

# Focus

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

October 2021



## FAMILY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY



We of Zion Lutheran Church are committed to providing Christian education in these difficult days. As your pastor, I take very seriously the covenant to both you as parents, and to God made at Baptism that we would do our very best in assisting you in teaching the faith of a loving God through Jesus Christ to your child. This fall several members of our congregation have stepped forward as Sunday school teachers to assure this ministry stays vital and I am thankful to each and every one of them! As long as we are safely able, we intend to continue in-person Sunday school.

The numbers that I follow from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), reports that Shawano County is in the “Critically High” category for Covid-19 cases. ThedaCare Health Services reports that Wisconsin ranks #2 in the nation for the largest increase in Covid-19 cases over the last week in September and that the next surge is here.

Not knowing what the next days will bring us here in Shawano, we want to prepare in advance if things don't go well and we face a shutdown of ministries. Already, St. James has suspended their in-person school and have gone to virtual learning for the safety of their students and staff. It would be wise if we explore these options as well.

There are dedicated individuals in our congregation who have volunteered to offer a “(Virtual) Family Bible Study,” and I think this is wise to put that in place as a supplement to our person-to-person Sunday school at this time. To make this happen, several things need to take place.

**First**, we need to know if this is something that would help your family to be a part of our Christian education and would you like your family to participate. **Second**, we would like to have the “meets” take place either outdoors pending the weather or via a Zoom conference room. We would like to host these events on Sundays, however we are flexible and would be willing to determine the best time for the majority of those who sign up. **Third**, that we would need those interested to sign up as soon as possible so this can be put together, even if your interest is slight please sign up to see what this is about.

The goal for this Bible study is to try and bring the Bible to life, to inspire reading the bible more and help bring meaning and life to the Bible's stories and authors.

—STAYING—  
CONNECTED

Please email me directly your responses: [sludford@msn.com](mailto:sludford@msn.com) and in the Subject: Virtual Family Bible Study.

In God's ministry,  
*Pastor Scott Ludford*



The 9th Grade Confirmands helped load the aluminum cans taken to Green Bay for recycling.

**Your donations earned \$330 for the Youth Fund! Thank you!!**

## Financial Stewardship Update



2021 General Fund through August was printed in the September Focus.

**General Fund Balance August 30 \$ (7,493)**

At Focus printing time the September update is not complete.

**Thank you Zion members for your support!**



**is back this October!**

Zion's Health Ministry Committee is collecting  
**NEW SOCKS**  
for **Safe Haven and SAM 25!**

New socks needed for women, men, boys, girls, and infants.



**Please fill the bin located by the information desk!**



## ZLCW Rummage Sale a Success!

We made over \$2,400! A sincere thank you to all who donated items, sorted items, set-up for the sale, worked the sale, and did take-down on Monday for the Zion Lutheran Church Women Rummage Sale held in September. With all the help on Monday, we were able to pack up the remaining items in less than two hours! The unsold clothing, toys, shoes, purses and linens were given to the Menominee Indian Reservation, SAM 25, the Navarino Nature Center, and the remaining items were given to Goodwill.

Thank you to Thrivent for the \$250 donation which was used for advertising and rummage sale supplies. ZLCW is thankful for everyone's contributions, as this money in part helps ZLCW to make donations to various organizations. Not only is the Rummage Sale a money-maker for ZLCW, but it provides the chance for many people on limited incomes the ability to purchase needed items for their families at reasonable prices.

~ ZLCW Board and Donna Milbauer,  
RS Chairperson

## Aluminum Can Collection Bin behind the garage!

The Youth would appreciate your donations—which must be bagged—as a fund raiser.



## Thank you!

Dear Zion Quilters,

Thank you for the beautiful quilt you made for me for graduation. Also thank you for honoring the 2021 Senior Class of Zion Lutheran Church.

~ Kendra Kristof

Education Committee, Quilters, & Endowment Fund,

Thank you for the quilt along with the cards and support! Thank you all for your continued support as I've grown up!

And thank you so very much for the extremely generous scholarship award. This scholarship will greatly support me through school, and will help to minimize what I owe. I appreciate all of the support throughout my time at the church, and hope to be back soon

~ Calvin Schultz

Dear Zion Endowment Fund Committee,

Thank you very much for the very generous scholarship. It is so much appreciated. It will be used towards college tuition and books. Thank you again for helping me turn my dream into reality!

~ Emily Heling

Dear Zion Endowment Fund Committee,

Thank you for the scholarship. I will be using the money towards my tuition and cost for books. Once again, thank you so much for the scholarship!

~ Katelyn Hoffman

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

I am honored to be a recipient of an Endowment Fund Scholarship, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support to students who need it most. I am a senior Majoring in Early Childhood Education and minoring in Special Education at UW-Stevens Point and I hope to one day work as a teacher in the area. I want you to know your generous support will see me achieve my dreams.

~ Sadie Cummings

Hello Zion!

Thank you for the scholarship that went towards my schooling. I am now a Junior in college and I am still working towards my English Education degree. This scholarship has already helped me out so greatly this semester and will help me once again for the next semester. I can't wait to do great things with the knowledge and education I am getting as I one day hope to teach high school kids English!

~ Ava Retzlaff

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

I would like to give my greatest thanks to you for gifting me the very generous scholarship—it is truly important to me to have your support. I am a freshman at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities working towards a major in aerospace engineering and mechanics. Thank you for supporting me on this long and difficult road to fulfill my dreams!

~ Carson Cummings



## TRANSLATING THE BIBLE

One day four ministers stood talking and, as so often happens, the conversation soon drifted to shop talk. "I prefer the King James Version of Scripture," said one, "for its eloquent use of the English language and accuracy." A second minister gave forth that no Bible could match the New Revised Standard Version for its faithfulness to the original Greek and Hebrew text. "That may well be," said the third, "but I prefer the New International Version for its contemporary language and easy readability."

There was a thoughtful period of silence, and then the fourth minister said, "I like my mother's translation best." It was with some surprise that the others said: "We didn't know that your mother had translated the Bible." "Yes, she did," he replied. "She translated it into her daily life, and it was through her translation that I came to faith."

If any should doubt the truth of this little story, you haven't been around the women of Zion Lutheran Church as of late! As you read through this newsletter you are going to see ministry after ministry being led by some pretty amazing women. Why, even in light of Covid shutting down all ministries this past year the quilters still produced 229 quilts and 31 fabric kits that were donated and sent to Lutheran World Relief. That would be amazing in-and-by itself if it weren't for the efforts of hundreds-of-thousands of other Lutheran Church women from every state in the United States and every providence in Canada who also sent their donated goods to help those in need.

Our congregation's Health Committee consists of astonishing women who on a monthly basis makes sure that we are not only taken care of, but that ministry flows out our doors to people who are in need. From our loan closet (consisting of medical supplies) that is open to the community, raising awareness of cancer and funds to fight this disease, to countless hours of rallying us to save lives by donating blood. Every month they are creatively leading us to care for one another like the "Sock Collection" taking place this month to the clothes that were sent to Fort McCoy to help the Afghanistan refugees.

We should all be aware of and thankful for the women of our congregation who watch over and care of all of our worship needs. The church calls them the Altar

Guild, I call them saints! These women care for Zion's worship space, including both preparing for communion and baptisms throughout the year. They mark the seasons of the church year by maintaining and displaying the colors of the paraments used in worship.

There is no possible way that we would have Sunday School and fulfill our covenant with God about teaching the faith if it were not for the women of Zion Lutheran Church. Yes, we have males who will and have stepped-up to teach when called on, but it is the women of our congregation who constantly take leadership in Christian education to a new level.

If you were sitting in my office day-after-day, what you would see is Women of Zion coming and going as they are volunteering their gifts, talents, and love of Christ to the church. The recent rummage sale they just held is but the tip of the ministries they are involved with in our congregation. The community they maintain within our life together is exactly what the fourth pastor stated, "She translated it (the Bible/God's Word) into daily life, and it was through her translation that I came to faith."

There is no way I could list all that the women do in this congregation that makes being a part of Zion Lutheran Church what it is. But, I can assure you that throughout this newsletter are opportunities for you (male or female; adult or youth) to be actively engaged in God's ministry. Consider this to be an open invitation to be what Jesus called, "being the salt-of-the-earth," and bringing hope and peace to those in need; all because we have been blessed with people who walk in the light of Christ.



In God's ministry,  
*Pastor Ludford*

## Happy Birthday



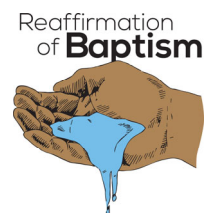
**Ronda Jones... 65 on Oct. 2**  
1229 S. Main St., Shawano

**Leon Pluedeman... 80 on Oct. 14**  
Address Unavailable

**Joyce Phalen... 65 on Oct. 17**  
N5518 Broder Rd., Shawano

*Happy birthday to 48 others in October!*

**Affirmation of  
Baptismal Covenant/  
Confirmation  
Sunday, October 31  
10:30 service in the  
sanctuary**



## Memorial Gifts September 1-26, 2021

Special gifts "in honor of" or "in memory of" to:

### ZLCW Quilters

by Tabb & Sarah Magee

In memory of Joy Christianson



## Gifts & Memorials

At Zion you may donate a gift or memorial—or honor someone—by contributing to any of the following funds!

General Fund  
Building Fund  
Sound/Video Project Fund  
Camp Scholarship Fund  
Church in Society Fund  
Computer Fund  
Health Ministry Fund  
Library Fund  
Music Fund  
Park Sound System Fund  
Education Fund  
Worship Appointments Fund  
Undesignated Fund  
Youth Fund  
Endowment Fund

Make checks payable to  
**Zion Lutheran Church.**

Questions?  
Contact the church office.



Carson DR-200 ezRead electronic reading aid and monitor was donated to Zion's Loan Closet. If you, or someone you know, are in need of this visual aid please contact the Parish Nurse or the office 715-526-2017.



LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF

## Quilts, Blankets, & Sewing Kits

Even through the dismal days of COVID, the ladies of our congregation made quilts this past year for Lutheran World Relief. Their donations will join with other churches representing every state and denomination of Lutherans to all corners of the planet....



### 2021 Quilts...235 Fabric Kits...31

If you wish to make a monetary gift to this ministry write a separate check to ZLCW, put "Quilters" on the memo line. Thank you!

## Prayers Shawls are Needed!



If you enjoy crocheting or knitting we are in need of prayer shawls. When making a prayer shawl you are infusing each stitch with hope, warmth, love, compassion and care. When the gift of a prayer shawl is received, that warmth is felt, the connection is recalled and the healing takes place. Your prayer shawls can be brought to the office when finished. Thank you very much!

~ Health Ministry Committee



## Yarn needed!

Drop off donations at the information desk. Thank you!



God's Work, Our Hands



## Zion's Prayer Chain

If you have a telephone prayer chain request, please call Co-Chairs, Winnie Preston 715-526-5018 or Eileen Ellertson 715-526-3500.

## Our Cupboard is bare! Fill the Cupboard



Church in Society is asking the congregation to support SAFFARC and "fill the cupboard."

The cupboard is located in the Commons.

Pork & beans, kidney beans, tuna, cereal, tomato sauce, mac 'n cheese, hearty soups, and peanut butter.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to help feed God's people!



God's Work,  
Our Hands



Our Goggle calendar is available via our website. You can always stay up-to-date!

  
**Wee Care**  
food packs

Church in Society is looking for a couple of individuals to run the Wee Care Food Packs program!

Please consider giving of your time for this rewarding and vital program to the smallest members of our community.

Contact the church office if interested.

## From Your Parish Nurse...

2021 October is Mental Illness Awareness Month

Each year, millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition. Mental illness affects everyone directly or indirectly through family, friends or coworkers. That is why each year, during the first week of October, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and participants across the country raise awareness of mental illness, fight discrimination and provide support through Mental Illness Awareness Week.

The entire month is filled with information and awareness of screenings and prevention, as the following is observed throughout October for Health Literacy, ADHD, Bullying prevention, OCD, Mental Illness, and National health education. To learn more about ideas and on how to participate go to <http://americanbehavioralclinics.com/national-depression-and-mental-health-screenings-m>

Mental illnesses are health conditions involving changes in emotion, thinking or behavior or a combination of these. Mental illnesses are associated with distress and or problems functioning in social, work or family activities.

Mental illness is treatable. The vast majority of individuals with mental illness continue to function in their daily lives. Mental health is the foundation for emotions, thinking, communication, learning, resilience and self-esteem. Mental health is also key to

relationships, personal and emotional well-being and contributing to community and society.

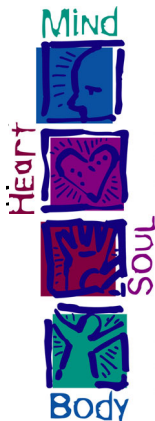
Many people who have a mental illness do not want to talk about it. Mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of. It is a medical condition, just like heart disease or diabetes. Mental illness does not discriminate; it can affect anyone regardless of your age, gender, geography, income, social status, race/ethnicity, religion/spirituality, and background.

Mental illnesses take many forms. Some mild and only interfere in limited ways with daily life, such as phobias or abnormal fears. Other mental health conditions are so severe that a person many need care in a hospital. Serious mental illnesses include major depressive disorder, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Treatment and self-help is based upon an individualized plan developed collaboratively with a mental health clinician, psychiatrists and an individual and family member if the individual desires. Treatments can include psychotherapy, medications, and lifestyle changes, such as good nutrition, exercise and adequate sleep. For more information on mental health disorders go to <https://medlineplus.gov/mentaldisorders.html> and <https://www.nami.org/get-involved/awareness>

ISAIAH 41:10 Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

~ Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse



### Join Health Ministry Committee!

The mission of Health Ministry is "To share Christ with others through loving care, inspiration and encouragement" by working to promote wholeness of body, mind and spirit in the congregation and the community.

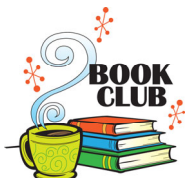
**Our committee meets the first Monday of each month at 12:00 pm via Zoom and in Rm 101.**

**Our next meeting will be Monday, October 4.**

### Book Club's Current Read...

On October 13 we will discuss

*In the Garden of Beasts*  
by Erik Larson.



Club meets the second Wednesday of each month in the commons at 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in reading and discussing the books, please join us!

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Joni Shebuski 715-526-6453 or Sharon Erickson 715-524-4280.



### Parish Nurse Office Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays,  
and Wednesdays  
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.



Zion's Health Ministry Committee will be collecting **NEW SOCKS** for Safe Haven and SAM 25 again!

**Please get ready to start filling the bin in October!**

New socks needed for women, men, boys, girls, and infants.

## October... Stewardship Month!

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. –Hebrews 11:1*

Great things are happening at Zion! It is so wonderful to see everyone back in pews and worshipping together on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings! We rejoice that our virtual worship services continue to serve the needs of people.

October is Stewardship month and we are excited to start our campaign with a THANK YOU to all of you that pledged your financial support this past year and continue to honor that pledge with your gifts to Zion. We know that as we help each other through the pandemic and challenging social climate, making a financial commitment may be a difficult proposition.



If you are so fortunate to be in a position to make a financial commitment, please prayerfully consider doing so. Shepherding Zion Luther-

an Church is such an important responsibility, and when we all work together, we all benefit. Remember that annual pledges make everything that we love about Zion's work in God's ministry possible.

Over the next few weeks, please take a moment to read the personal Stewardship Messages that will be published in the "Zion News." They will highlight some of Zion's ministries that we all appreciate. And these ministries are all made possible because you make a pledge to support them.

Remember that Zion is here for you! Thank you for being an important part of our Zion's family and participating this year by filling out your commitment form.

~ Pastor Ludford



2022 ELCA  
YOUTH GATHERING  
**boundless**  
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

### ELCA National Youth Gathering Meeting for Students & Chaperones

**Sunday, October 17**  
**3:30-5:00pm at the Church**

This time together will help you learn the latest news pertaining to the Gathering, begin to prepare and study the theme, start laying out a plan for the months to come, and talk about future fund raising.

*Even if you are on the fence about attending the Gathering next summer you are encouraged to come a be part of the fellowship we will be developing.*



#### Youth Fundraiser!

**Car Wash Cards!**  
**\$36 for 5-Count**

Ultimate Wash cards will be available from youth and in the church office!  
**Thank you for supporting Zion's youth!**



### A First Communion Class Will Be Offered on an October Weekday Evening!

*Which day? Let us know what works for you!*

If you feel your child is ready for first communion instruction please contact office to sign them-up. **This class must be attended by both student/parent(s)!**

They will receive their first communion the weekend after class at any of the three worship services.

Another class will be offered before Christmas and again once in the spring of 2022. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pastor Ludford.



### LWR Quilts Are On Their Way To a New Home!

The 63 total boxes of quilts, blankets, and fabric kits were hauled upstairs by the confirmation class students Wednesday evening, Sept. 29. **Job well done everyone!**

# Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study



8:00 a.m. at Angie's Main Café  
Join us! Bring your Bible!

Zion Lutheran Church  
1254 S. Union St., Shawano WI 54166-3461

Rev. Scott Ludford, Senior Pastor  
Debbie Bernard, Administrative Assistant  
Jill Sousek, Organist and Music Director  
Jennifer Greiert, Parish Nurse

Phone: 715-526-2017

E-mail: [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org)

Web site: [www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org)



### E-mail address:

Pastor Scott..... [sludford@msn.com](mailto:sludford@msn.com)

Debbie / Office ..... [zion@shawanozion.org](mailto:zion@shawanozion.org)

Jennifer Greiert..... [nurse@shawanozion.org](mailto:nurse@shawanozion.org)



To connect with our youth visit  
[www.facebook.com/  
ZionYouthShawano](http://www.facebook.com/ZionYouthShawano)



ZLCW  
Rummage  
Sale  
at Zion