



The Voice of Zion

February 1, 2021

A MEMBER CHURCH OF LUTHERAN
CONGREGATIONS
IN MISSION FOR CHRIST (LCMC)

PASTOR GREG KNIPPA, pastork7354@hotmail.com,

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*Our Mission: We unite to bear witness to
and receive God's love through Jesus Christ,
by worship, fellowship, education, and
service.*

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 am -2:00 pm

Sunday School for All Ages: Sunday 9:00 – 9:50 am

Sunday Fellowship at 9:30 am

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Sunday: Ladies Community Bible Study: 2:00 pm

MOPS: 2nd Tuesday of each month: 6:30 pm

Quilters: Each Wed. at 1:00 pm



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

February 1, 2021

Members and Friends,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting. This is an important part of the congregational duties.

I would like to thank Richard Crain, Rodney Reus and Pastor Ed Truelson for their time on the Council. It was a pleasure to work with them. I appreciate their honesty, insight, Christian attitude and diligent work ethic. I will personally miss them but know they will continue to be active members of Zion, doing things they can and praying for us all. Thank you!!

And welcome to our newest member, Floyd Santleben. I appreciate his willingness to serve on the Council. I hope he finds it rewarding and an opportunity to continue to move Zion in a forward direction. Welcome!!

As always, do not hesitate to discuss your ideas and concerns with me or any council member. We are here to represent you and address your interests and ideas.

Judy

jbeloat@swbell.net

(210) 416-2286



Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes January 10, 2021

Present: Judy Newman, Richard Crain, Jacob Schuetz, LeeAnn Hart, Scott Hunsicker, Hilton Stinson, Eddie McDaniel, and Pastor Greg Knippa

Absent: Candy Faulk, Pastor Ed Truelson, Raymond Heath and Rodney Reus

I. Opening Prayer – Pastor Greg

II. Minutes – The minutes were reviewed. Motion was made by Hilton and seconded by Richard to approve the minutes as written, and the motion carried.

III. Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. LeeAnn made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Hilton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

- A. Postage Meter** – Jacob recommended that Janice set up auto deduction for the bill payment. We all agreed.
- B. Audit Committee** – Judy will ask Bill Bippert, Anthony Stinson, and Carol Mangold to facilitate our annual audit in January.
- C. Payroll Coordination** – Scott read us a memo from Janice requesting Zion to pay her every other week. Judy will look at her contract with Zion to see when she is to be paid. Jacob explained that we currently pay Pastor Greg, Janice, and Andrew on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Pete is paid at the end of the month. The cleaning ladies are paid every Tuesday. To be more efficient, Jacob has been writing all the checks at the same time, postdating them to their respective pay dates. Scott suggested that we add a third signer at the bank for emergencies. Judy will call the bank to see how to add a third signer on the operating account.

IV. Pastor's Report – The Pastor's Report was reviewed and discussed. Pastor Greg said that in 2020, a pandemic year, Zion did very well. We increased our membership by 7 new members and have 3 new prospects. Zion has 19 ministries thriving in the church and community. AND we ended our year under budget and increased our checking account balance. To God Be the Glory!

V. Committee Reports

A. Property

- i. Remodel Parsonage Bathroom** – Scott told us Seth Sherrill is waiting on materials and will begin work soon.
- ii. Carport for the Parsonage** – Scott explained that the carport is ordered; the request for the permit has been submitted and is awaiting a response from the city.
- iii. Guide One Insurance**
 - a. Training Video and Test** – Scott related that Zion would receive a

5% discount on the insurance premium if we complied with the instructions, watched the training videos, and passed the section tests. Richard, Scott, and Eddie graciously volunteered to do so, and would become the risk management team for Zion.

- b. Rocks in the Flower Beds** – Scott told us that the rocks are coming out of the flower beds onto the parking lot and are causing a risk to members, possibly tripping and falling. He asked us to think about what to do and we would discuss this at the next council meeting.

- c. Property Values for Church Insurance** – Scott recommended that we adjust our church property value estimates. Currently they are as follows:

Fuos House - \$53,100

Parsonage - \$35,100

Youth Building - \$401,000 with personal property \$72,000

Church Building - \$1,310,000 with personal property \$236,500

After much discussion, LeeAnn made a motion to adjust our property value estimates with Guide One to only the following (everything else remains the same):

Parsonage - \$250,000 with personal property of \$100,000

Fuos House - \$200,000 with personal property of TBD

Youth Building - \$100,000 with personal property of \$25,000

Scott seconded the motion and the motion passed. Scott graciously volunteered to facilitate this adjustment with Guide One.

VI. Old Business

- A. **Safety Procedures - Security Training by James Maddock** – Because of the coronavirus pandemic, this still on hold. Pastor Greg related that he did not have James Maddock’s phone number. More research to follow.
- B. **Boy Scout Troop 310** – Scott told us that because of the pandemic, the Boy Scouts’ belongings are still in the storage building.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. **Covid 19 Policies and Procedures** – All agreed that everything is working well and Council did not feel that any changes need to be made at this time.
- B. **Restarting Events** – 19 ministries are up and running. We continue to add more as need, time and space allows.

VIII. New Business

- A. **Annual meeting** – January 17, 2021
- B. **Proposed budget** – Council approved the proposed budget which is very much the same as 2020 due to the pandemic.
- C. **Council Elections at the January 17, 2021 Annual Meeting** – Richard Crain’s 2nd will expire, Pastor Ed and Rodney Reus decided not to run for reelection. LeeAnn Hart volunteered to run for a second term. Hilton encouraged Floyd Santleben, Jr. to run for council and he accepted.
- D. **Nomination Committee** – Hilton, Judy, and LeeAnn motivated other members to run for council.

IX. Ushers – All council members are available as ushers.

X. Next Meeting

- A. January 17, 2021 – After the annual meeting, at which time we will be electing officers for 2021.
- B. Next Council Meeting – February 14, 2021
- C. Opening Prayer – Scott

XI. Adjournment and Close with the Lord’s Prayer –

LeeAnn moved to adjourn and Richard seconded the motion. All agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,

LeeAnn Hart, Council Secretary



Treasurer Report for Zion Lutheran Church

For December 2020, Zion Lutheran Church has a net loss of \$9,101.04. Please let me know if you have any questions, and I will answer them the best I can.

	<u>Dec. 2020</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$ 17,772.00	\$202,966.17
Total Expenses	<u>26,873.04</u>	<u>202,552.80</u>
Net Income	\$ -9,101.04	\$ 413.37

Respectfully,
Jacob Schuetz

FROM PASTOR GREG ...

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

WHAT IS LENT?

What is Lent? Learn about this 40-day season of the church year leading up to Easter (*Note: Lent 2021 begins on Wednesday, February 17, 2021.*)

Q: What is the significance of Lent?

A: Early in the Church’s history, the major events in Christ’s life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension. As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus’ birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church’s worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The “Hymn of Praise” is omitted from the liturgy. The word “Alleluia” is usually omitted as well. By not using the alleluia—a joyful expression meaning “Praise the Lord”—until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year. Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus’ resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday. This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see **Romans 6:1-11**). This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

Q: Do Lutherans have to give up something for Lent as some other denominations require?

A: From the perspective of the Lutheran tradition, "giving something up for Lent" is entirely a matter of Christian freedom. It would be wrong, from our perspective, for the church to make some sort of "law" requiring its members to "give something up for Lent," since the Scriptures themselves do not require this. If, on the other hand, a Christian wants to give something up for Lent as a way of remembering and personalizing the great sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins, then that Christian is certainly free to do so—as long as he or she does not "judge" or "look down on" other Christians who do not choose to do this.

Q: What is the significance of Ash Wednesday and ashes on the forehead?

A: *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice, a Commentary on Lutheran Worship*, says this about ashes on Ash Wednesday:

"Other customs may be used, particularly the imposition of ashes on those who wish it. This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day. Ashes can symbolize dust-to-dust and remind worshipers of the need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying. If they are applied during an act of kneeling, the very posture of defeat and submission expresses humility before God."

The use of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a more recent custom among most Lutheran congregations, although some have done it for decades. The ashes can be derived from the burned palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Experience will show, however, that in obtaining ashes this way, it doesn't take many ashes to "ash" a whole

congregation. Like sin, they are very dirty and go a long way. One palm leaf will produce enough ashes for several years. Usually, the pastor takes the ashes on the end of his thumb and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each worshiper, saying these words: *"Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

Your Servant in Christ Jesus *Pastor Greg*



Library Corner

Greetings from your church library -- exciting news to share. We have cleaned up the library room, added two nice chairs courtesy of Pete Martinez, along with a table and lamp. So feel free to come and sit awhile, read, study, do research, in a safe environment away from people. We continue to add new books every month, and now everything is described on the church's website as well. If you'd like to check out a book, you can email me and I will pull it for pickup at church or the office, just email your request to cglides1901@att.net. We encourage everyone to check out the new space.

Cathy Hangartner

Zion Lay Ministry

Women of the Word and Prayer Chain Coordinator: Linda Plante

Altar Guild: Carol Mangold, Cheri Boucher', Diane Hibbs, Frances Bippert

Quilters: Flo Balmer, Frances Bippert, Ruth Felty, Jane Scheffler, Diane Perreault, Suzanna Feliciano, Cathy Hangartner

Prayer Blanket Stitchers: Cheri Boucher', Lahoma McDaniel, Suzanna Feliciano

Sunday School: Sunday School Director and Children's Teacher: Pat Davila, *Teacher Assistants:* Sherry Langston; Candy Faulk; *Youth:* Emily Bippert; *Adult:* Carol Mangold

MOPS: Jana Urbanczyk

VBS Coordinator: Alicia Knippa

Garden Granny: Marcia Hart (Children's Message)

Multi-Media Ministry: Andrew Knippa

Church Librarian: Cathy Hangartner

Music Director: Pete Martinez

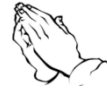
Counting Team Coordinator: Dorsey Krause



Medina Valley Nursing Home Service Schedule:

Services have been suspended until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and Medina Valley Health & Rehab Center allows visitors.

2/10	Lahoma McDaniel	2/11	Scott Hunsicker
2/16	Kenneth Ricks	2/17	Mark Smith
2/20	Marisela Boyles	2/21	Ginny Lewis
2/22	Mary Day	2/22	Brian Dietrich
2/22	Millard Schuchart	2/23	Raymond Heath
2/24	Linda Plante	2/24	Brenda Santleben
2/25	Dewayne Boyles	2/25	Nancy Jonas
2/26	Tommy Wurzbach	2/28	Cheryl Heath



Please Remember in Prayer:



Flowers

- February 7 *Brenda and Carl Santleben*
In memory of loved ones
- February 14 *Raymond and Cheryl Heath*
In memory of Marcia Tondre
Eddie and Dortha McDaniel
In honor of their 51st wedding anniversary
- February 21 *Pete and Bobbie Martinez*
To the greater glory of God
- February 28 *Jackie Moss*
To the glory of God

Zion Lutheran Church Prayer Request

Please pray for rain where needed, and employment for those who seek work.

Please pray for our members, friends and neighbors in public and military service: Brett Bippert, Sarah Bippert, Joshua Bradley, Jeff Burges, Sara Flanagan, Aaron Grigsby, Cody Haegelin; Sam Heath, Katie Johnson, Dorsey Krause III, Matthew Krause, Ryan Sprauer, Paul Stinson, Pat Sheehan and Garrett Wurzbach.

Please remember in prayer our members and friends in nursing homes and hospitals: Herbert Richter and Lee Ann Wurzbach.

Please lift up our homebound members in prayer: Bill & Janet Armstrong, Fritz Pittman and Bonnie Stein

Please remember our members and friends who are ill or injured: Prayers for all affected by the COVID-19 virus: patients, doctors, nurses; pray for an orderly re-opening of businesses in our state and nation; pray for all elected officials. These are recent prayer requests: Martha Bailey; Jenny DeCock; for the Dietrich family (Brian's brother); the family of Frank Francowiak; the family of Marie Hodge; Scott Hunsicker; Bobbie Martinez; Fritz Pittman; the family of Wilton Schott; Kathy Smith's Dad, Ed Wood; Kora Tovar.



February 7	Cheryl Griggs
February 14	Adam Knippa
February 21	Alicia Knippa
February 28	LeeAnn Hart



February Birthdays

2/4	Caroline Burges	2/5	Dorothy Breezee
2/6	Molly Linton	2/7	Beverly Bartlett

*******Deadline for Bulletin Items*******

Wednesday, 10:00 am



**Pastor Greg's
Corny Corner**



“Christ’s Passion Within the Lord’s Prayer”

- Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday – “Our Father, Who Art in Heaven” Matt 6:6-9**
- Feb. 24 Mid-Week 2 – “Hallowed Be Thy Name” Matt 6:9 and Mark 14:30-31**
- March 3 Mid-Week 3 – “Thy Kingdom Come” Matt 6:10; 26; 29**
- March 10 Mid-Week 4 – “Thy Will Be Done” Matt 6:10 and Mark 14:32-34**
- March 17 Mid-Week 5 – “Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread” Matt 6:11 and John 19:23-24**
- March 24 Mid-Week 6 – “Forgive Us Our Trespasses, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us.” Matt 6:12 and Luke 23:34**
- March 28 Palm Sunday – Mark 15:1-39, “Smile, God Loves You”**
- April 1 Maundy Thursday – Matt 6:13 and John 11:47-50 “Lead Us Not Into Temptation”**
- April 2 Good Friday - Matt 6:13 “Deliver Us From Evil”**
- April 4 Easter Sunday – Matt 6:13 and Matt 28: 1-10 “Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, Forever & Ever.”**



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Invitation to a Journey

I am at the beginning of a new journey. While this might surprise you (or perhaps not), finding regular, consistent quiet time to sit at the feet of Jesus and study his word and to pray is something I have often struggled with. I would suspect that I am not alone in this struggle and that perhaps you might also identify with it. If so, then I would like to invite you to begin a new journey, too.

I recently joined a formal spiritual formation group for the very first time. Our group of pastors is directed by a trained spiritual director who trains spiritual directors. I have to admit, beginning this process is humbling and a bit intimidating, but I have already grown and learned so much that I am excited for where this journey will take me and my companions as we encourage one another in our journey together in the months ahead.

Our group has begun reading *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation* by Robert Mulholland and Ruth Haley Barton. I would commend this book to you as you begin your own journey. I was struck by the authors' definition of spiritual formation: "a process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others." Let's take a look at this definition part by part.

First, spiritual formation is a process and it is lifelong: from the moment we are born until the day we die, we are in the process of being formed. And how are we being formed? If God is doing the forming, then the answer is into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). I needed this reminder: that spiritual formation is God's work, not mine. The best I can do is make myself and my life available for God to do his work in me.

The last part of the definition is what really struck me: "for the sake of others." I have often felt that the pursuit of spiritual formation can become self-focused and devolve into a self-improvement campaign with the goal of becoming the best version of one's self. But this definition reminds us that being formed into the image of Christ, by its very nature, is for the sake of others. Just as Jesus laid down his life for the sake of sinners, each person formed in his image will live more and more each day for others over self.

Wherever you may be on your spiritual journey, I would like to invite you to take a new step. Find some siblings in Christ and form a group for accountability and encouragement as you intentionally make yourself available to God for his kingdom-building activity in and through you for the sake of others.



Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.

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Zion Lutheran Church

For more information call the office at 830-538-6335, Church Office Hours: 9-2 T-F
 For an emergency, please call Judy Newman at 210-416-2286 or Janice Hodgson at 210-859-1954
 Pastor Greg Knippa 254-718-9276 email: pastork7354@hotmail.com www.zion-castroville.org

February 2021

	Monday 1 Pastor's day off <i>Pastor & Alicia at Pastors' Winter Retreat</i>	Tuesday 2 <i>Garden Granny "Lessons from the Garden"</i> 5:30 pm Exer. Class	Wednesday 3 Zion Podcast "Casting for Christ" 1:00 pm Zion Quilters	Thursday 4 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Friday 5	Saturday 6
Sunday 7 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u> 2:00 pm <i>Ladies Bible Fellowship</i>	Monday 8 Pastor's day off	Tuesday 9 <i>Garden Granny 6:30 pm M.O.P.S. – Fellowship Hall</i>	Wednesday 10 Zion Podcast "Casting for Christ" 1:00 pm Zion Quilters 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Thursday 11 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Friday 12	Saturday 13 9:00 am – Noon MCARC Mtg.
Sunday 14 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u> 11:00 am <i>Council Meeting</i> 2:00 pm Ladies Bible Fellowship	Monday 15 Pastor's day off	Tuesday 16 <i>Garden Granny "Lessons from the Garden"</i> 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Wednesday 17 Zion Podcast "Casting for Christ" 1:00 pm Zion Quilters 7:00 pm <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>	Thursday 18 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Friday 19	Saturday 20
Sunday 21 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u> 2:00 pm Ladies Bible Fellowship	Monday 22 Pastor's day off	Tuesday 23 <i>Garden Granny "Lessons from the Garden"</i> 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Wednesday 24 Zion Podcast "Casting for Christ" 1:00 pm Zion Quilters 7:00 pm <i>Lenten Svc.</i>	Thursday 25 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Friday 26	Saturday 27
Sunday 28/ 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u> 2:00 pm Ladies Bible Fellowship						

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