



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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September 2023 Newsletter

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September SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	GREETER	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.	USHER	TECH.
9/3	Chelsea Solberg & Pat Carroll	Linda Robinson	Scot Solberg	Sharon Nordahl & Vicki Minzel	Dave Maier
9/10	Monte Solberg & Nina Yunker	Teresa Stokken	Nina Yunker & Starla Solberg	Brian Sallee & Monte Boettger	Pat Weichel
9/17	Dennis & Linda Robinson	Laurie Bentley	Laurie Bentley	Phil & Pam Koterba	Bob Giese
9/24	Gayle Arntzen & Debbie Knepper	Cindy Giese	Cindy Giese & Bob Giese	Dan Knepper & Doug Arntzen	Dave Maier

*IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL YOUR DUTY, PLEASE FIND YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

We share God's call to experience purpose, wholeness, and community in Jesus Christ and faithfully steward his creation.



“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Towards the middle of June I was asked “how has your summer been?” A simple, polite question was met with an exhausted response, “Summer; what summer?” Whoever coined the term “lazy days of summer,” has not lived at our house this summer. I am not going to bore you with the details. It befuddles me that as of this weekend summer is technically over; it is time to get into the swing of a new program year; B.L.A.S.T, confirmation, bible studies, PZYG, worship, school sports, and all the other activities associated with school.

Zion’s program year is prioritized due to my belief that if we prioritize our spiritual life all the rest of life’s happenings will fall into place. With our faith a priority when the other activities of our lives fail to live up to our hope and expectations, it is our faith that supports us and allows us to not despair. Faith helps us to remember who God is; never failing love and mercy. Faith reminds us that God is with us, loves us, and no matter if we fail, love, grace and mercy are still present with us.

Zion’s program year is prioritized because God does not call us to live life, or faith, alone. We need one another to not for encouragement, but to help us keep this foundation of God’s strong, This foundation will encourage us not only during good times, but especially through the confusing and awful times. One foundational gift God gives us is the church and the church is the family of people who not only remind us of God’s sure foundation, but are God’s hands to show us this foundation in our joys and sorrows.

One activity the Rydbom’s were able to accomplish this summer was to have a family reunion over the course of a week. Due to the size of our home, however, not everyone could stay at the same time. Everyone attended, but each day one or two families, or family members, were not with us. Although it was fantastic to see each other individually, each day felt a little odd because some members were absent. The talent, and support of the missing person was missed.

This is a good example of the church God creates. God gathers each one of us to support and share our talents at Zion. When one member of our church family is missing we all feel it; we miss out on the talent; we miss out on the encouragement.

Even in our busyness this verse from Thessalonians commands and encourages us to continue to encourage and lift up fellow followers of Jesus. The church of Thessalonians was already doing this and Paul reminds them to not stop, but to keep on encouraging each other. I pray each one of us does the same.

In Christ,

Pastor Audrey

Click [HERE](#) to see the SEPTEMBER calendar.

Staying connected with our church just got easier. Just download the Instant Church app and you will have access to our church directory.



If you haven’t already, please download this app. You can use your home computer or a smart phone. If you are not able to do either of these options, we will be printing hard copies.

Outdoor Summer Worship

Summer "lawn chair" worship ended August 30th. Zion will continue to offer a 30 minute 6pm worship service starting September 13th in the sanctuary. If Sunday morning does not work for you to worship please join us on Wednesday.



September Social Concern is...

Aaron Decker

Missionary in Boliva

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please mark Missionary in the memo line of you check.

B.L.A.S.T.

Wednesday September 13th will be our first official B.L.A.S.T. Wednesday.

Highland Park kids will meet Falan at the monkey bars at the corner of 1st and 7th Ave. Please let Falan know if your kiddo will be there that day. We will all walk together the first 2 weeks.

Lewis and Clark kids will meet in the Mormon Church parking lot.

This year we will be extending our pickup time to 5:30pm.

We are all really excited to get this B.L.A.S.T. year started.

If you have any questions, please call or text Falan.



A “Pray-Ground”

Zion is developing a “pray ground.” The pray ground is a place for our young members to quietly be active during worship. The concept is not new; it is being used throughout the world to allow our youngest members to be in worship, without having to sit their little bodies totally still.

My first encounter with a “pray ground” was my first call as a pastor in Missoula. We did not call it a “pray ground,” we called it a place for the children to quietly be busy. It wasn’t fancy. We put a quilt behind the back pew. The children sat on it, colored, looked at books, and played with some quiet toys. During the children’s sermon they came forward, talked about the scripture and God’s love, then were told they could either go to the quilt and quietly play or be with their parents. The choice was totally theirs.

Here is what I noticed. Yes, they would play, but they were also listening. Often times I would see them stop what they were doing and participate in liturgical songs that were familiar to them and prayers. They were hearing and experiencing worship without the distraction of constantly being scolded for not sitting still OR adding to the stress of a parent who was worried their child might not be “perfect” during worship. The best part? No one felt they had to leave worship, or sit outside of worship because of behavior. ALL were truly welcome.

As Zion develops the “pray ground” we need ideas for quiet ways to engage our youth. It would also be nice if there were a volunteer, or two, that would be willing to rotate out the toys to prevent boredom, and even sanitize the toys as needed. Please contact Pastor Audrey, or Falan if you have toy ideas, and/or are willing to oversee the pray ground. Thank you.



- * Jessie Stewart
- * Tia Gaughan
(Pam Bowen’s granddaughter)
- * Becky Woltermann
- * Bob Simpson
- * Doris Moore
- * Sig Stokken

Wednesday Night Line-Up

Beginning September 13th, 2023

- ***B.L.A.S.T. and Rainbow Choir will meet from 3:30pm-5:30pm**
- ***Wee Singers will meet from 5-5:30pm**
- ***Confirmation will meet from 4:00pm – 5:00pm**
- ***Dinner 5:30 – 6:30pm**
- ***Worship 6:00 – 6:30pm**
- ***PZYG 6:45 – 8pm**

Hi there friends and family of Zion!

We're back! Duke, Chance and I were over at the west house in the mountains for a month. We roamed free, went for walks, and chased the squirrels whenever we could. For two weeks, as you know, Pastor Audrey joined us with Ruby, Sadie and Gunner. But the rest of the time it was just us.

You might think we enjoy the "just us." The truth is we don't. We get bored. We wonder what the rest of the family is doing and we worry they might need our help. Duke and I are the "warning system" for our house. It is our job to ensure everyone knows when someone, or thing, that is not a part of our family comes around. Without us we worry that something might happen to the rest of the clan. It is hard to be separated. We all have our job, and when we are not together life just doesn't seem quite right.

Pastor Audrey says we feel this way because God created us to be in relationship and when we are not together it feels like a part of us is missing. She says that is why it is important for even humans to check in with one another, spend time with one another, and do what we are good at it when we are together so everyone gets what they need... whether it is protection from the stranger, or, in the case of Sadie, that everyone is touched (which is gift she has that we are not as good at.)

I know what my gift is, and God's reason for creating me. What is yours? Do you remember to use it for others, and do what you can to keep your relationships strong? I hope so because I know my life is so much better when we are all together.

By the way! I am so mad that I missed the animal blessing at Zion. That looked like a really great time!

Until next time,

Zeus



PZYG

By now you are all aware that Pastor Stacey has resigned as the Youth and Family Faith Minister. Pastor Stacey's main focus was working with high school youth. Many may be wondering "so what now?" Here is the "what?"

Pastor Kimmey from First Presbyterian and Pastor Audrey have collaborated for the 2023-2024 year. Come on Wednesday, September 13th for a meal which is served 5:30 to 6:30 pm (if you have sports practice you can come straight from practice and feed that hungry body.) At 6:45 pm we will gather in the fellowship hall and then, together, we will find the new high school youth room. This room will be yours to make into the space you have dreamed about. We will also learn from you what topics you want to delve into during the year. We will discuss the servant mission planned for the summer of 2024 and hear from you your concerns and desires for this trip. We will also learn from each other how we can have some fun and grow in our faith together. Remember... We are never too old to grow in faith. There are some ninety-nine year olds, and older, still growing in their faith.

Hope to see you there! Any concerns or questions? Please call Pastor Audrey, 406-239-1533

Offering comfort and care to those who need it most.

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.

LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

School Kit Donations

- 70 Sheet Notebooks
- 30 cm Ruler
- Pencil Sharpener
- Blunt Scissors
- Unsharpened Pencils
- Blue/Black Ballpoint Pens
- 16 or 24 Box Crayons

Personal Care Kit Donation

- Light Weight Bath Towel
- Bar of soap
- Adult Toothbrush
- Sturdy Comb
- Nail Clippers

Baby Care Kit

- Cotton T-Shirt (no onesies)
- Long or Short Sleeve Gowns or Sleeper without Feet
- Receiving Blankets
- Cloth Diapers
- Jacket, Sweater, Sweatshirt, with Hood
- Socks
- Hand Towel (Dark Color)
- Gentle Bar Soap (No Mini or Hotel Bars)
- Diaper Pins or Large Safety Pins

DUTY GUIDELINES FOR USHERS

1. Be on duty fifteen minutes before service.
2. If necessary, turn on lights in nave, chancel, and narthex.
3. Make sure guest register is open and working pen is with it.
4. Check bulletin for baptism or special events that may need attention. Check with pastor if you have questions.
5. Stand near the nave doors to distribute bulletins. As needed, usher persons to their pews (e.g., the infirm, new members, etc.) especially as last minute folks come in and see that the back pews are full.
6. Fill out the *Attendance Record*. Leave in the narthex or place in the offering plate.
7. **The Offering**
 - Offering plates will remain at the back (not passed through the pews).
 - Always look at the bulletin to see when the offering should be taken to the front.
 - Receive the offering in the choir loft and narthex, as needed.
 - Ushers come forward with the offering plates when the acolyte comes to the altar rail to receive the offering plates.
9. **The Communion.**
 - Ushers should open the narthex doors and take their positions in the aisle at the front during the singing of the “Lamb of God”, so that members can be directed forward while the pastor communes the assistants.
 - Ushers will move back pew by pew to maintain a steady line of communicants.
 - Inform the pastor if there are persons to be communed in their pew.
10. Tidy the pews after worship. Pick up papers and put hymnals and Bibles in place.

Communion Guidelines

Please come to the sacristy during the singing of the “Holy, Holy, Holy”.
(If that is not sung, come during the Offering.)

Wash your hands at the sink.

Decide who will:

- who will serve wine, who will pick up cups (if serving by trays),

During the singing of the “Lamb of God” come to the front and stand at the altar to receive communion.

Leave the emptied trays at the altar. Place the covers on the unused trays remaining on the tables.

Exit through the sacristy to take your seat.
