

Through Zion's Window

July and August 2023



One Simple Act

When we think of the important days in the church year Christmas and Easter come to mind. Our churches are full, the hymns are powerful and we feel connected to God and one another in more deep ways.

During the summer however our faith can seem more disconnected than connected. We are distracted by everything from family gatherings to beautiful weather. The church services are more routine, we even call this time in the church the "Ordinary" time. Gone are the deep colors or brightness of the colors in our space – the deep blues and purples, the white and gold. Instead the color is a simple green – the color of new growth.

While it seems that Christmas and Easter are times when we feel the closeness of Christ most deeply, we must never forget that one of the ways for us to feel that closeness all year long is through prayer. This simple act which requires nothing but us reaching out to God, can provide a peace which surpasses all understanding.

As we go through our summer let us be intentional about connecting with God in our daily lives through prayer.

Prayer is our communication with God: Prayer is a way to communicate with God, a direct communication with our God who loves us unconditionally and listens to us, even when we feel no one else does.

Prayer strengthens our faith: Prayer helps to deepen our faith and trust in God. As a ritual, prayer reminds us to seek and listen to God's guidance in our lives - during the good times, the bad times and the times when we feel no one would understand.

Prayer provides intercession: While we often hear the saying "pray about it" - do we really stop and do so - or is it just a passing thought? Prayer is important for interceding on behalf of others at times when we know that prayer is the only thing we can do for our loved ones, our neighbors, our community or the world.

Prayer gives us a time to simply give thanks: By giving thanks through prayer, we take the time to acknowledge God's goodness and express our appreciation for His grace and mercy.

This Summer I challenge you all to add a little more prayer into your lives. The next time someone crosses your mind, say a short prayer for them. When you are driving down the road and a stranger catches your attention, say a short prayer for them. When the turmoil in the world leaves you feeling helpless, say a short prayer. When the morning or evening news leaves you feeling sad or angry, say a short prayer for our world and all our leaders. When you wake in the morning, take a sip of coffee or simply sigh, say a little prayer.

Whether intentional time is taken for prayer or just a quick moment, it can all make a difference in our daily lives and our relationships with ourselves, others and our God. Prayer really can do more than we realize. We just never know where God may lead us to action, in ways we never thought of before.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug



Minutes from meeting on 5/14/23. Meeting called to order at 9:45 by president Jerry Liesener. Members present Debbie Guenther, Frank Wolter, Jerry Liesener, Natalie Siedschlag,, Chris Siedschlag, Sally Schoenike, Carrie Wendorf, Deanna Braunschweig and Pastor Doug Andersen
Devotions were led by Debbie Guenther. June devotions to be led by Chris Siedschlag

The minutes of previous meeting were approved after motions by Chris Siedschlag and Sally Schoenike.

Chris questioned where the monies from Thrivent designations go. Carrie was unsure and says she only receives ACH for amounts. A motion was made by Deanna Braunschweig and seconded by Frank Wolter to approve the Treasurers report; motion carried.

Pastor reported that worship committee met and that summer services would change slightly, with a call to worship hymn being used all weeks in June and a different one in July (this will replace the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise). Also, the sign of peace would be moved to an earlier part of the service. The sermon will be more broken down like a bible study. Pastor will be attending the West Pastors Conference.

Worship discussed the above in a little more detail and brought up that it was suggested that communion be at the railing every week. Debbie made a motion and Carrie seconded to approve beginning with the 5/21 service. The motion passed with 2 no votes.

Carrie also mentioned that some members would like to possibly not have as much standing as the people who sit most of the service have trouble seeing the screen. Natalie also mentioned the screen is difficult to read when the music notes are on the screen. It was mentioned that hymnal is available for those having trouble seeing the screen.

Other old business was the possibility of an Ice Cream Social this summer. Debbie will ask previous chairpersons if they are interested.

Sally said that craft night was a big success and is looking into having the Chocolate lady for one of the nights.

The website is being looked at for possible changes. As of now we are unable to change information more than once a month at the beginning of the month (Dawn makes changes to the calendar per the current newsletter). Pastor is looking into other providers that would give us more flexibility and the power to change as needed. (more expensive). Pastor will report back at June meeting.

Nothing has been done on the membership list.

No Synod Assembly delegates have been found.

The roof repair will begin on May 22nd. There is \$5,000 allotted for new gutters, but since we don't need, we will use that money for additional downspouts and remove the wall and repair the area on the front driveway.

Frank mentioned that a tree is dying and may have to be removed.

More discussion on Welcome Bags for visitors (Addie will be asked to look for a pamphlet or sheet on Zion).

The Hope Center (Pastor Roy Nelson), discussion to have a Sunday for collection basket/money in June. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 on motions by Deanna and Frank.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Guenther

SUMMER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

July:

4 – Kendall Brittenham
9 – Marian Kluewer
10 – Mark Heinrich
11 – Norma Tunak
15 – Kyle Schlieve
18 – Alex Wagner
21 – Peggy Liesener
28 – Carol Schuett

August:

1 – Nathan Egholm
4 – Emma Brittenham
5 – Bud Newbecker
6 – Larry Rather
6- Mike Johnson
11- Heidi Tunak
12- Ruth Peirick
13 – John Seidschlag
15 – Shauna Clemans
16 – Scott Schultz
23 – Linda Schmidt
26 – Sally Schoenike
31 – Greta Altreuter
31 – Jim Schmidt

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

August:

6 – Jerry & Peggy Liesener
24 – Scott & Carmen Schultz
28 – Bruce & Carrie Petersen

Altar Guild

July: Millie M. and Heidi T.
August: Wendy E. & Ruth P.

Reader

July: Anna G.
August: Starr A.

Ass't Minister

July:
02 – Anna G.
09 – Carrie W.
16 – Starr A.
23 – Jerry L.
30 – Anna G.
August:
06- MS Bike Tour
13 – Carrie W.
20 – Starr A.
27 – Jerry L.

Ushers

July: Lester S. Team
August: Franklin W. Team

Projector System

July:
02 – Starr A.
09 – Jerry L.
16 – Carrie W.
23 – Heidi T.
30 – Cindy W.

August:

06- MS Bike Tour
13 – Starr A.
20 – Carrie W.
27 – Heidi T.

Greeters

July:

02 – Doreen K.
09 – Scott and Anna G.
16 – Allen and Mary Lee P.
23 – Terry and Lynn C.
30 – Millie M.

August:

06- Ruth P.
13 – Jerry and Peggy L.
20 – Cindy W.
27 – Paul and Wendy E.



May 7	30
May 14	43
May 21	30
May 28	38

Please
Pray
for...



Ellen Braunschweig
Peyton Wolter
Tom & Donna Meotke
Ross & Jacob Kopfer
Patrick Jones
Shirley Koeppel
Marlee Smith
Carol Schuett
Melissa S.
Bernice (Bede Zwieg's sister)
Dan Ferrise (Friend of Cindy W.)

Zion has a separate account set up for donations toward our window repairs. If you would like to give directly to this fund, please talk directly to Carrie about the donation or place it into the offering plate in a separate envelope with a note designating it to "window fund". Thank you!



St. Olaf's will be hosting a one-day VBS on Saturday August 5th from 10 – 4pm. This event will be free and will include lunch and a T-shirt. Children 3-12 are welcome to register online. They have a more info and a link on their website or you can follow the link from the email blast.

Pastor will be on vacation from July 17th thru July 31st.



Donate Hygiene Items



In the Month of July, Zion will be collecting items for the Hope Center Please see attached flier for more details! Thank you!



Oktoberfest 2023

Plans are underway for our annual Oktoberfest celebration and polka worship service. Mark your calendars for Sunday October 1.

The Goodtime Dutchmen Band will lead the music and singing at 10 a.m. following the worship service worshippers are invited to share in Gemütlichkeit Under the Tent as well as food in the basement.

At 12:00 the festivities continue with a polka dance complete with raffles in the basement. A dance admission will be taken.

The Zion Quilt has become a tradition at Oktoberfest, and this year is no exception. Ele Mack is making the quilt, watch for updates regarding colors and size. The winner will be drawn at 3pm at the dance.

Oktoberfest is one of Zion's annual fundraisers. All members are encouraged to support this effort by buying and selling raffle tickets and participating in the worship service, lunch and dance. Raffle tickets are being prepared, watch for updates on availability.

The Oktoberfest Gazette will be included in the Weekly Happenings with updated information. Looking forward to another exciting event.

Zion Oktoberfest Committee