

WELCOMING ALL, GROWING &amp; SHARING GOD'S LOVE



***"Your love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you."***

— Psalm 26:3



## STEWARDSHIP

### SHARE THE BLESSINGS

The fall season here in our beautiful area of Wisconsin is full of celebrations. There is the German-inspired Oktoberfest, Harvest Fests, Thanksgiving, and of course, the Christmas Season. These are the seasons where people come together to celebrate the harvest and the birth of our Lord and to recognize God's many gifts to us. We are continually reminded this is a season of giving from free Thanksgiving meals for the poor, the bell and kettle of the Salvation Army and the gift catalogs already filling our mailboxes. Although some of us have had trials and have suffered, we still can see we are blessed to live in a free country, have the right to worship as we choose and have family and community around us to help us through our times of despair. We also realize the bounty we have received is so much greater than many people around the world. We also feel as Christians, we have a responsibility to share the blessings bestowed upon us.

Here at ZION, we too are celebrating a year of many blessings both great and small with the understanding all these gifts have sprung forth due to the love and caring of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our celebration is **"Sharing the Blessings,"** which will take place on the weekend of November 4-5. We are asking each of you to evaluate how important our community here at ZION is to you, and to recognize the good our church does around the world and in our community and pledge to support both your church, ELCA and your spiritual wellbeing. We need your support both in terms of finances and volunteering.

## FINANCE

### NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you to all ZION members for their giving so far this year. We are seeing our deficit from budget growing more than we want it to. Please consider your gifts to ZION and help to stop that negative balance. As always, ZION's ministries are still working hard in our community and need your support. Have a great rest of the summer.

## HEALTH MINISTRY

### CPR CLASSES

As a health ministry committee, we listen to the needs of the staff and the congregation. This past spring, there was a request to offer CPR classes. Two classes, offered in May, were taught by our health ministry member Crystal Phalen, an advanced EMT, and also by Melissa Rettke, a critical care paramedic. There were eight spots available for each class and they were able to train six people. In the fall, we will offer the classes again and a reminder will be sent to those who sign up. In the future, please check the weekly bulletin and the *FOCUS* for more information.



There are several reasons why CPR is so important to know. First, CPR saves lives. More than 300,000 people have cardiac arrests in the U.S. every year. The longer the body goes without circulation, the lower the chance of survival. By performing CPR, you are able to help keep the person's blood circulating until an ambulance arrives and more advanced tools can be used.

Secondly, CPR is not performed enough. When people are asked why they would not give CPR, a very common answer is they have never received training. Other concerns, such as doing harm to the person, doing harm to oneself, legal risks or concerns about infection, often diminish once people learn the proper CPR techniques.

Finally, You don't have to do mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. In 2010, the guidelines for performing CPR were changed. Hands-Only CPR has been shown to be just as effective for many adults who experience cardiac arrest. Hands-Only CPR is easy to learn. The goal is to find the learning technique that works for you so you are comfortable if you are in a situation where you can save a life!



“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.” (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

The apostle Paul underscored the essential nature of peace in 2 Thessalonians 3:16. Did you notice how crucial he considered peace to be? “At all times.” “In all ways.” Peace can be possible in any situation, but we cannot produce it on demand. In fact, we cannot produce it at all. It is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).

We have Christ’s peace. It has already been given to us if we have received Christ. We just don’t always know how to activate it.

Have you experienced a time when you were surrendered to Christ in difficult times, and you found His peace beyond understanding? Can you also say that you have had an absence of peace in much less difficult circumstances? Have you ever wondered what the difference was?

Peace comes in situations that are completely surrendered to the sovereign authority of Christ. Sometimes when we have finally given up trying to discover all the answers to the “whys” in our lives and decide to trust a sovereign God, unexpected peace washes over us like a summer rain. We sometimes lack peace in far less strenuous circumstances because we are not as desperate or as likely to turn them over to God.

I have had to turn some of the hurts of my life over to Christ’s sovereign authority because I realized they would consume me like a cancer. When at last I allowed Him to govern everything concerning my past, not only did the Savior give me His peace, but He also actually brought good from something horrible and unfair. If you have not yet bowed the knee to God’s authority over areas of your past, something is holding you captive.

Christ desperately wants His people to experience His peace. The Greek word “klaio” is the strongest word used in the New Testament for grief. It

means “to weep, wail, lament, implying not only the shedding of tears, but also every external expression of grief.” Christ wept on several occasions, but on only one occasion is His grief described with the word “klaio.” That occasion is found in Luke 19:41–42. As Jesus approached the city of Jerusalem, He wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace — but now it is hidden from your eyes.”

Christ still grieves when He sees hearts in unnecessary turmoil. You can have the peace of Christ, no matter what your circumstances; but we must believe, bend the knee, and learn to receive.

There are a few reasons why we are so reluctant to submit to God’s authority, but we must remember that bending the knee is a matter of pure obedience. You may never want to give your circumstance, hurt, or loss to Him; but you can choose to submit to His authority out of belief and obedience rather than emotion. Obedience is always the mark of authentic surrender to God’s authority.

When I finally bent the knee to God over hurts in my past, I realized He was directing me to forgive the person who hurt me. God did not insist on my forgiving for the sake of that person but for peace in my life. Once I began to

complete authority. He is God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the supreme Author of all existence. He reigns overall, and in Him all things exist. He is Lord, the Master and Owner of all living creatures. He is the covenant Maker and Keeper. He is holy. As Lord, He will never ask anything of us that is not right, good, and open to the light. He is perfect and undefiled. Lastly, He is Redeemer, the One who bought us from sin’s slave master so we could experience abundant life. He bought us to set us free. “What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31).

What do you suppose would happen if we paid attention to God’s commands? We do not have to wonder, because He told us clearly: “If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea” (Isa. 48:18).

Take pleasure in knowing that God inspired His Word with great care and immaculate precision. He chose every word purposely. When He said we could have peace like a river in Isaiah 48:18, He was not drawing a loose analogy. He meant it. What does it take to have this peace? Attention to God’s commands (by obedience) through

the power of the Holy Spirit. Obedience to God’s authority not only brings

peace like a river but righteousness like the waves of the sea. Not righteous perfection. Righteous consistency.

You see, God’s way is the safe way. The right way. And the only peaceful way in a chaotic world. I hope you have discovered that peace is not beyond your reach. It is not a goal to meet one day. You can begin a life of authentic peace today. Right now. The path to peace is paved with knee-prints. Bend the knee to His trustworthy authority. “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” (Col. 3:15).

In God’s ministry  
~ Pastor Scott Ludford



**“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.”**

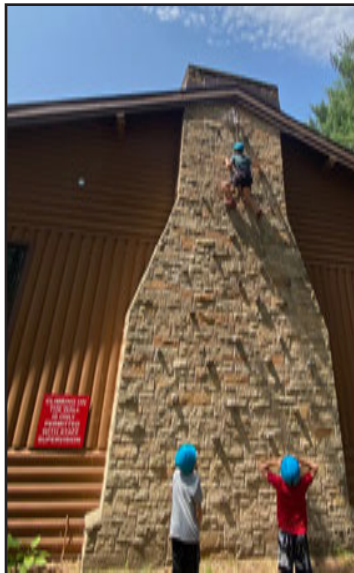
— 2 Thessalonians 3:16

surrender to Him in this painful area, He began to give me a supernatural ability to forgive. A segment of Scripture in Isaiah beautifully reveals the relationship between obedience, authority, and peace. God has a right to all authority because of who He is: “This is what the Lord says — your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: ‘I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go’” (Isa. 48:17).

Did you notice the titles by which the Lord refers to Himself in the passage? Allow me to reverse the order and share my outlook on His right to



# CONFIRMATION CAMP at IMAGO DEI



Confirmation Camp is an important part in our student's faith development. Living in community for a week amongst their peers, they experience things that they will remember well into adulthood.

A week of camp includes such things as worship, Bible study, problem solving, water activities, biking, canoeing, crafts, outdoor group games, rock climbing, trust course activities and a host of other skills.

Thank you ZION Lutheran Church members for financially making it possible for these students to grow their faith in a very special place!



To learn more about Imago Dei visit:  
[www.crosswayscamps.org/imagodeivillage](http://www.crosswayscamps.org/imagodeivillage)



To connect with ZION YOUTH visit  
<https://www.facebook.com/ZIONYouthShawano>

**IMAGO DEI** VILLAGE  
CROSSWAYS CAMPING MINISTRIES



## ZION EVENTS

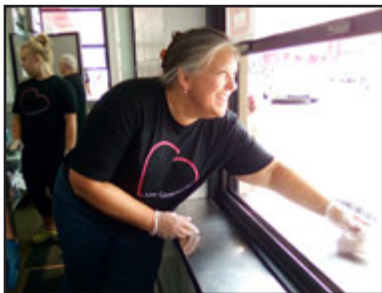


On August 20, ZION Youth and others enjoyed a tubing trip down the Wolf River.

Bonnie Wolf, Eileen Ebelt and Peggy Ray, members of ZION's Wee Care Children's Food Program, recently accepted a donation of \$12,800 from the 100+ Women Who Care Shawano represented by Wendy Crawford.



Wee Care held a fundraiser at Charlie's Red Barn on August 13-15. Thanks to all who supported us by making purchases or helping us prepare and sell food.



## THANK YOU'S

Thank you for covering the cost of our chem-free party after graduation. We had a great time and it was a fun celebration to be together as a class one last time. Thank you again. ~ *Aiden Preston*

The Shawano Optimists are so thankful for the assistance in putting on our annual Bike Rodeo. We were able to serve 75 kids and their families and had a lovely day for the event! We are so grateful for your partnership. ~ *Jen Schroeder, Club President*

To the ZION Church quilters, Thank you for the beautiful quilt and all you do for us youth. Thank you for cup and candy. Also, paying for the chem-free admission. ~ *Allison Laffin*



Dear ZION Church and Wee Care Committee, Thank you so much for your weekly donation to our students and families. Some bags had multiple uses such as a weekend bag and snacks for the week during the day. Shawano Schools appreciate all the hard work and time it goes into this program. It does not go unnoticed! We appreciate you! ~ *Shawano School District, School Social Workers*

To the quilt makers of ZION, I wanted to say thank you for the amazing quilt you all made me. It is truly something that I will cherish for years to come. Thank you! Sincerely ~ *Peyton Schultz*



## COMMUNITY

### K9 TRAINING



Shawano Police Department performed K9 training at ZION Lutheran Church on August 23. Thank you for your hard work everyday K9 Odin with Sgt. Dilge!



## LIBRARY

### NEW BOOKS

*Jesus Listens Daily Devotional Prayers of Peace, Joy, and Hope* by Sarah Young Experience a delightful relationship with the Savior who loves to hear your prayers. Many of us want to pray, but we feel unsure about what to say or where to start. In *Jesus Listens*, bestselling author Sarah Young takes you on a 365-day journey of Scripture-based prayers to draw you closer to the One who loves you perfectly. Whether you have been praying for many years or are new to a practice of prayer, *Jesus Listens* guides you in daily devotional prayers of peace, joy, and hope. Scripture references at the end of each prayer continually return you to God's Word.

Notes From *Jesus What Your New Best Friend Wants You to Know* by Mikal Keefer Jesus is the stuff best friends are made of – especially if you are a kid! He's always up for hearing how your day went, listening to worries, and laughing at silly jokes. And he wants to share about himself, too, as best friends do. Notes from Jesus contains his message to new friends – like you! Each playfully illustrated

note includes: Answers to questions you have, like "What happens when I mess up?" and "Is it okay to pray with my eyes open?" An inspirational Bible verse for you to tuck away into your heart. Doable, kid-sized ideas for you to become even better friends with Jesus. Perfect for kids ages 6+ who are just starting a relationship with Jesus!

## VBS THANK YOU

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all who helped to make STELLAR VBS a success this summer. Whether you made rockets or stars or graphic signs or supplied us with decorations or helped decorate ... THANK YOU! To all those who volunteered their time in anyway, whether teaching, crew leaders, registration, helpers, kitchen staff, clean up or custodial, THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts! Lastly, thank you parents for enrolling your children at ZION VBS. See you again next year for SCUBA 2024.



**Teachers • Aides • Subs**

**Rally Sunday  
September 10, 2023**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CLASSES START  
SEPTEMBER 17**

Join us for a great kickoff event with activities, music, snacks, crafts and games.

**TEACHER'S MEETING WED., SEPT. 20, 6 PM**

Registration for Sunday School is available, if not already complete. We're always looking for more teachers and substitute teachers! Let us know, if you're interested. Students report to classrooms on **Sun., Sept. 17**. Parents or designated adults must pick up children at end of class.

ZION's Health Ministry's  
**Walking  
for Health**



To participate in Walking for Health, please contact Joyce Phalen at 715.584.1778 or Ann Johnson at 715.853.3609

## RETIREMENT

### THANK YOU GOD'S PEOPLE OF ZION!

I am deeply touched with all the cards, gifts, expressed thank yous, and wonderful Retirement Reception I have received!

What I will take away from my years at ZION is the relationships I have had with God's people.

Thank you all ~ *Debbie Bernard*



## SCHOLARSHIPS

The following received scholarship awards from the Endowment Fund ...

**BRADY GLYSCH** — UM-MINNEAPOLIS

**EMILY HELING** — UW-GREEN BAY

**MADELINE HELING** — UW-WHITEWATER

**ALLISON LAFFIN** — UW-RIVER FALLS

**AIDEN PRESTON** — UW-MADISON

**CALVIN SCHULTZ** — NWTC

**PEYTON SCHULTZ** — NWTC

**FAITH UGORETZ** — UW-RIVER FALLS

**LAUREN WELANDER** — UW-STEVENS POINT

**JOEL YEAKEY** — WARTBURG SEMINARY



## SAFETY

### KEEPING YOU, THE MEMBERS OF ZION, INFORMED

In the May issue of *FOCUS*, you were informed we were and are striving to make our church a safer place to be at all times. Since then the property, technology committees and Church Council have worked in partnership to further our efforts towards this goal.

Reflecting on multiple resources of how we might facilitate a safer ZION Lutheran Church, the property committee took the lead their past committee meeting to brainstorm a list of projects/ideas to work towards in this area of concern. The end result was a list of 13 future improvements to our safety that were prioritized, at their meeting on June 13.

Certainly, this task force is concerned with ZION's greatest risks when they prioritize that list. But they will also consider the ease/difficulties, and the cost, and human resources to implement a solution. As we progress towards a safer ZION Lutheran Church, we will be looking to develop a "Safety Team," dedicated to this area of ministry.

If you have experience in the area of safety, or have an interest, and would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Bob Hass (ZION's Congregational President). Again, we will continue to keep you informed as we journey forward.

~ *Pastor Scott Ludford*

## NEW FACES AT ZION

### KAY (ROSENOW) KRISTOF

*Administrative Assistant*

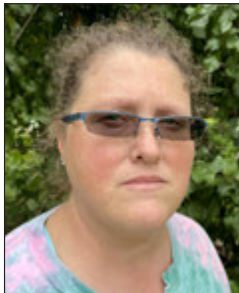
We are happy to announce **Kay Kristof** as our new Administrative Assistant. She began her duties here at ZION in late May after Debbie Bernard's retirement. Kay is a lifelong member of ZION. She is the daughter of Marcalene Rosenow and sister of Kraig Rosenow. Kay has a son Kasey, a daughter Kendra and boyfriend John.



### ANN (PHALEN) JOHNSON

*Janitor*

Please welcome our new janitor to the ZION family! **Ann Johnson** has taken over the custodial duties from her Dad who does maintenance. Ann is the daughter of John and Joyce Phalen. She lives in Shawano with her husband Ryan and daughter Rayn. She is in charge of the loan closet here at ZION and also does home care.



We are very excited to welcome them aboard. Introduce yourself and welcome them when you can!

## CHURCH RECORDS

### FUNERAL

**Daniel Strauss** August 12, 2023 at ZION Lutheran Church

### BAPTISMS

**Hunter Mac & Hendrix Timothy Frimodig**

August 13, 2023 at Shawano County Park

Sons of Adam & Danielle Frimodig

Hunter's Sponsors: Matthew & Nicole Fanning

Hendrix's Sponsors: Daniel & Mindy Krone



### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

