie Atkinson (7/30)

**Freed
& RENEWED
in Christ**
500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

**Martin Luther's
Quote of the
Month**

*"Of whom shall I be afraid?
One with God is a majority"*

Mission Planning Happenings



Zion Lutheran Church - Update on the Missional Planning Process by Kairos Consultant, Rev. J. Elise Brown July, 2017

In December, 2016, Zion Lutheran Church embarked on a Missional Planning process led by Kairos and Associates consultant Elise Brown. The congregation took a bold step forward in identifying this as a very significant time in the life of the congregation. The goals of the planning process were threefold:

- a. Assessment work on the current ministry functioning at Zion,
- b. Identify strength areas and gap areas the Council and staff might want to focus on in the near and long term,
- c. Create a ministry plan focused on the next 3-5 years.

These goals were placed within the frame of knowing there would be significant pastoral and staff leadership transitions within this timeframe. At the end of this report is a brief update on the Council's work with the Southeast Synod after Pastor Pries announced his upcoming retirement in November, 2017.

For the full update report, please visit our [website](#).

The following Ministry Plan, in two phases, was unanimously adopted by the Council on April 30, 2017 and shared with the congregation on June 4 and 7, 2017.

Ministry Plan - Phase One (2017-2019):

+We Worship (God) – Strengthen Worship

This strategic direction came out of the Listening Process as people shared their hopes that Zion could broaden its use of various musical forms in both liturgy and hymnody, as well as developing concrete ways to involve children and youth more actively in worship. Enlivening the use of the space and incorporating more artistic forms was suggested. Specific feedback was shared about ways to strengthen the experience of worship for the newcomer. It should be noted there is broad-based support for the rich liturgical traditions at Zion and the hope is the best of the worship experience, music and liturgical strength is retained and built upon.

+We Equip (people to lead) -Ministry Leadership

This strategic direction is meant to address both the staffing configuration at Zion and the functioning of the Ministry Team structure. Strengthening lay leadership and finding ways for lay leaders to be empowered alongside existing staff is a priority of this strategic direction. This area has been divided into two sub-teams, one focusing on staffing configuration and a second focusing on the organizational functioning of the Ministry Team structure.

+We Welcome (all people) - Newcomer welcome–

While many people find Zion to be a source of deep support and community for them, there was a consistent message heard throughout the Listening Process that Zion needs to strengthen its culture of hospitality and welcoming of newcomers. Once people “find their way in” to the ministry at Zion, they are welcomed and empowered in faith and service. But finding a way in can be challenging at Zion. This area is also looking at ways to strengthen visitor follow-up and working to get people incorporated meaningfully into the ministry so they don't disappear out the back door.

+We Embrace (children, youth and intergenerational families) –

Children, youth and intergenerational family ministry is a strong priority for a vast majority of people at Zion. The congregation is interested in supporting new models of youth and children's ministry that engage the entire family. Looking for ways to integrate families with other church members is a priority for this area, as well as working with the Worship Team to find ways to engage youth and children more meaningfully in worship. Concern was expressed about the low presence of youth and families at worship. This group agrees that ministry in the 21st century needs to be intergenerational throughout the entire ministry while acknowledging the continuing need to segment people at times by age. (Continued on the next page)

Mission Planning Happenings



Phase Two (Fall 2019-2021):

+We Give (generously) - Zion is a generous, giving congregation. The congregation is interested in strengthening this core priority even more, and this will be considered in the second phase of the Ministry Plan.

+We Grow (through strengthening our membership, learning and building community) – Zion members want to get to know each other, grow in their faith through diverse opportunities for faith formation and see the core congregation at Zion strengthened. People would like to see stronger attendance at the second service on Sunday and opportunities for the newcomer and existing member alike to actively find ways to grow in faith and service.

+We Serve (our community) -through responding to unmet needs (Community Engagement Panel findings). Zion has always been a serving congregation and wants to increase that engagement even more by strengthening Zion's visibility in the local community and being an active partner in serving unmet needs.

What's next?

Co-Chairs have been identified for each of the Phase One Strategic Directions, one staff member and one Council member. They are joined by additional members identified to help in each area. The team leaders and members include:

Worship God– Pastor Lutz (Staff) and Phyllis Chang (Council).

Additional members include: Janis Bultman, Rosalie Moninger, Pastor Lutz, Marv Robeck, Gretchen Cress, Diane Baumbach, Judy Sutherland, Marlys Boote, Phyllis Chang, Chris Harris, Michelle Wikner, Dave Adams, Melanie Sigafosse

Emails for leaders: jlutz@zionlutheran-ic.org, phyllischang1212@gmail.com

Equip Leaders– Two sub-teams have been identified within this area. Pastor Pries (Staff) and Randy Willman (Council) are resource people for both sub-teams.

Staffing and staff configuration led by Jim Lane and Diane Baumbach (Council)

Additional members: Curt Nedoba, Dave Harms, Jennifer Horn-Frasier

Ministry Team structure evaluation led by Gene Knutson and Sally Leme.

Additional members include: Jenni Stacy-Adams and Dan Elser

Emails for leaders: jimlane@yahoo.com, dbaumbach@me.com, gene@mchsi.com, sal_leme@hotmail.com.

Welcome All – Mary Merulla (Staff) and Katie Martin (Council)

Additional members include: Karen Rietz, Joan Wuest, Dan Tenity, Michelle Norman, Al Grundstad

Emails for leaders: mary@zionlutheran-ic.org, martinkatie928@gmail.com.

Embrace Children, Youth and Families – Maggie Atkinson (Staff) and Ken Fate (Council).

Additional members include:

Early Childhood Team: Johanna Tomlinson, Jen Scheivert, Amber Jackson-Elwer, Andrea Krupa, Erin Moore, Lana Tucker, Brigida Rex.

Youth & Family Team: Michelle Wikner, Leslie Veit, Jan Warren, John Elwer, Brian Gehlbach, Krista Johnson, Anne Wilmoth, Jill Tomek.

Emails for leaders: maggie@zionlutheran-ic.org, kendall.fate58@live.com

Mission Planning Happenings



Mission

Planning

The Team Leaders have had an initial meeting with Elise, but there is still time to participate if you would like to be included in one of the teams. Please email one of the leaders if you have input or are interested in serving.

As the Ministry Plan is developed and the strategic directions begin to “grow legs” and move into the ministry at Zion, we ask for your prayers and support for this process. We are also mindful that Pastor Pries will be retiring at the end of November, 2017. The Council is actively working with the Southeast Iowa Synod to help Zion identify an Interim Senior Pastor to begin this fall. Bishop Michael Burk is meeting with the Zion Church Council on September 12.

This Ministry Plan will inform both the work of the Interim Senior Pastor and the Call Committee who shape the Ministry Site Profile for Zion that will be used to identify the next Senior Pastor. These strategic directions and the Zion Ministry Plan will be significant resources for both processes.

I will be back in-person at Zion in early September. I look forward to seeing many of you then!

Blessings,
Elise

Congregational Happenings

Zion Commemorates the Reformation!

There are special events in September and October when Zion can give thanks and celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. On September 10 Zion members who have signed up for the "All-Zion Read" will receive their copy of *October 31, 1517: Martin Luther And The Day That Changed The World*. There will be a few weeks to read the book before we all gather together to discuss and share insight on this book by Martin Marty. There will be two opportunities for discussion: on Wednesday, October 11 and Sunday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

On Sunday, October 15, there will be an ecumenical worship at St. Mary's Church. This is being sponsored by Holy Trinity and Lutheran Student Campus Ministry.



Zion's big focus on the Reformation will take place Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22 when Martin and Katy Luther (Johan and Sonja Hinderlie) will visit Zion. On Saturday, we will gather for *Abendbrot*, a typical meal for Martin and Katy, and experience 'Table Talks', Luther's sayings around the dinner table at the Luther home. Holy Communion and "conversation of the saints" will be part of this time together.

On Sunday, October 22, Martin and Katy Luther (Johan and Sonja Hinderlie) will lead us in a very special worship. We will learn more of the 95 Theses, the Diet of Worms, the power of music in the Reformation and Katy will share her escape story from the convent. Since Luther loved congregational singing there will be lots of music. We may even hear from J.S. Bach and his connection with Luther!

These will be two wonderful and enriching days. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss this exciting commemoration of our Lutheran heritage.

New Member Class in September 2017

Interested in learning more about Zion membership and what that means? Come to the New Member class on Saturday, September 9 from 9am – Noon. New members will be received on Sunday, September 17 at the 10:45am worship service.

Class overview:

- Worship – Why we do what we do
- On Being Lutheran – Bible & Theology
- Stewardship – What does it mean to belong to the ministry of Zion
- Engagement – Opportunities to connect, serve & grow

Conclusion – What to expect at New Member

Please register for the class by contacting the office or [Mary Merulla](mailto:Mary.Merulla@zionlutheran.org) (319-338-0944).



Congregational Happenings

Rethinking the Welcoming Experience

– the fun and work continues

August will bring some welcome enhancements to the Parish Hall with the installation of cabinetry along the south wall (wall with drinking fountain, bulletin boards, and other displays).

- Items kept in other storage areas will be moved to these new cabinets, including Free Lunch Program groceries, tablecloths and paper products used for special events, and programming materials for one of the AA groups that we host.
 - The space currently used for storing AA materials will be opened up bringing Zion into compliance with certain Code requirements.
 - The extra tables and chairs stored in the Parish Hall will be moved to the storage area currently utilized by the Free Lunch Program and kitchen supplies.
 - New chair caddies will hold up to 24 chairs and can be easily moved to storage on the lower level.
 - The bulletin boards, pictures, and drinking fountain will be relocated in the coming months but may be unavailable for a short period of time.
- Results....a clean, uncluttered, more usable & welcoming space!

What's next?

- An energy efficient, accessible drinking fountain and bottle filling station.
- Reimagined and dedicated space in the Parish Hall to highlight ministries, people, Lambo
- Welcome & hospitality hub – an intentional and visual affirmation of our desire to engage and connect with members, newcomers, and guests.
- Painting and replacing hardware where needed – for example, replacing old brass handles and kickplates on one side of a door to match the brushed nickel and paint on the other side of the door.
- New ways of displaying communications pieces and art displays

Look for updates and more news here.

Contact [Mary Merulla](#) (319-338-0944) with questions/comments.

New Chapel taking Shape

Room 7 is under transformation! Artists from the Center for Liturgical Art in Seward, Nebraska have completed



the mural on the curved wall that serves as the focus of the chapel. They also delivered the altar with its curved design that forms a single piece with the mural. The storage space has been constructed and walls have been newly painted. In the next weeks, we look forward to the installation of carpet and accordion doors for the storage space. The team will also be working on seating and other details. By the beginning of the fall schedule, we hope to introduce you to this new sacred space. A special thanks to those who have contributed to the chapel and to Linda Barrow who has offered her exper-

tise and hours of labor to this project. Members of the Chapel team include: Louise Kruse, Judith Sutherland, Barbara Gamb, David Gosse, Pam Cantrell, Linda Barrow, Andrea Kout, and Pastor Lutz

Worship Happenings

Worship Highlights for August 2017

9th Sunday after Pentecost – August 6

- Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sunday 8:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

10th Sunday after Pentecost – August 13

- Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sunday 8:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
- Back to School Blessing

11th Sunday after Pentecost – August 20

- Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sunday 8:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
- 8:15 Worship – Blessing of Confirmation Candidates
- 8:15 Worship – Ministry Milestone: 7th Graders Receive Bibles

12th Sunday after Pentecost – August 27

- No Saturday 5:15 p.m. Worship this Week
- Celebration of Ministries at Celebration Farm
- Worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by Lunch, Games & Pie Auction

Worship Happenings

Start Making Plans for Fall Music! Is This Your Year to Sing or Play?

Zion's music programs will be starting in August!
Make plans to be part of this important ministry.
There are choirs for every age, and there is one for you! Check out what's new below:

New Opportunities for Singers!

Choirs for children and teens are changing! In trying to make the choirs more age appropriate for our growing young people please check out the following changes:

Cherub Choir will have its first practice Wednesday, September 6. This is a new beginning choir program for children in kindergarten and first grade. Cherubs will meet weekly at 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Junior Choir's first rehearsal will be **Wednesday, September 6** from 6:00–6:45 p.m. This choir is for children in grades 2-6.

Youth Choir will include singers in grades 7-12. They will practice on Sunday mornings near the end of Sunday School. They will start rehearsals on **Sunday, September 3**, at 9:30 a.m.. (This time will be for Sept. 3 only. Regular 10:15 a.m. rehearsals will start September 10).

The above choirs are not new, just the ages for each group have changed. We look forward to welcoming Zion's children and youth into our musical stewardship!

Senior Choir rehearsals will start on **Thursday, August 31**, at 6:30 p.m.

Zion Bell Choir will have their first rehearsal on **Tuesday, September 5** at 6:30 p.m.

Zion Brass will practice **Thursday, September 14** at 8:00 p.m.

The Celebration of Ministries Choir (Also known as the "Come As You Are Choir"!)

Here is another chance for Zion members of all ages to join together and sing for our Celebration of Ministries event on August 27 at the Celebration Barn. We will have one rehearsal on **Sunday, August 20, at 9:15 a.m.** up in the choir room. The anthem will be easy, fun and one you already know! Come join in this limited appearance of the famed "Come As You Are Choir"!

Early Calendar Memo!

Before your calendars fill up please mark the date on your calendar for Zion's 2017 *Festival of Lessons and Carols*. The date is **December 3 at 4:00 p.m.** It is important to reserve this date and get a head start on scheduling all those December activities! Many of Zion's children and adults are involved in this festival service.

AUGUST 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30a Men's Bible Study 6:00p Mental Health Team 7:00p Global Missions Team 7:00p Flute Choir	2 8:30a Shalom 9:45a Staff Meeting	3	4	5 5:15p Worship
6 8:15a & 10:00a Worship 9:30a Fellowship 11:00a Financial Peace Class	7 7:00p Prayer Group	8 6:30a Men's Bible Study 10:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30p Council Meeting 7:00p Flute Choir	9 8:30a Shalom 9:00a Quilt-tiers 9:45a Staff Meeting 6:30p Journeymen Bible Study	10 6:30p Senior Choir	11	12 8:00a Men's Ministry Breakfast 5:15p Worship
Adult VBS 8:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.						
13 8:15a & 10:00a Worship 9:15a Fellowship 9:20a Youth Gathering Mtg. 4:00p Free Lunch Prep	14 9:30a Mom Meet-Up 11:00a Free Lunch/ Monday Missions 7:00p Stephen Ministry Supervision	15 6:30a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Gather Bible Study 5:00p Property Team 5:30p Men's Ministry Team 6:30p Stewardship Team 7:00p Flute Choir	16 8:30a Shalom 9:00a Quilt-tiers 9:45a Staff Meeting 1:30p Afternoon Book Club	17	18 11:30a Prime Timers	19 4:00p Caregivers Group 5:15p Worship
20 8:15a & 10:00a Worship 9:15a Fellowship 9:20a Confirmation Orientation 9:20a Table Host Meeting	21 11:30 Senior Singles 6:30p Youth & Family Team 6:45p Reading Group 7:00p Prayer Group	22 6:30a Men's Bible Study 5:15p 500 Reformation Team 7:00p Flute Choir	23 8:30a Shalom 9:00a Quilt-tiers 9:45a Staff Meeting 6:30p Journey Bible Study	24	25	26
27 10:00a Celebration of Ministries/ Worship@Celebration Farm	28 9:30a Mom Meet-Up	29 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7:00p Flute Choir	30 8:30a Shalom 9:00a Quilt-tiers 9:45a Staff Meeting 6:30p Journey Bible Study	31		

Learning Happenings

Milestone Ministry: Back to School Blessing

August 12 & 13 | All Worship Services

As another fall approaches, it will soon be time for students to return to the classroom and for other activities to resume. During worship on August 12 & 13, we will recognize the beginning of the new school year with a blessing for all students, faculty, staff, and others who serve in the field of education. Please join us as we take time to acknowledge that learning is a way for us to live to the glory of God and to encourage one another to depend on God's goodness as we face challenges that the year may bring.

Confirmation Orientation

Sunday, August 20 | 9:20 a.m.-9:50 a.m. | Nave



Confirmation

This is an informational meeting for incoming 7th and 8th grade Confirmation candidates, and their parents. Pastor Lutz and Maggie Atkinson will share the year's schedule, program details, and highlight the new Fall Confirmation Retreat! We'll see you on August 20th, if not sooner!

Presentation of Bibles to 7th Grade Students

August 20 | 8:15 a.m.

This fall our Seventh Grade students are beginning a new chapter of their faith journey: a two year program of Confirmation instruction. The people of Zion celebrate this important milestone by presenting each seventh grader with a Student Bible. This Bible will be used in both Confirmation and Sunday School. This is a way that we, as their church family, support parents in their baptismal promise to place the Holy Scripture into the hands of their child. We pray that as our children encounter God's Word in church, Sunday School, and in personal and family devotion time, they will discover the presence of God's love in their lives in new and abiding ways. If you have a student entering seventh grade in the fall, you'll be receiving more information in the coming weeks.

Coming Soon: Rally Day @ Zion!

Sunday, September 10 | 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Our "Back to Sunday School" event is Sunday, September 10 during the learning hour, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. You're invited to join the fun as we welcome children and families back to Sunday School with special activities. Parents, you're welcome to stop in, meet the teachers, and sign up to help in the classroom or bring a snack. Classes will be dismissed early at 10:15 so that all may enjoy root beer floats on the west patio.

Help Wanted: Preschool Sunday School Teachers

We're blessed with a wonderful team of returning Sunday School teachers, but volunteers are always needed for this important ministry. For the fall, we're looking for teachers for our Preschool Doves (4/5 year old) class. These little ones begin the Sunday School hour with music time in the Spirit Center, then return to the classroom for a Bible story, activity, and snack. Lesson preparation is easy and the benefits are extraordinary. Please consider sharing an hour of your time on Sunday morning. To learn more, contact [Pam Cantrell](#).

Learning Happenings

VBS 2017 | Water of Life

What a wonderful week of faith and fun! More than 150 exuberant Day Campers and Preschoolers filled Zion with their joyful noise during VBS, June 19-23. Most of the children who attend VBS are Zion kiddos, but they love to invite friends and family to come along: just over 40% were non-members. Our days were filled with bible study, lively music, fun activities, and joy in being together as we learned more about God's love for us all.

Our Day Camp theme for the week was *Water of Life*, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." (Isaiah 43:2). During Bible Study each morning, we learned about water as a powerful means that God uses to sustain, heal, revive, and save us. In the afternoons, Day Campers were in for some zany fun. We made slime, experimented with catapults, and built rockets that flew through the Sanctuary. On Thursday, we played with water outside on the lawn, got soaked, and had a blast.

Our Preschool group of 40 little ones had their own program, *Splash in God's Word*. During the week they learned about God's faithful people including Noah, Jonah, and Lydia. They got messy with paint, made finger puppets, and enjoyed plenty of outside time.

In addition to learning, VBS week was also about service: giving our children a sense that there are others in the world that they can care for. VBS families donated a total of \$766.73, which will help build wells and provide clean water to neighbors on the other side of the world in Tanzania. We also collected bathroom items for neighbors here at home who visit the food pantry at Mann Elementary.

Hats off to all the volunteers that make this week possible! Special thanks to our wonderful Bible Study Shepherds, a volunteer position that is so valuable to Zion. It's our policy to have two adults in the classroom when children are present. Since we had 11 groups of children participating in Bible Study, we needed 11 kind volunteers to be present each morning as the Ewalu Counselors led Bible Study for their groups.

Our 22 youth volunteer Kool Aides, led by the fearless Maggie Atkinson, did an amazing job. This terrific group of young people worked hard to make sure things ran smoothly during the week by wrangling kiddos, holding little hands, prepping crafts, and setting a great example for the younger children.

Another 30 adult program volunteers were instrumental to the success of VBS by teaching, leading craft projects, managing check in/out, preparing snacks for hungry children, meals for hungry counselors, and much more. We are so thankful for all our volunteers, and for everyone who supported VBS through your generous gifts and your prayers. It truly takes a village to make this week happen and we are so grateful for you all!

Learning Happenings

Zion Library News: Young Adults!

The Zion Library has a Young Adult (YA) section of books for you! But who do we think is a Young Adult? Our Children's section features picture books, and the Adult section are for materials that we believe appeal to adults. So, the Young Adult books are there for everyone in-between.

However, that does not mean that you can't check out the books in either the Children's or the Adult sections. If you see something there that you'd like to read too, please check it out!

There are two rows of Non-Fiction books, and five rows of Fiction books in the Young Adult sections for you to browse through.

We have check-out cards in the pockets inside the books. Simply take this card out, fill out today's date and your complete name and leave the card in the small wooden box on top of the desk. When you are finished, place the book in the plastic bin under the desk. Easy!

Some books waiting to be checked out are:

Radical Jesus: A Graphic History of Faith (YA 270 BUH 2013)

Manga Bible (YA 220.9 SIK)

El Deafo (YA FIC BEL 2014)

I am Malala (YA 370 YOU)

Chronicles of Narnia (YA FCI LEW)

~Kathy Penick

Zion Evening Reading Group Monday, August 21 | 6:45 p.m.

Zion's Evening Reading Group will start with refreshments and then we will choose our books for 2017-18. We always have many good and interesting books on the "recommend" list. Shelley Brenner is compiling the list. You can still send your suggestions, fiction or not, to [Shelley](#) as soon as possible.

Youth Happenings

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Info Meeting

Sunday, August 13 | 9:20-9:50 a.m. |

This info meeting, for youth & parents, will give LOTS of highlights and info about the 2018 Youth Gathering, in Houston, TX. Students entering 8th-12th grade are able to go on this really fun-packed, faith building experience! We'll hear about the schedule, transportation, cost, and what it's like to worship and play with 30,000 other Lutheran teens from across the world!! This will be Youth Gathering #5 for Maggie. Hope to see you on August 13 at Zion!

Final Summer MONDAY MISSIONS

Monday August 14 | 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

ALL AGES are welcome to meet at Zion, and we will carpool over to the Crisis Center, to help serve the Free Lunch Program. Meet at 11am. After serving, and clean up, our next stop is Horace Mann Elementary. We've been asked to help paint some new murals at the school, so be sure to wear clothes that you don't mind getting a little dirty! We will wrap up the day no later than 4pm. Please let [Maggie](#) know if you can participate!

Calling All Jr. High Youth: We Need YOU!

Sunday, August 27

We need your help to lead fun games, during the Celebration of Ministries! This volunteer opportunity would happen right after lunch (12:15ish) until 1:30 p.m. Please let [Maggie](#) know if you can help!



The Monday Missions group sorted and delivered kitchen goods to the Crisis Center on Monday, July 24.

What's Happening @ Zion

Moms Meet-Up

August 14 & 28

Mom's and kids meet up on Mondays. Throughout August we'll be meeting at North Market Square Park. Pre-schoolers, toddlers, babies, school aged kiddos – all are welcome! This group meets every other Monday @ 9:30am. This is an open gathering...all are welcome. Contact [Mary Merulla](#) for more information.

Men's Ministry Breakfast

Saturday, August 12 | 8:00 a.m.

Bring a friend and meet for conversation and fellowship at Zion in the lower level, Gathering Room.

Prime Timers

Friday, August 18 | 11:30 a.m.

Prime Timers will meet for lunch and fellowship at Salt Fork Kitchen in Solon.

Senior Singles

Monday, August 21 | 11:30 a.m.

Senior Singles will meet for lunch and fellowship at Mondo's Reunion Bar and Grill in Coralville.

Blue Zones @ Zion Connect - Belong to Live Long



The people we surround ourselves with, even friends of friends, strongly influence our health. We create connections in a community—between individuals and community organizations, faith based and community groups, and other social activities—so you can easily connect with your right tribe. There are many ways to connect and belong at Zion....social, family, study, learn, do, share. Need some help finding your way or your tribe? Talk with [Mary Merulla](#) or any of the pastoral staff. We're here to help.

The Pork, Kraut & Pie, Oh, My! Dinner

Tuesday, October 17

This tasty Zion tradition will be offered again this fall, so mark your calendars and planners. Advanced tickets will be required, and the popular carry-out option will be offered again. Watch for more details next month! This year's Leadership Team is:

Jim & Cindy Seyfer (Team Leaders)

Mike & Judy Cilek

John and Debbie Grundstad

Bruce & Melanie Hauptert

Outreach Happenings

Update from the recent Bursch blitz visit to Lambo



It was a quiet but busy week in Lambo, our adopted home town. We arrived midday Saturday to the customary loving song-and-dance reception and to see that our church prayers for rain had been answered promising an adequate harvest, thanks be to God.

Visit in a nut shell: **Sunday** was taken up with 4 hours of church and afternoon bible study, followed by a dinner and traditional “babyshower” for the newest member of Christ’s community in Lambo. Several women gathered around Heide to learn about the many ways Zion women serve within the church and community. Finally, we saw that Martin’s well was well! **Monday** was a work day with (9!) hours of

meetings, to discuss important issues in the Lambo community and potential interventions. Issues facing Lambo include 1) Economic Development, 2) Schools/education, 3) Food security, 4) Water access and 5) Changing social mores. Because it promises more economic stability and addresses all these challenges, the entire village decided to move forward with the Integrated Farming initiative. This is the *Empower Tanzania* (ET) program presented at Zion prior to our departure. A 4 year project, ET provides education, healthy livestock, draught-resistant seed (corn and amaranth), harvesting of water and the capturing of biogas for cooking/heating, all combined with training in marketing and entrepreneurship. The decision was finalized with ritualistic singing and dancing with the latter being obligatory on our part. A full account of these meetings is available on Zion’s Global Mission Team website. **Tuesday** we celebrated with different groups within the Lambo community that have received direct funds from Zion outreach efforts. The Church Women’s group has decided to purchase plastic chairs to use at church gatherings and to rent out to villagers for added income. Huruma group (HIV/AIDS education/prevention and palliative care) is able to add a door and windows to the almost completed office building. The Church’s preschool and food program is in full swing under Emma’s guidance and with Zion toys. The Dispensary and Mombea Primary school continue to have serious unmet needs. All these groups are most appreciative of our support over the years and are using these precious resources in meaningful, creative ways. **Wednesday** morning brought, as always, a long, tearful farewell with many many residents turning up at the church to wish blessings on our travels. After all these years, the hopefulness and trust between our two congregations is ever more solid and tangible. We were fortunate enough to get brief meetings with the new Mwangi Diocese staff and Bishop and tour the new office and surrounding buildings. The remodeled cathedral was inspiring to say the least. Our partnership with Lambo was validated.

Lambo is grateful for Zion’s friendship and support and we thank you for allowing us the opportunity and privilege to be your messengers in this journey. We invite you to attend a more colorful presentation of stories in adult education this fall. Consider joining us in 2019 to experience Christ’s love as it is lived in Lambo! Respectfully, Charlie and Heide Bursch.

Outreach Happenings

Lutheran World Relief – All Zion Project of Hope and Caring Sudsy Summer

Through the month of August Zion continues to collect bar soap as part of our All Zion Project of Hope and Caring. Bring bars of soap (in their original packaging) to the collection tubs in the narthex. Soap collection is part of our Lutheran World Relief efforts. Soap keeps hands clean, germs at bay, and helps people present themselves with dignity. Help fill the tub!

Shop for LWR School Kits in August & September

During the months of August & September, we will be collecting donations for School Kits. To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. Each School Kit includes:

Four 70-sheet notebooks (280-300 sheets total) of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper

- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser

Pick up your designated kit bag at the back of the sanctuary beginning **Sunday, August 7**. Please **drop off** a completed kit (no other items added) to a **Kit Check Point (KCP)** by **Sunday, October 2**. Kits should remain in the designated bag when left at the KCP. Bags will be reused for future kit projects.

Women of the ELCA Triennial Update

Zion member, Bettylou Mejia, traveled to the 2017 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in July 2017. There were 1,323 new attendees to the gathering this year; with a total of 3,322 total attendees. All 50 states of the United States were represented, as well as, 12 countries represented. Offerings collected totaled nearly \$50,000 in cash and giftcards. Items for LWR kits were collected in the amount of over 27,000 items. Become a part of this experience at the 2020 Triennial Gathering, July 16-19, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona!

International Women's Club

Zion has agreed to let the International Women's Club (IWC) use our basement facilities on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, for their English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to begin September 12th. On those mornings, you will see women from up to 40 countries coming and going from their classes, some with preschool children that will be cared for by IWC volunteers in our nursery.

The International Women's Club has been in existence here in Iowa City for over 50 years and is affiliated with International Programs at The University of Iowa. Their purpose has always been to share activities that promote friendship and understanding. The club has over 190 members that participate in a variety of social and educational activities. About 40-80 women attend the ESL classes each year.

If any church women have English or ESL teaching experience and are interested in possible volunteer teaching positions they should contact Joy Thompson, IWC ESL Coordinator, at 319-573-7512 or ajthompson@mchsi.com. If any women would like to volunteer to help care for preschool children from many cultures (who may not speak English!) please contact Kathy Fait, the IWC Childcare Coordinator, at 319-541-4551 or mom2hdal@yahoo.com.

Contact Us

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday:

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Tel: 319-338-0944

Email: office@zionlutheran-ic.org

Website: www.zionlutheran-ic.org



<http://www.facebook.com/zioniowacity>



<http://www.instagram.com/zioniowacity>

Zion is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

MINISTERS

All Members

COUNCIL

Randy Willman, President

Diane Baumbach, Vice President

Katie Martin, Secretary

Ed Scheetz, Treasurer

Phyllis Chang

Ken Fate

David Gosse

Amy Little

Matt Seberger

PASTORS

Mark Pries, Senior Pastor

Jennifer Lutz, Associate Pastor