

Through Zion's Window

March 2023

Psalm 32

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered ²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.³While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah ⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. ¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. ¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

In this season of Lent, let us remember the Lord is with us. Guiding, teaching, reproofing us. My hope is that we focus in this season, on the daily devotion of trusting in the Lord. I hope we look deeply this season at where we are succeeding in this task and where we still need some work to be done.

Each day the Lord meets us, wherever we are. Whether we are faithfully plowing ahead or stuck in a ditch. May we see Him and recognize His presence in our lives and call on Him in times of distress instead of being stubborn and independent.

Remember, our Lord is our Redeemer. Are you stuck in a ditch? Do you not know how you got there or how to get out? Do you feel weary and repressed? Do you feel overlooked and broken? Do you feel ashamed? Well, guess what, Jesus, "yup, that guy", saw the weary, the broken, the marginalized, the shameful, and made them whole and made them new. He restored, He healed, and He saved. He demonstrated His redeeming nature in his ministry on the earth by restoring sight, repairing the broken, and healing the sick. All these things he did and will do again. Call on Him and he will restore. Although, He may not "fix" things in the way we expect or the way we want, but He works out all things with love and faithfulness.

Sometimes repairs take changes on our part. Is God calling you to walk away from a vice? Do you prioritize things that ultimately destroy you? Have you gone your own way and ended up broken and ashamed? Let God counsel and teach you in the way you should go. Let Him lead and guide you. Ponder upon His word and study His precepts. He will shepherd you and restore you to goodness. The Lord reproofs those He loves. As the Psalmist mentions in vs 3 and 4 of Psalm 32. Reproof hurts. It's not fun. Feeling guilty is "yucky." Nobody likes it, but the quicker we are to recognize our sins and call on Him for forgiveness the quicker He can restore our joy.

In this season, we focus on Jesus' life and ministry before the Cross and at Holy Week we recognize Jesus' death, burial, and most importantly His resurrection! Jesus a spotless lamb, a healer, and redeemer. As we review the readings this season, look at how Jesus met each and every person He encountered with grace and love, where they were. He wasn't "too good" to help the lowly or "too perfect" to help the unclean. Can He meet you where you are? And will you call on Him?

**Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA – Annual Meeting
February 13, 2023**

The 2022 annual meeting was called to order by President Jerry Liesener at 9:37 am with 31 voting members present. Devotions were led by Pastor Doug.

A motion was made by Suzy Rather, seconded by Franklin Wolter to accept the 2021 annual meeting minutes dated February 13, 2022 as printed in the annual report. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer Carrie Wendorf reviewed the 2022 treasurer's report. Carrie made note of the amount that was pledged versus donated in 2022 and thanked the congregation for their generous support. A motion was made by Wendy Egholm, seconded by Doreen Kuehl to accept the 2022 treasurer's report as printed in the annual report. All in favor, motion carried.

The 2023 budget was reviewed as printed in the annual report. Sally Schoenike summarized the budget amounts for Little Free Library and Craft & Snacks nights (under Outreach). \$2100 is allocated under Supply Pastors-Bruce Falksen but the complete amount will not be used due to Cross' worship time change. The Donation line includes Holy Name's donation to Zion for use of the building. Motion by Paul Egholm, seconded by Allen Petersen, to accept the 2023 budget as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Jerry Liesener presented the Endowment Fund report. A motion was made by Carrie Wendorf, seconded by Karen Wolter, to accept the endowment fund report as printed in the annual report. All in favor, motion carried.

Shari Franke and Neal Wendorf were appointed as ballot clerks.

Presentation of Candidates and Nominations for Council Positions:

Jerry Liesener was nominated for President. Wendy Egholm motioned, Debbie Guenther seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to accept Jerry Liesener as President for a 1-year term. All in favor, motion carried.

Carrie Wendorf was nominated for Treasurer. Suzy Rather motioned and Allen Petersen seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to accept Carrie Wendorf as Treasurer for a 3-year term. All in favor, motion carried.

The following were nominated for a 3-year council at-large positions: Natalie Siedschlag was nominated by Heidi Tunak; Sally Schoenike was nominated by Suzy Rather and Lynn Clemans was nominated by Doreen Schultz. Wendy Egholm motioned and Karen Wolter seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to accept Natalie Siedschlag, Sally Schoenike and Lynn Clemans for a 3-year term on the council. All in favor, motion carried.

Paul Egholm was appointed to the Endowment Fund Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. Other members of the committee include Shari Franke & Ryan Altreuter term ending in 2024 and Terry Clemans & Jeanine Heinrich term ending in 2025.

Heidi Tunak was appointed to the Audit Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. Other members of the committee include Wendy Egholm term ending in 2024 and Scott Gramling term ending in 2025.

Deanna Braunschweig, Ruth Pierick and Mike Johnson were appointed to the Nominating Committee.

Pastor's report and committee reports were reviewed as printed in the annual report. Pastor thanked the congregation members, projection operators and all those behind-the-scenes that help to get things done for Sunday morning services. He asked that we all look at how worship services might/could change for 2023 and share those ideas with him and/or the Worship committee. President Jerry Liesener noted that our insurance policy is currently being reviewed for a pending roof replacement. The roof was replaced in 2005. Suzy Rather extended thanks to Doreen Schultz and others for assistance with Evangelism and the various events held at Zion.

Old Business – Window repair and replacement was discussed as part of New Business.

New Business –

When Pastor Doug was hired, a covenant with Zion and Cross was created that stated one Sunday a month, each church would each have a supply Pastor so Pastor Doug would be able to spend the entire Sunday at that respective church (Zion the 2nd Sunday and Cross the 3rd Sunday). Cross has recently changed their worship time to 10:30 am so a supply Pastor is no longer needed once a month. Motion by Carrie Wendorf, seconded by Suzy Rather to set the covenant aside. All in favor, motion carried.

The retaining wall in the back of church is falling causing parking lot issues and the concrete slab near the back door to be raised. Jerry has received a quote for tear down, rebuilding and installing proper drainage for approximately \$3,000. He has also received a quote for leveling the concrete slab, upper and lower parking lot repairs, sealcoating, and painting stripes for approximately \$10,000. Motion by Debbie Guenther, seconded by Paul Egholm to proceed with the retaining wall and parking lot needs using general funds up to \$14,000. All in favor, motion carried.

The window replacement for the south side of the church continues to be delayed mainly due to obtaining windows from Marvin Windows. The last update Jerry received is Marvin is expecting to produce our specialty windows in March. Discussion followed on replacing the windows on the north side of the church, increased costs and the quote Jerry received in 2022. Motion by Suzy Rather, seconded by Allen Petersen to allocate at least \$60,000 with a contingent to go over by 20% if needed for the replacement of all the windows. All in favor, motion carried. If anyone is interested in giving towards the windows, Carrie has created a special window fund.

Jerry thanked the out-going council members; Mike Johnson, Suzy Rather and Gina Altreuter.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

A motion was made by Wendy Egholm, seconded by Erla Newbecker, to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 am. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Tunak

For Lent we will be taking part in a round robin worship schedule again this year. Services will start at 7:00pm, after worship the host congregation will serve a light meal with fellowship time.

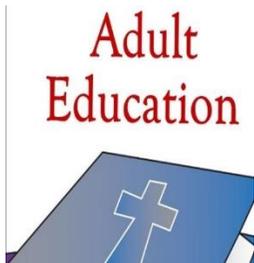
March 1st - Holy Name of Jesus at Zion Lutheran (Joint Worship with Zion)

March 8th - St. Catherine's

March 15th - St. Paul's

March 22nd - Cross Lutheran

March 29th - St. Olaf's



Adult Education will be from 10:00-11:30 at Zion, every 1st- 4th Wednesday. Now is a great time to join in! Zoom attendance is also an option if needed. Contact Pastor or the office to get set-up with a link. All are welcome! We are currently doing a text study on the weekly scriptures, readings are available in the narthex.

Sunday School will be held sometime in March. Stay tuned for more details. Plans are being made. Lily Mireau, Gina Altreuter, and Michelle Nord have taken over the leadership of this ministry. Thank you ladies for all you do for the kiddos!



For ordinary announcements, notes, or updates the best way to contact the church is via phone or email. Adeline is in the Zion office on Wednesdays. She is also in the office at Cross on Thursdays. Contact info is below:

Church Number: 920-474-7234

Office Email: crosszionparish@outlook.com

Or: zionashippun@wi.twcbc.com

***Both emails are valid and go to the same inbox.

If it is an emergency and you need immediate assistance from the office, please call or text Pastor on his cell at 262-490-8737. If he doesn't answer right away, please leave a voicemail. Thank you!



Pastor will be at Whelan's Fridays from 10-12. Join him for fellowship and conversation. All are welcome! In the event of any changes Pastor will update you via Facebook.

We will be providing coffee each week after worship. If you would like to bring in treats, please do.



If you are interested in participating in the baking of our Communion bread each week, a sign-up sheet is available in the narthex on the bulletin board. It's a great way to participate.

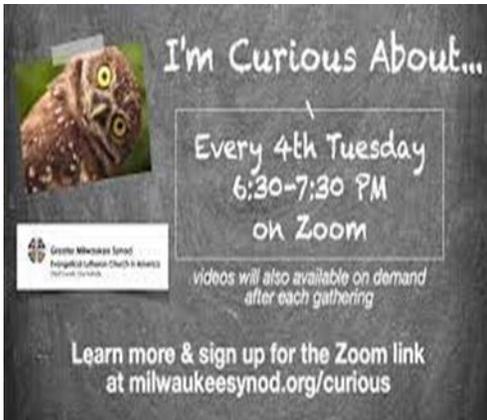
Please
Pray
for...



Ellen Braunschweig
Carly Ostrom
Peyton Wolter
Tom & Donna Meotke
Ross & Jacob Kopfer
Patrick Jones
Rachel Zwieg
Shirley Koeppl
Marlee Smith
Carol Schuett
Larry Rather
Bonnie Katzfey
Kimberly Anders
Melissa S.
Mike Johnson
Family of Shirley Chatfield
Bernice (Bede Zwieg's sister)

If you are a knitter or crocheter and would like to help out, Zion is resuming our prayer shawl ministry. Directions are attached at the back of the newsletter. This ministry is coordinated by our Missions Committee via Christine Seidschlag.





Our synod's Mission Table will host an hour-long, monthly gathering on Zoom for Christians who want to dream together about where God is leading the Church.

New topics each month, every 4th Tuesday from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, via Zoom. Come, hear inspiring reflections from others. No experience is needed. All voices are welcome.

Contact Rev. Matthew Short at matt@milwaukee-synod.org with questions.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday: 7:00pm at Cross

Good Friday: 7:00pm at Zion with Holy Name

Easter Sunday: 8:30am at Zion and 10:30am at Cross



Mark your calendars. Zion will be hosting a blood drive on March 13th. Sign-ups are posted in the Narthex for Volunteers. Shifts start at 12:00pm. Thank you!

Check out the bulletin board at Church for info on events going on in the area. Lots of events are happening in the springtime at Churches around us:

St. Peters spaghetti dinner March 3rd

St. John's Swiss steak dinner March 12th

St. Michael's St. Patrick's Day Dinner March 19th



See the bulletin board for more info or contact the church office for more info if you can't make it in. Thank you!