

# Through Zion's Window

May 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

In my report to the congregation for the annual meeting I invited/challenged you to consider new ways we can worship. I realize that there is often great comfort in doing things the way we've always done them, however that route can also lead to stagnation and decline. This does not automatically mean that change will lead to new growth – there are congregations throughout the ELCA that have explored new worship opportunities without seeing change to the raw numbers in worship on a Sunday morning. Nevertheless, new ways of worship can create positive change even without “more butts in the pews and bucks in the plates” by reinvigorating our congregations and inspiring us to more fully become the people God has called us to be in the world.

Last Sunday (April 23<sup>rd</sup>) in the message I briefly touched on the structure of Lutheran worship; the four major movements in worship:

1. Gathering. During the gathering we come together giving thanks for the gift of baptism or confessing our sins and hearing the promise of God's forgiveness. We sing, both a hymn and the Kyrie and Hymn of praise. We pray.
2. Word. At this time, we read the scriptures, hear the messages (both for children and adults) and, once again, sing!
3. Meal. We speak the Creed, share the prayers of the people, share the peace and collect the offering. We hear the story of God's work of salvation in the Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution. We receive God's forgiveness as we receive the body and blood of our Savior in Communion with God and one another. And we pray prayers of thanksgiving for the offering and the gift of the Table.
4. Sending. We are sent into the world with prayer and blessing and song to continue to live out and share the love of God in our communities.

These four movements create a wonderful structure for worship; there is a reason they have remained the core of worship for centuries. My question for each of you today is simple. Are there ways that we can enliven any, or all, of these movements. For example, the Sending is currently the shortest of the movements. Are there ways we can make it more “fun” or “exciting”. After all we should be overjoyed to be empowered to go out into the world in the name of our God! As the old saying goes, there are no dumb ideas because even ideas that we don't use fully can spark great conversation that leads to exciting opportunities.

I encourage you to share your ideas with myself, the members of our Worship teams (Zion – Debbie Gunther and Deanna Braunschweig; Cross – Laure Schwefel and a member to be named later 😊 (If you're interested in being part of the team please speak to Laure or myself)) or any member of the councils. The congregations can diverge on worship, we don't have to do the same thing on Sunday morning. And feel free to write something up and submit it anonymously if you are uncomfortable claiming the idea for yourself. Lastly, but not leastly, if you love our current worship and would rather not see any changes we need to hear that as well!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Doug*



March 12, 2023 Zion Church Council Meeting

Members present: Natalie Siedschlag, Chris Siedschlag, Sally Schoenike, Debbie Guenther, Gerry Liesener, Frank Wolter, Deanna Braunschweig, Carrie Wendorf, and Pastor Doug Anderson.

The meeting was called to order by President Gerry Liesener at 9:38 AM  
Devotions were led by Pastor Doug; April devotions by Debbie Guenther

Motion made by Chris Siedschlag, seconded by Frank Wolter to accept the secretary's minutes; approved.

Motion by Debbie Guenther; seconded by Gerry Liesener to accept the Treasurers report; approved.

Pastor started discussion regarding the use of the church for a non-member for a wedding. This would also allow the use of a different pastor and musician (with the approval of Pastor and Laure and Debbie). It was agreed that the church could be rented for a fee of \$150.00.

Committees were assigned with the discussion of getting a list at a future meeting of the different responsibilities of each committee.

Parish Education and Worship – Debbie Guenther

Evangelism- Sally Schoenike

Missions – Chris and Natalie Siedschlag

Stewardship – Lynn Clemens

Building and Grounds – Frank Wolter

It was decided that the covenant that was established when Pastor Andersen was hired could be set aside as of 2/26/23 as it is no longer needed, since Cross has moved their worship time to 10:30 (giving Pastor time between services, no longer needing a substitute pastor on the third Sunday of the month) Installation of council members at Zion will be on 3/26/23 during the worship service.

Council meetings are to be held the second Sunday of the month following worship, with the exception of April being held on 4/16, as Easter Sunday is the second Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM on motion by Deanna Braunschweig, second by Frank Wolter; approved.

The meeting concluded with The Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Guenther



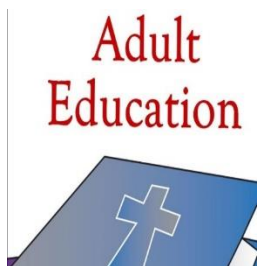


Pastor will be on vacation from May 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. All mid-week activities are on hold till he returns.

### Crafts and Snacks – Monday May 8, 2023

6pm – Zion Basement

Come and join us for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. All supplies are provided, but please bring a snack to share. There is no cost for this event. We will be making Button flowers and garden stakes. Open to friends and family of Zion and the surrounding community. All ages welcome. Please let Sally know by May 5<sup>th</sup> if you would like to join us. Please email at [jschoenike@netwurx.net](mailto:jschoenike@netwurx.net) or call/text 920-988-7797. We hope you can join us.



Adult Education will be from 10:00-11:30 at Zion, every 1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Note: There will be no Class on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Sunday School will be held sometime in May. Stay tuned for more details.





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.

Note: There will be no gathering on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

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



Please  
Pray  
for...



Ellen Braunschweig  
Peyton Wolter  
Tom & Donna Meotke  
Ross & Jacob Kopfer  
Patrick Jones  
Shirley Koeppel  
Marlee Smith  
Carol Schuett  
Melissa S.  
Mike Johnson  
Judy Wolter  
Bernice (Bede Zwieg's sister)  
Paul Egholm

The National Day of Prayer is on May 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in gathering with fellow believers to pray for our nation a fellow community church is hosting a service. Details are on the poster in the fellowship hall.



On behalf of Bread and Roses: Thank you to all that played a part in the serving at last month's event. Also, thank you to all that prepared and donated food. You are all a blessing to the community. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need.



## Walks for Cancer

Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>

Join the Zion Spirit team and register at [ProHealthCare.org/WalksforCancer](https://ProHealthCare.org/WalksforCancer).

Early online registration ends April 18: \$30\* (\*save \$5.00 when registering online) 2023 shirts are white with blue lettering.

9:30a.m. Program / 10am Walk begins in Oconomowoc.

If anyone is interested in doing our own walk, contact Doreen Schultz.

