



The Voice of Zion

March 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

Adult Bible Class at 8:45 am

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

March 1, 2021

Members and Friends,

Lenten season is here. I hope your journey allows you the reflective and meaningful time to renew your relationship with Christ. Yes, it is different this year. However this does not take away the time you are able to spend at home in prayer, reflection and devotion.

I like to say "If winter comes, can spring be far behind". (PB Shelley) And we have had a real winter this year. Daylight saving time starts in a couple of weeks, be ready to "spring forward". After the last few days of below normal temps and the issues that came with that, I know we are all ready for the sunshine and warmer weather. Welcome to Texas and our winter/spring/summer weather.

Your council members are your representatives to lead Zion. Feel free to contact any council member or me if you have questions or suggestions. You elected us to work together, please continue the open communication, it is what keeps a healthy congregation.

"Wash your hands and say your prayers, Jesus and germs everywhere."

Respectfully,

Judy Newman

jbeloat@swbell.net

(210) 416-2286



Zion Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
February 21, 2021

Present: Judy Newman, Floyd Santleben, Candy Faulk, Raymond Heath, Scott Hunsicker, Hilton Stinson, Eddie McDaniel, and Pastor Greg Knippa

Absent: LeeAnn Hart, Jacob Schuetz

I. Opening Prayer – Scott Hunsicker

II. Minutes – The minutes of 1-17-21 were reviewed. Motion was made by Hilton and seconded by Raymond to approve the minutes as written, and the motion carried.

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

- A. Payroll coordination** – Council discussed church employees' payroll and procedures. Council discussed changing the dates for paychecks. Hold this issue and discuss at the next council meeting.
- B. Audit Committee** – Judy explained she is discussing this issue with Bill Bippert, Anthony Stinson and Carol Mangold. Item to be carried over to next meeting.
- C. Castroville State Bank signature addition:** Judy explained that a third signer who lives in Castroville needs to be on the account. This would be for emergency situations when neither Judy nor Jacob is not available. Judy and Jacob are signatories now. LeeAnn Hart has agreed to be the third signer. Motion was made by Raymond and seconded by Scott. Motion passed.
- D. Online bank access:** Judy advised that Myra has been acting bookkeeper and she needs electronic viewing access to Zion's bank accounts to be able to complete the treasurer's report in a timely manner. Hilton made a motion and Eddie seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- E. CD Review:** Judy and Council discussed bank CD's, advising CD's currently have low interest rates. Judy asked if these CD's could be combined. Council discussed options that may be available. We will continue to discuss this at the next meeting.

IV. Pastor’s Report – The Pastor’s Report was reviewed and discussed. Pastor Greg advised that the Concan Retreat went well. He gave the Council a big thank you from him and his family for the bathroom remodel and the carport

addition. He said Zion received a thank you card from Texas District LCMC for the retreat and from Medina County Food Pantry. Pastor Greg shared the funeral arrangements for Bobbie Martinez. Pastor Greg shared that 6 people took advantage of the fellowship hall that was opened as a warming center during the recent severe winter storm.

Judy discussed using the fellowship hall as a temporary warming/respice center in the future for community need. Floyd made the motion; seconded by Eddie; motion carried.

Pastor said VBS can be done virtually this July, if needed.

He said he had three food vouchers from the Pantry if someone knew of a need.

V. Committee Reports

A. Property

- i. Remodel Parsonage Bathroom** – Scott advised this project went smoothly and is completed.
- ii. Carport for the Parsonage** – Scott explained that this is complete, and all went well with this install.
- iii. Guide One Insurance**
 - a. Property values** – The Council looked over the amount of insurance coverage on each church building. Scott read over his report regarding building coverage and contents coverage. Pastor advised he has renter's insurance on parsonage contents. Members discussed the policy changes. Scott made a motion to approve the suggested changes; Raymond seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - b. Risk Management Team** -- Scott explained that Eddie McDaniel, Richard and he had the safety training offered by GuideOne to entitle Zion to a reduction in

premium amount. This training is ongoing. These 3 men will be the church's risk management team and they will be reviewing areas of need: e.g., non-slip tread placed on the stairs, playground fencing. He said inspections should be done by the team monthly. Council discussed putting up signs. Scott said he would check on fencing options.

- c. **Landscaping Rocks** – Judy said these are becoming a tripping hazard. Scott has sprayed for weeds, but they keep coming back. Discussion was had about other options other than the rocks. This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

VI. Old Business

- A. **Safety Procedures - Security Training by James Maddock** – Judy advised that she has been calling him but has not been able to reach him. The Council discussed members having weapons on property. Scott advised that the Strategos training for church intruder response was online. Hilton said he would call Nelson Redus about security training and advise at the next meeting what he learns.
- B. **Boy Scout Troop 310** – Scott said he would call them again to remove their property.

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. **Facility Rental Youth Building** – Judy reported a lady asked if she could rent the youth building for groomsmen to get dressed for a wedding on 5/14/21. Council approved this rental at \$75.
- B. **Youth Building (inquiry: for sale or lease)** – Council said the building is not available for lease or for sale.
- C. **Church Belfry** – Pastor reported that when he rang the bell the last time there were no wasps, but we need to keep an eye on it.

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

X. Next Meeting

A. Next Council Meeting – March 14, 2021

B. Opening Prayer – _____

XI. Close with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Candy Faulk, Council Member



**Treasurer Report for
Zion Lutheran Church**

For January 2021, Zion Lutheran Church has a net loss of \$6,421.75. There were a couple of large, one-time expenses during the month. Please let me know if you have any questions, and I will answer them the best I can.

	<u>Jan. 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$ 11,311.00	\$11,311.00
Total Expenses	<u>17,732.75</u>	<u>17,732.75</u>
Net Income	\$ -6,421.75	\$ -6,421.75

Respectfully,
Jacob Schuetz

FROM PASTOR GREG ...

Dear Members and Friends,

Recently I came across this story in one of my seminary journals. Read on and be blessed....

A little boy is about to have open heart surgery, "Tomorrow morning," the surgeon began, "I'll open up your heart."

"You'll find Jesus there," the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, annoyed. "I'll cut your heart open," he continued, "to see how much damage has been done...."

"But when you open up my heart," said his young patient, "You'll find Jesus in there."

The surgeon looked to the parents who sat quietly. "When I see how much damage has been done, I'll sew your heart and chest back up and I'll plan what to do next."

"But you'll find Jesus in my heart," the young boy insisted. "The Bible says He lives there. The hymns all say He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart."

The surgeon had had enough. "I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart," he said coldly. "I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well." "You'll find Jesus there too," the young fellow continued. "He lives there."

The surgeon left.

The surgeon sat in his office, recording his notes from the surgery: Damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy; painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis, here he paused, "death within one year."

He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said. "Why?" he asked aloud. It was clear he was speaking to God.

"Why did you do this." You've put him here; you've put him in this pain; and you've cursed him to an early death. Why?"

And thus, a dialog began between the surgeon and God. And in that dialog this frustrated physician began a new understanding of God's Providence and love.

The surgeon wept.

Now he sat by the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. The boy awoke and whispered, "Did you cut open my heart?"

"Yes," said the surgeon.

"What did you find?" asked the boy.

"I found Jesus there," said the surgeon.

Have a very blessed Spring 2021!

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Greg



Library Corner

I want to remind everyone that there are devotionals you can check out in the fellowship hall. It's never too late to start a daily devotion routine; check them out. The library is constantly evolving - we have added some DVD's and will be adding even more. We hope to enrich our members lives with lots of choices, not just books. This month, we've added some new fiction from Beverly Lewis, Lori Wick, Phillip Gulley, just to name a few. Come and visit soon.

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

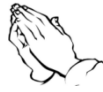
Music Director: Pete Martinez

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.



Please Remember in Prayer:



Flowers

- March 7 *Donald and Gaye Belcher*
In memory of loved ones
- March 14 *Wayne and Judy Newman*
In memory of Eva Sanderlin, Richard Beloat and Dale Robbins
- March 21 *Nancy and Earl Jonas*
In memory of Colby Jonas and O.J. Steubing
- March 28 *Dorothy Jean Breeze*
In memory of her father, Theo R. Wurzbach

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; pray for those affected by the recent winter storm. These are recent prayer requests: Bill Bippert; the family of Bobbie Martinez; Fritz Pittman; Kenneth Ricks; Susie ____ (COVID-19).



- March 7 Adam Knippa
- March 14 Cheryl Griggs
- March 21 Frances Bippert
- March 28 Anthony Stinson



March Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/5 Asher Bippert | 3/8 Chester Blair, Sr. |
| 3/11 Trace Cowan | 3/12 Clinton Wurzbach |
| 3/13 Ann-Marie Keller | 3/16 Madaline Sherrill |
| 3/17 Jaiden Hibbs | 3/21 Jeanette Boehme |
| 3/21 Bob Grigsby | 3/22 Kara Whittington |
| 3/23 Frances Bippert | 3/26 Patricia Davila |
| 3/29 Suzanna Feliciano | 3/30 Tristan Jonas |
| 3/31 Sarah Bippert | |

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

Wednesday, 10:00 am



***Pastor Greg's
Corny Corner***

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they should not interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back, when the Baptists took down the water slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a more creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.



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

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.”

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to make an offering for Easter Lilies to beautify the church during the Lenten/Easter season, please use the appropriate envelope (lily envelope) located at the end of each pew. Remember to include your name and any other information such as names of loved ones or other special message of your choice. Easter Lilies are \$15.00. The envelopes will be available until March 28. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or given to Frances Bippert.

Your plant may be picked up after our Easter service or any time during the following week. Any flowers not picked up will be donated to area nursing homes for their enjoyment.



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Feeling Powerless?

Here in Texas, we are recovering from a very real crisis. An unprecedented winter storm lasting eight days brought five rounds of winter weather and record cold temperatures across the entire state. While it is true that other parts of the country routinely experience this kind of weather, this winter storm brought Texas to her knees. Due to record high electrical demand and power generation systems that were ill-prepared for cold weather, millions of Texans were left in the dark. And my family was one of them.

For over 68 hours we were without the power to keep the lights on, appliances going, furnace running to stay warm, or water systems flowing for drinking and sanitation. In so many ways, we were powerless. Literally we had no electrical power. But more than that, we were facing circumstances beyond our control. Yes, I do realize that I could purchase a whole-home generator and make sure that I always have an abundance of fuel on hand. This crisis has brought about a recognition of just how much we depend upon energy providers to power our homes.

It struck me how often Christians feel powerless when it comes to the ministry that God calls us to do. God calls us to love our neighbors and even our enemies. He calls us to share the Good News with those who do not know Jesus, and to go and make disciples of all nations. He calls us to bear witness to the Kingdom of God. Trouble is, these calls are daunting and most of the time we feel powerless to answer God's call.

Truth be told, within us we have no power to answer God's call! Instead, we are completely and wholly dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit. In our weakness, the Holy Spirit gives us all the strength we need to do everything God calls us to do. In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The book of Acts is full of examples of ordinary people like you and me doing extraordinary ministry in the Spirit's power.

While I could go my entire lifetime without experiencing the hardship that was endured as we weathered this winter storm, I thank God for the reminder of our total and complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit to answer God's call. Apart from God, we are powerless. But plugged into the Holy Spirit, we have an abundant and reliable power supply that will never falter or fail, no matter what storms may come!

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

March 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 7:00 pm Lenten Svc.	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 Ladies Bible Fellowship	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 7:00 pm Lenten Service	Thursday 11 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Friday 12	Saturday 13 9:00 am – Noon MCARC Mtg.
Sunday 14 Daylight Savings 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u> 11:00 am Council Meeting 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 Lenten Service	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 Lenten Service	Thursday 25 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Friday 26	Saturday 27
Sunday 28 Palm Sunday 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u> 2:00 pm Ladies Bible Fellowship	Monday 29 Pastor's day off	Tuesday 30 <i>Garden Granny "Lessons from the Garden"</i> 5:30 pm Exer. Class – Fellowship Hall	Wednesday 31 Zion Podcast "Casting for Christ" 1:00 pm Zion Quilters			

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