

Through Zion's Window

JULY 2021

Thank you to Jim Stein who wrote this month's front-page article!

The Prayers of the Church

Every Sunday we devote a special place in our worship service for the Prayers of the Church. I know it is a vital part of our worship, but I have a confession to make. It's hard for me to concentrate through the whole list of intercessions. My mind picks up on a phrase or subject and then wanders off before I check myself and resume listening to the prayers, once more. Has that ever happened to you? My guess is that you sometimes share my lack of concentration.

Maybe it will help you keep "tuned in" to the prayers if you understand how vital they are to our life together as the Church of Jesus Christ. We are called and empowered to be Christ's living presence in our faith community and in the world.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the noted Lutheran theologian who lived and wrote during the Nazi regime in Germany, had much to say about the church's prayer. In his book, The Communion of Saints, he wrote

"Here is where the meaning and strength of the corporate prayer of the church resides, as Luther speaks of it in the sermon on good works. In this corporate prayer God possesses his strongest means for organizing the whole church toward his purpose. The church recognizes itself in prayer as an instrument of his (God's) will and organizes itself accordingly in active obedience. This provides the church with its chief impulse; the devil fears a roof of thatch beneath which the church is at prayer more than he does a splendid church in which many masses are celebrated. Thus, it is of decisive significance for the church that it should give to corporate prayer its proper, central place. In this prayer it (the church) takes upon itself the burden of the many individuals who already or still belong to it and bears it to God. In this intercession, too, we confirm the nature of Christian love as making us act "with", "for", and finally "in place of" of our neighbor, thereby drawing him deeper and deeper into the church."

The next time we gather for worship and the pastor leads us in the Prayers of the Church I will remember (and I hope you do, too) the prayers as more than words and requests to God. We can remember how these prayers organize our faith community so that God can use us to be his loving presence and tender care for sisters and brothers, near and far. Why, our prayers even encompass God's love for every aspect of our world and its functions and call us to action on their behalf!

Amen!



Pastor Doug will be out of the office for three weeks in July (July 11 - Aug 1). Two weeks of Sabbatical which will include a continuing education conference and preparing for the beginning of Adult Education in the Fall, as well as spending some time "resetting" weekly practices and leadership methods as we return to pre-pandemic worship routines. He will also be taking one week of vacation and travelling to Seattle, WA to gather with his family to celebrate his mother's 85th birthday. Thank you to Reverend Jim Stein who will be providing Sunday worship leadership at Cross and to Reverends Bruce Falksen and Kelly Taylor-Schaus for serving Zion."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 04 – Kendall Brittenham
- 09 – Marian Kluewer
- 10 – Mark Heinrich
- 11 – Norma Tunak
- 15 – Mary Lee Petersen
- 15 – Kyle Schlieve
- 18 – Alex Wagner
- 21 – Peggy Liesener
- 28 – Carol Schuett

SPECIAL DATES IN JULY

- 01 – Canada Day
- 04 – U.S. Independence Day

ALTAR GUILD

- Cindy Wagner
- Allison Jones

GREETERS

- 04 – Sally Schoenike Family
- 11 – Roger & Millie Kopfer
- 18 – Mike Johnson
- 25 – Linda Braunschweig

LAY READER

- Carrie Wendorf

PROJECTION OPERATOR

- 04 – Cindy Wagner
- 11 – Heidi Tunak
- 18 – Linda Braunschweig
- 25 – Jeanine Heinrich

USHERS

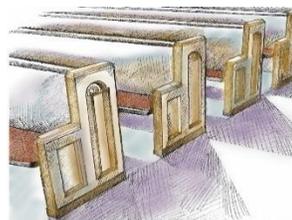
- *Mike Johnson Team**
- Heidi Tunak
- Scott & Anna Gramling

ASS'T MIN

- 04 – Carrie Wendorf
- 11 – Mike Johnson
- 18 – John Siedschlag
- 25 – Jerry Liesener

ALTAR GUILD

- Cindy Wagner
- Allison Jones



View from the Pews

05/23	32
05/30	24
05/06	35
05/13	31
05/20	38

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**On Sunday, July 11 during worship we will install the 2021 Church Council.**



**2021 Church Council Officers**

- President ~ Jerry Liesener
- Secretary ~ TBD
- Vice President ~ Wendy Egholm
- Treasurer ~ Carrie Wendorf



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!****Oktoberfest 2021 ~ Sunday October 3, 2021.**

The day will begin with the Oktoberfest Worship Service led by the Goodtime Dutchmen Band. Guests will be able view the many Raffle baskets, quilt raffle and purchase raffle tickets in the church basement. The Good Time Dutchmen band will move outdoors to the lower lot and provide music following the service under a tent-tables and chairs will be available. Those attending will be able to purchase a Box type lunch, Zion's famous desserts and beverages, as there will be no formal meal served in the basement. There will be no festivities held at the Maple Inn this year as we move forward with a modified celebration following pandemic recommendations. Watch future Zion Happenings/Newsletters for more information.

**Oktoberfest Donations**

Oktoberfest will offer its Basket, Quilt and Door Prize raffles. There are sign-up sheets posted in the Narthex for anyone wishing to donate. Please consider donating a themed raffle basket, door prize item-homemade, home baked, craft or purchased items. The raffles are always well participated and enjoyed by many.

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Ellen Braunschweig
 Shirley Chatfield
 Carly Ostrom
 Peyton Wolter
 Tom & Donna Meotke
 Wilber & Barb Pieper
 Ross & Jacob Kopfer
 Patrick Jones
 Art Hall
 Arvon Kuehl

**Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA – Annual Meeting
June 13, 2020**

The 2020 annual meeting was called to order President Jerry Liesener at 9:23 am with 31 voting members present. Devotions were led by Jerry Liesener.

A motion was made by Christine Siedschlag, seconded by Mike Johnson to accept the annual meeting minutes from February 9, 2020, the special congregational meeting minutes from March 1, 2020, and the special congregational meeting minutes from August 16, 2020, as printed in the annual report. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Paul Egholm, seconded by Karen Wolter to accept the 2020 treasurer's report as printed. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer Carrie Wendorf presented the 2021 budget. A motion was made by Wendy Egholm, seconded by Franklin Wolter to accept the 2021 treasurer's report as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

The Endowment Fund report was presented by Jerry Liesener. A motion was made by Christine Siedschlag, seconded by Lester Schuett, to accept the endowment fund report as printed. All in favor, motion carried.

President Jerry Liesener appointed Christine Siedschlag and Natalie Siedschlag as ballot clerks.

Jerry Liesener was brought forth by the nominating committee for a 1-year term as President with a term ending in 2022. A motion was made by Wendy Egholm, seconded by Lester Schuett, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to accept Jerry Liesener as President for a 1-year term. All in favor, motion carried.

Debbie Guenther was brought forth by the nominating committee for a 3-year term ending in 2024 for Worship. A motion was made by Paul Egholm, seconded by Lester Schuett, to close nominations for Worship. All in favor, motion carried.

Christine Siedschlag was brought forth by the nominating committee for a 3-year term ending in 2024 for Missions. A motion was made by Paul Egholm, seconded by Lester Schuett, to close nominations for Missions. All in favor, motion carried.

Franklin Wolter was brought forth by the nominating committee for a 3-year term ending in 2024 for Building and Grounds. A motion was made by Paul Egholm, seconded by Jeanine Heinrich, to close nominations for Building and Grounds and cast a unanimous ballot for Council positions of Debbie Guenther for Worship, Christine Siedschlag for Missions and Franklin Wolter for Building and Grounds, all 3-year terms ending in 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

President Jerry Liesener appointed Shari Franke and Ryan Altreuter to the Endowment Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2024. Other members of the committee include Terry Clemans and Erla Newbecker terms ending in 2022 and Wendy Egholm term ending in 2023.

President Jerry Liesener appointed Wendy Egholm to the Audit Committee for a 3-year term thru 2024. Other members of the committee include Brian Schlieve term ending in 2022 and Barth Liesener term ending in 2023.

Mike Johnson (Stewardship), Gina Altreuter (Education), Linda Braunschweig (Evangelism) and Lynn Clemans were appointed to the Nominating Committee.

Pastoral Report – Pastor Doug thanked the Council for support in the past year. Many behind the scenes discussions took place regarding closing worship, how to open safely, closing again and re-opening safely again. Based on the Synods recommendation, Pastor Doug will be taking some sabbatical time to reset, rest and return from the challenges of 2020. The Council has approved a 2-week sabbatical in July. Plans are for 1 week of continuing education in South Dakota and 1 week at home to review some options for adult education this fall. The Synod has provided \$500 towards supply pastors during this time.

Committee Reports:

Worship – a search for an organist will be happening in 2021. A thank you was extended to Debbie Guenther for continuing to play for worship services during this search.

Building and Grounds – When the pipe burst in March 2020, minor church updates were performed consisting of removal of the bubbler, replacement of the partitions in the downstairs men's bathroom, repainting, etc. The refrigerator downstairs will be repaired.

Old Business – Jerry will look into getting an exterminator or some company to come in to investigate the rodent/mice problem in the church.

New Business – Two outside windows replacements on the south side of the church were approved for \$9500 plus labor at the August 2020 special congregational meeting. Due to the death of builder and COVID, the windows are still in need of replacement. Jerry had another company come in to bid the project but is waiting on the final bid. Motion by Paul Egholm, seconded by Karen Wolter, to approve up to \$20,000 without a special congregational meeting. Discussion followed regarding the increase in building material costs. Natalie Siedschlag moved to amend the motion to \$35,000, seconded by Karen Wolter. Call to vote for amendment, all in favor, motion carried. Call to vote to approve up to \$35,000 without a special congregational meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Donations are encouraged and will be accepted towards the replacement windows.

Discussion on the quorum for congregational meetings. Currently our constitution states 30 voting members for a quorum. Discussion followed on changing the constitution to follow the bylaws and then the bylaws will include that a quorum shall consist of at least 50% of the previous year's average weekly worship attendance. Motion by Natalie Siedschlag, seconded by Sally Schoenike, to amend Zion's constitution C10.04 from 30 voting members shall constitute a quorum to C10.04 a quorum shall be established in accordance with the bylaws of the congregation. All in favor, motion carried. We will continue with 30 voting members at congregational meetings until the bylaws can be changed at the 2022 annual meeting.

Jerry closed the meeting with prayer.

A motion was made by Franklin Wolter, seconded by Mike Johnson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 am. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Tunak ~ 2020 Council Secretary

Since most COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, we are going to discontinue live-streaming our worship services at this time. We will continue in the future if needed.