

Focus

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI

September 2021



A Note About Fall Worship!

Fall worship in the church has always taken on a new rhythm than the summer worship experiences. Now with the threat of the Corona Virus and its terrible friend, the Delta variant, we have made plans to keep worshipping in a meaningful way while being observant of the unknown conditions we may find ourselves in. Any plans that are being made, are plans that require the ability to be flexible and to change on a moment's notice.

Throughout the month of September, we will continue to have the Saturday 5:00pm and Sunday 8:00am service in the sanctuary. For Sunday, September 5 and 12 we will be worshipping at Shawano County Park at 9:30am. On September 12 there will be an additional service at the Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Lunds, at 11:00am with lunch and fellowship to follow.

Then on Sunday, September 19 and 26 we will worship 8:00am in the sanctuary; 9:15 Sunday School/Choir Rehearsal; and **10:30am worship outside on church property**. Remember, that every Saturday evening service is recorded and may be viewed live in your home via YouTube, and as with all our outdoor worship experiences you can listen to the service from the comfort/safety of your vehicle using your FM radio. §

Coming to a Home Near You...

Taking Faith Home, will be a new ministry starting Saturday, September 4 and Sunday, September 5. We will supplement your weekly worship experience with bulletin inserts, entitled, *Taking Faith Home* (TFH). Our goal is to help those worshipping with Zion Lutheran Church to build a more solid faith foundation by providing content that sparks conversation, inspires effective evangelism, introduces Christian rituals and traditions, encourages family faith formation, and unites generations.

Following every week's scripture lessons, these supplements will feature a theme statement to capture the week's focus; suggested daily Bible readings; a key scripture verse that relates to the theme; weekly prayers and a blessing to use during the week; a suggested hymn that relates to the theme; a weekly milestone sharing moments of mountain highs and/or valley lows; and examples of each of the Four Key Faith Formation practices (caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals and traditions) that complement that week's theme.

With this amazing resource, individuals and families can nurture their faith all week long! Each bulletin insert contains a variety of faith-building activities, allowing you to pick and choose what is beneficial in your setting. They are perfect for homes and all types of congregational activities. They are also exceptionally useful and well-received as Bible study guides, college student connectors, hospital/nursing home visitation aids, home-bound faith resources, and community outreach tools. Best yet, it will be beneficial for people on the go (most of us) as we grab a prayer, a Bible reading or something that connects us with God's living Word as part of our faith journey. §



Annual
ZLCW

RUMMAGE
SALE
IS
BACK!

Wednesday, Sept. 22 ~ 8am-7pm
Thursday, Sept. 23 ~ 8am-4pm
Friday, Sept. 24 ~ 8am-12noon

A few changes to this year's sale! Due to Covid-19 the focus will be only on BASIC FAMILY NEEDS.

Basic household items including linens, towels, rugs, small furniture, clothing of all sizes, shoes and boots.

Rummage donations may be brought
to Zion's fellowship hall
until Friday, Sept. 17.

**No electronics, toys, craft items,
or seasonal decorations accepted!**

Please do not bring computers, monitors, TVs, fax machines, VCR players, radios, etc.



Direct questions to Donna Milbauer 715-851-5490
or Karen Childs 715-526-2445.

RS Volunteers needed

Sept. 20—24 and for Clean-up on Sept. 27
sign up sheets on information desk!

Financial Stewardship Update



2021 General Fund through August.

2021 Annual Budget	\$379,631
General Fund Balance July 1	\$ (6,845)
July Contributions	24,375
August Contributions	28,798
July Expenses	(24,630)
August Expenses	(29,191)

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

Our year began with a positive balance. July and August expenses exceeded contributions. Our negative balance is the result of the usual summer slump in contributions.

Thank you Zion members for your support!



Confirmation Class
Student & Parent's Meeting
Wednesday, September 8 6:00pm
in the sanctuary

Confirmation class students
6th, 7th, & 8th graders and their parents
are strongly encouraged to attend!

We will discuss the 2021-2022 year of Confirmation studies. During this meeting you will be receiving your Zion Lutheran Church Confirmation Manual 2021-2022; Student Bibles and Study Materials; hear about upcoming Middle School plans; Sign up for adult participation in a variety; and learn about what will be expected of your student.

Affirmation of Baptismal
Covenant/Confirmation
9th gr. Student & Parent's
Meeting

Wed., September 8 7:00pm
in the sanctuary

Reaffirmation
of Baptism



We will discuss the September/October calendar and plans for Confirmation Day, October 31 at the 10:30 (2nd) am worship service. This should be a short meeting, but important just the same!



Sunday School Rally is
Sunday, September 19 at 9:15am.

We are looking forward to joining parents in their commitment of growing faith through our Sunday School ministry!

If you are able to assist in being part of our Sunday School teaching staff please contact the church office.



ELCA
National Youth
Gathering
July 24-28, 2022

Youth Gathering Info/Discussion Meeting Tuesday, September 7 6:00pm in the Sanctuary

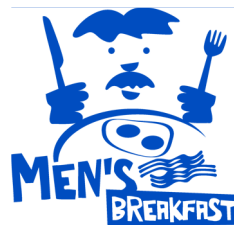
Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

Gathering leadership is proceeding with plans for the 2022 Gathering, with registration to open September 22 and closes May 22, 2022. All ELCA congregations are eligible to register for the Gathering. Youth who are in 8th to 12th grades at the time of registration (Fall 2021) are eligible to attend. Adult leaders must be at least 21 at the time of the Gathering. The recommended ratio is one adult for every seven youth. Registration costs are dependent upon when we register.

- Early Bird Registration—\$350 9/22-11/21
- Regular Registration—\$390 11/22-02/21
- Late Registration—\$440 02/22-5/22

All youth/parents interested in attending
the 2022 Gathering are encouraged
to attend this meeting!

Early Bird registration forms will be accepted.



Men's Breakfast
resumes
Tuesday, September 14
8:00 a.m. at
Angie's Main Café

Join us Tuesday mornings!

This is an open invitation to all Men of Zion (sounds like a "Boy Band!"), to attend a Bible study on Tuesday mornings starting September 14 from 8:00 – 9:30am, at Angie's Café. If you are unfamiliar to this event, Pastor Ludford will lead you in a time of fellowship, prayer, Bible study, and breakfast. For our Bible study we study the Gospel text for the upcoming Sunday, ask questions, and share our insights about the text.

September's Gospel texts are as follows: **Tues. 14,** Mark 9:30-37; **Tues. 21,** Mark 9:39-50; **Tues. 27,** Mark 10:2-16.

A printed (large font!) copy of the text we are studying will be made available the day of the study, but you are encouraged to bring your personal Bible to aid you in your learning.



BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!

It's the middle of August already and I am feeling the full pressure of the "Fall Calendar" pressing in on me. What am I referring too? The COVID Pandemic attacked and crippled many of our ministries here at Zion Lutheran Church. Are we the only church to experience this phenomenon? No! But the fact still remains that we are far behind where we once were (pre-pandemic) when it comes to our work in God's ministries, worship attendance, and the volunteerism that took decades to build.

Maybe our congregation's ministry is not in your thoughts as it is with me; but just the same there are many worries that are weighing on you right now, because these are not easy times for any of us. Let's put aside that the Christian life, living as a disciple of Jesus for a moment, because that has never been an easy task. In truth, none of us lead a life void of problems, times when we have struggled, and had that nagging feeling that we felt like quitting.

Reflect on the times in your life where you faced difficult obstacles, thought about quitting, and yet found the strength to overcome. Times that you persevered, in God's strength you carried on, you let God's love and mercy and grace carry you on. When there was no hope, God was your hope. When there seemed to be no way, God made a way. When your strength was gone, God was your strength.

There have been times in your life when you needed guidance and encouragement to persevere, God was faithful. God guided you through those difficult times and you persevered, you endured, you overcame, you survived and you did not quit because God was with you.

Are you needing some encouragement to persevere? Maybe right now there is something happening in your life that is causing you a problem. Maybe right now you are struggling and you have even prayed and asked God, "Why is this happening?" "What am I going to do?" Maybe you are at a place where you have prayed, "Lord, you said you would be with me, Lord, you said you would help me. Lord, I can't do this without you."

We know that in our own strength we can fail, but with God all things are possible. God can do things we can not do. Psalm 46:1 reminds us, "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble." God will help us in all our trials, God alone is our strength and our shield. I encourage you in these times to not focus on your situation and don't focus on what you can see, rather trust in God. Every trial and tribulation we go through in this life has a reason, a purpose, they can make us stronger in our faith and draw us closer to God.

The words God spoke to Joshua, are relevant to us today, "This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or

discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." And Joshua's final words to the people of Israel in Joshua 23:14 are also relevant, "Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the Lord your God has come true. Not a single one has failed!" Wow! Every promise of God has come true, not a single promise of God has ever failed. Persevere, don't quit. God is faithful. Trust God!

In these times we need to use our faith, to persevere, to grow in Christ and increase our faith. Pray to God for your faith to increase. Sometimes God doesn't answer our prayers in the way we expect. He answers in His time and in His way, but His answers to our prayers are always the best way at exactly the right time. Jeremiah 29:11 says it best, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

God has a perfect plan for you; God has a destiny for you. There are times when God's plans for us are obvious, and there are times when we get just a glimpse of God's plan for us. The challenge for us is to keep on, when life presses in, we need to trust God.

Right now, in your circumstance, in your situation, have faith, don't quit, trust God. Dare to trust God for the bit between where you are now and where you will be, where you long to be. Maybe some days you will need God's help just to keep putting one foot in front of the other. Maybe some days you will need God's help to keep praying, keep standing, keep working. Maybe some days you will feel the only success was that you didn't quit. All of those days are times God will help you to persevere.

The Bible teaches Christians to recognize that the world is a battleground, not a playground. God does not leave us defenseless. There is no victory without a battle, no testimony without a test and no miracle without an impossible circumstance!

Finally, I close with the words of the Apostle Paul from Philippians 1:6, "I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Have faith, persevere, quitting is not an option!

In God's ministry,
Pastor Ludford



Steward the common good

Jesus taught, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." –Matthew 22:38

In Genesis 4, God asks Cain the whereabouts of Abel, his little brother whom Cain has murdered in a jealous fit. Answering God's question, Cain cynically replies, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The correct answer for Cain is, "Yes, you are your brother's keeper." And that applies to us, too.

Woven through Scripture is God's priority that we love and care for one another. The principle finds clearest expression in the life and words of Jesus, who repeatedly teaches us to love everyone – friend, family, neighbor, even enemy. No exceptions!



Love for neighbor is a stewardship issue because we are appointed caretakers of all that God has entrusted to us, including community, relationships, and the welfare of others. Stewarding the common good is one way to achieve this.

As North Americans, we haven't done a very good job of stewarding the common good because our culture teaches us to "look out for number one," as opposed to looking out for everyone. Consider how much of our political division and brokenness in criminal justice, education, healthcare, economics and government is the result of our thinking "what's good for me," rather than "what's good for everybody."

Stewarding the public good often involves giving up some measure of what would be good just for us. We sacrifice out of love to provide what is good for our neighbor. Is anything more Christian than giving of ourselves for others?

This year, especially as politics and division has embroiled and divided our country, study how the theme of loving our neighbor is woven through Scripture. What does it mean for you and the church? Think. Pray. Act.

~ Pastor Ludford

Happy Birthday



Happy birthday to 48 others in September!

Keith Milner... 60 on Sept. 4
205 Alpine Dr., Shawano

Joyce Engel... 105 on Sept. 8
1405 S. Evergreen St., Shawano

Karlyn Burmeister... 80 on Sept. 9
129 1/2 N. Main St., Shawano

Herman Jung... 80 on Sept. 17
1710 Estates Ln. Apt. 9, Shawano

Dawn Seiltz... 60 on Sept. 28
14383 Harrys Rd., Gillett 54124



QUILTS, BLANKETS, & SEWING KITS BLESSING!

SEPTEMBER 18 & 19

We will be blessing the above items during all three services before they are sent around the world where there are needs for them. Even through the dismal days of COVID, the ladies of our congregation made in excess 200 quilts this past year for Lutheran World Relief. This is amazing! Their donations will join with other churches representing

every state and denomination of Lutherans to all corners of the planet.



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

Summer Worship Schedule Ends Sept. 12



- ~ Saturdays 5:00 pm at Zion
- ~ Sundays 8:00 am at Zion
- ~ Sundays 9:30 am at the Shawano County Park

Worship Service at Jerusalem, Lunds
Sun., September 12 11:00 a.m.



Sept. 19 & 26 at Zion...

- ~ Saturdays 5:00 pm
- ~ Sundays 8:00 am
- ~ Sundays 10:30 am Outside

First Communion Class
Saturday, October 2 at 10:00am

Registration for this instruction ends
Wednesday, September 29.



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 that weekend 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.

Memorial Gifts July 26-August 30, 2021

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

General Fund

by Dejon Polzin
In memory of Dale Konkel

Health Ministry Fund

by Ted & Mary Ann Rudie
In memory of Betty Heling

Library Fund

by Karen Childs
In honor of Mike & Dorothy Eidahl's
50th Wedding Anniversary

Music Fund

by Marilyn Dahl
In memory of Alan Marquardt's Mother
By Dejon Polzin
In memory of Beth Beyer and Bill &
Delores Beyer

In Memory of Joy Christianson:

- **Building Fund**
by Marilyn Dahl
- **Church in Society Fund:** *Wee Care*
by Doug & Christie Wegner
- **Endowment Fund**
by Michael & Shannon Sleeper
Lorin & Winnie Preston
- **General Fund**
by Dejon Polzin
- **Health Ministry Fund**
by Bob & Dolly Burdick
Ted & Mary Ann Rudie, Ginny Vraney
- **Library Fund**
by Fred & Kathy Beyer
Marcy Rosenow
- **Youth Fund**
by Darrin & Ronda Peters

In Memory of Bob Voss:

- **Building Fund:** *West Entrance Project*
by Kathleen Berkley
- **General Fund**
by Dejon Polzin
- **Youth Fund**
by Karen Buntrock

In Memory of John Syndergaard:

- **General Fund**
by Dejon Polzin
- **Music Fund**

by John & Joyce Phalen
Marilee Duquaine, Ginny Vraney
Donna & Woody Davis

- **Worship Appointments Fund**
by Karen Childs

ZLCW Quilters

by Anita Hartman
In memory of Lois Kruse

In Memory of Joy Christianson:

ZLCW Quilters

Linda & Harold Burrack
Noreen Christianson, Ginny Vraney
Dorothy & Mike Eidahl
Karen Childs, Diane Rugalski
Audrey Hoppe, Mitzi Moesch
Linda & Larry Trevarthen
Al & Marge Wichmann



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.

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 avail-
able via our website. You can
always stay up-to-date!



**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.*



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.



From Your Parish Nurse...

2021 September is Healthy Aging Month

September is a perfect time to celebrate Healthy Aging Month since it is time when people think about getting started on new tasks after summer. Healthy Aging month was first introduced when the baby boomers were about to turn 50. Carolyn Worthington is the creator of September is Healthy Aging Month, an annual health observance designed to focus national attention on the positive aspects of growing older. Healthy Aging Month provides inspiration and practical ideas for adults, ages 50 plus to improve their physical, mental, social, and financial well-being.

Tips from the magazine Healthy Aging and WebMD magazine says – Do not act your age or at least what you think your current age should act like. Be positive in your conversations and actions every day. Walk tall and stand up straight. Exercise regularly to maintain a healthy body and brain. Walk 10,000 steps a day can get you moving. Stay balanced by practicing yoga or tai chi to prevent falls. Check out your smile. Research shows people who smile more often are happier. Stay social, if you're lonely, call a friend or family member and volunteer your time. Volunteering can give you a lot of joy, helping others. Sleep well and eat well. Following a Mediterranean diet may help prevent memory impairment and heart problems. Make an appointment for your annual physical. For a list of recommended annual health screenings go to "My Health Finder" Medicare gives you a list of what is



covered. For more information on Healthy Aging Month go to <https://www.healthyaging.net/healthy-aging-month/10-tips-for-september-is-healthy-aging-month/> and <https://www.webmd.com/healthy-aging/features/health-highlights-september-healthy-aging>

September 27 Zion is hosting a blood drive with The Community Blood Center from Appleton, 2:30pm until 6:00pm. You can register on line by visiting cbc@communityblood.org or calling 800-280-4102. You can also call 715-526-2017 and ask for the Parish Nurse. The Community Blood Center relies on area businesses each month and volunteers to donate their blood. There is no substitute for human blood. Blood contains three different components. Red blood cells which carries oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. The shelf life is 42 days and is given to trauma victims, and surgery patients. Platelets control bleeding by forming clots. It has a shelf life of 5 days and is given to cancer patients and trauma victims. Plasma contains proteins that help stop bleeding and has a shelf life of 1 year. It is used for burn and trauma victims. A person can donate blood every 56 days. The Community Blood Center will have their Blood Mobile located in the church parking lot under the overhang on the East entrance. The blood drive is hosted by Health Ministry at Zion Church.

John 15:13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

~ 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.

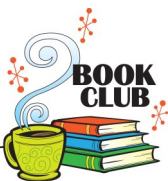
Our committee meets the first Monday of each month at 12:00 pm via Zoom and in Rm 101.

Please note... our next meeting will be Monday, September 13 due to Labor Day.

Book Club's Current Read...

On September 8 we will discuss
The Engineer's Wife
by Tracey Enerson Woodby

In October 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.

SAVE THE DATE:
MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 27



**The Health Ministry is host-
ing a blood drive with The
Community
Blood Center
September 27
from 2:30 - 6:00PM.**

**The Blood Mobile will be
parked by the East side of the
church under the overhang.**

You can donate whole blood every 56 days between donations. Platelet (apheresis) donors may donate more frequently (because the body replenishes platelets more quickly than red cells). When donating blood this summer consider keep within the 56 day rule and space your blood donations out to donate blood in September and support Zion Lutheran Church Blood Drive.

*The Health Ministry Committee
thanks all of you for donating!*

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

Web site: www.shawanozion.org



E-mail address:

Pastor Scott..... sludford@msn.com

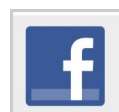
Debbie / Office zion@shawanozion.org

Jennifer Greiert..... nurse@shawanozion.org

**We Need
Your
Help!**

**to work the Rummage Sale!!
Sign-up sheets are at the
information desk!**

*Men & women volunteers are needed
September 20—24
and for Clean-up on September 27!*



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



**Office
Closed
Monday
Sept. 6**



Mini VBS was MAXIMUM Fun!

