

ZION NEWS

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MAY 2023



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

May 2023

We are at a topographical disadvantage here in the mid-West. While our fertile, flat farmland is fantastic for farming, it can lack some oomph and, frankly to some extent, boring. Don't get me wrong. I enjoy the fields ripe for harvest and the tranquility life of rural heartland. But when you compare the majestic monolithic mountains of the Rockies or the serene rolling grandeur of the Great Smoky Mountains to our relatively longsome land, it can come up lacking.

Have you ever been up on top of a mountain? I can remember going to the top of Pike's Peak when I was 18. It was the last day of the season before they closed for the Winter. I can remember running around the top of the world awestruck as I looked out for miles in all directions on that perfectly clear, chilly, late-Fall day. Whether it was an existential experience caused by the reduced level of oxygen I can't be sure, but I remember that young, cocky kid overwhelmed by the realization of just how small I really am.

Having a mountain top experience like I did helps give some biblical texts more meaning. Take Isaiah 54:10, for instance. "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you." Melt the vast 3,000 miles of the Rocky Mountain range away. Level it all into grassy plains with all the explosives and heavy machinery in the world. Yet, even if all the mountains ever disappear, God's steadfast love will *never* depart from you. His covenant of peace in the reconciling blood of Jesus *will not* be removed.

Beloved, we continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. He brings us peace. Jesus is God's compassion in action. Scripture is full of the sure confident truth that God loves you. He has sent His Son to redeem you. Because Jesus lives, we will live forever, too. You are His and there is nothing that will snatch you from His hands.

As you look to the future of what will be you may have a bit of an existential experience yourselves. It is natural when what is comfortable and familiar is lost or taken away for us to stumble a

little, gasping for air like you've been some teenager running on the peak of a mountain. Let God's words ground you today. "My steadfast love shall not depart from you."

As we begin to turn the page to a new chapter, let us look for the possibilities. There is a whole world of opportunity given to us. Let us grasp hold and see this as a blessing. It will have challenges, but all of life does in some ways. I am excited to see the new opportunities God will present to us. I hope you are, too. What new ministries can we start? What project in the church have you always wanted to do but couldn't before, for whatever reason? How can we serve our Lord while we serve our neighbor? Who in your life needs to hear and believe God's words, "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

In Christ

Pastor Stein



**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP FORMS – TRANSFER & NEW MEMBER**

Please complete one form per person in your household and return it to the church office. (copies on table in narthex).

OR

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to complete it online.

OR

Enter <https://wkf.ms/3U1WLZB> in your web browser to complete online.

Building a new church is: exciting, but messy! There are many moving parts and many questions that come up. One of those questions is "To which congregation should I now give my offering?" **Please continue**



to give your offering as you have been until further notice. We will inform everyone when Peace Lutheran is able to receive your offering. Thank you for your patience and understanding!



Step up to the plate. Baseball and softball seasons have begun and it is an exciting time to cheer on our teams. But the games can only be played when all the player positions are filled. I invite you to look at the ballot for the elected officers for Peace Lutheran. Once you see it, you'll notice there are very few

names. While there are currently no empty positions on the ballot, our team is very thin.

Between the three congregations coming together we will potentially have over 200 eligible members for elected positions. Yet, we are struggling to find believers to submit their names for the elected officers: 13 total in the Executive committee and 9 Elder positions. That's not to mention the many extra volunteers needed for things like Sunday School or Outreach.

We need you to step up to the plate. We seek to build a positive, Christ-centered church where members feel empowered to play their part and are excited to see what God will do. We hope to build a church home where your gifts and talents are appreciated and used for ministry in our community. You can help make this happen.

Perhaps you've been in leadership since the beginning of time, or you already have a lot on your plate, or you are just burnt out from serving, or you feel slightly jilted that you were not even asked. We are turning a new page. Will you please come forward to help build a new environment where the love of Christ is visible in all we do and is shared with our neighbors.

There is still time to add your name to the ballot. The election for Peace's officers is June 4th. Tell us where you would like to volunteer on the 'New Member' form. Please submit your name to a pastor or the church secretaries. zionbeecher@comcast.net, pastor@saintpaulsbeecher.com, lamie.julian@gmail.com, Sandeelatino@stjohnlcbeecher.org, secretary@saintpaulsbeecher.com.

Thank you. May the peace of Christ be with you, Pastors Stein & LaMie

Grief Share (Grief Support Group) ...

Next Session begins in June

Tuesdays @ Zion

10am-11:30am

Questions? Contact Pr. Stein 618-204-0378





YOUNG ADULTS (18-39) will meet on **Sat., May 6th**, at the Beecher campus. Doors open at 6:30pm and activities begin at 7pm. We'll have appetizers, a brief devotion with discussion, and games. The games planned are cornhole, cards/spoons, and free use of the gym. (sign-up sheets are on the table in the narthex.) Any questions contact James Radtke or Pastor LaMie.

UPDATE - PARKING LOT & SIDEWALK PROJECT 2023 (Beecher Campus)

Seven bids were received for the asphalt & concrete work on the parking lot/sidewalk project. The committee met on April 16th and awarded the contract to the lowest bidder – Wirkus Paving Co. The project is scheduled to begin in June.



SPECIAL MONTHLY WORSHIP & LUNCHEON (AKA SENIOR WORSHIP @ BEECHER CAMPUS) Thursday, May 18th @ 11:00 am

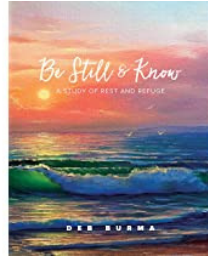
We are encouraging everyone who is available to come to this special worship service and luncheon *no matter what your age*. A luncheon follows the communion service. This event is held on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Please join us at 11am for a time of worship and fellowship. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

DORCAS MEETING ~ MAY 11TH

Rev. James Wetzstein, Valparaiso University, will give a presentation on **Lutheran Liturgical Artist Ernst Schwidder who created Zion's altar, pulpit, baptismal font & cross in 1962**. Rev. Wetzstein is working on his PhD with his dissertation on Ernst Schwidder's art. His presentation is open to all members of our churches & community. Come & learn more about Zion's history on **Thursday, May 11th, at 2pm**.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY will be starting a new book titled, “*Be Still and Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge*” by Deb Burma. We meet on **Wednesday mornings 9:30am - 11am** in the prior school office. (please use the north entrance) If you are interested in joining us or have any questions, please contact Nancy Hamilton at nancylou252@aol.com or text @ 708-204-0327.



FARMER'S MARKET HELP WANTED We are looking for interested and motivated volunteers to help make the Farmer's Market better than ever! The market season will begin soon, please contact Jessica Woodruff (farmersmarket@saintpaulsbeecheer.com or 708-328-1564) or Joan Karczewski (karskibaloni@sbcglobal.net or 708-932-3658) so we can begin making plans now. *2023 Dates: (always the 2nd & 4th Saturdays) May - 13, 27; June - 10, 24; July - 8, 22; August - 12, 26; September - 9, 23; & October - 14, 28. Location: 625 Dixie Hwy, Beecher. 9am to 1pm. (Parking at the bowling alley)*



Please join us for **Potluck Movie Nights! 4pm @ the Beecher campus on Sundays.** Please bring a dish to share! We will be watching Season 2 of the series *The Chosen* by Angel Studios.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The church office is usually open Mon.-Wed., 9-2. However, please keep in mind that the office hours are *flexible*. It is always best to call in advance of driving to the office *Church Office: 708-946-2271; Pr. Stein cell: 618-204-0378 and Pr. LaMie cell: 815-471-2221.*



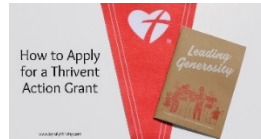
VALET PARKING is available at the west portico entrance on Sunday mornings. *Volunteer for May is Joseph Adam.*



We will be having **Red Potted Geraniums** (10" pot and \$15 each) on the Altar for **Pentecost, May 28th**. The plants will be available for you to take home following the 10:30am Sunday service. If you would like to reserve a pot of geraniums, please sign up by May 21st. You can pay Kay Bunte on May 28th. Any questions, contact Kay (call/text 708-946-2472).

Are you a Thrivent member? Did you know

Thrivent has a program where each member can apply for "Community Action Grants" to help finance outreach into our communities? We'd like to gather a list of Thrivent members and start utilizing these available funds to help support our ministry outreach. Please contact a pastor or the office if you would like to help us access these available funds, or if you have a question.



LUTHERAN WEBSITES

Here are some Lutheran websites that may be of interest to you, some even having apps for your smart phone or iPad:

K.F.U.O. Lutheran Radio. www.kfu.org

Sacred music, Bible Studies, News, Christian programming and Classical music.

Lutheran Public Radio. www.lutheranpublicradio.org

Sacred music and talk.

Pirate Christian Radio. www.piratechristian.com

Sacred music, Bible Studies, church services.

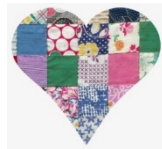
Issues, Etc. www.issuesetc.org

"Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian."

Covers a variety of theological and social issues in a call-in talk format. Programs are archived so you can listen to what interests you whenever you like, or you can listen to live broadcasts and call in.

Lutheran World Relief Quilts:

There are a couple of ladies in our congregation, who make LWR Quilts all year long. They would accept material, sheets, etc. to be used in making quilts. This can be left in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Guritz, Arlene Leodler or Kay Bunte 708-946-2472.





ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

You are welcomed and encouraged to arrange for flowers to be put on the Altar in memory of loved ones, in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, or any special occasion you choose. You may order the arrangement from the florist of your choice or Beecher Florist (708-946-2541). Please make delivery arrangements with your florist. There is a calendar in the church narthex for you to choose your special day in 2023.

REMINDER: Members and visitors please remember to fill out an attendance card and place it in the wooden box as you leave the sanctuary. *Thank you.*



Revenue & Expense Report Recap Month – March 2023	This Year	Last Year
Beginning Balance	\$50,613.64	\$41,757.33
+Receipts	29,286.42	58,305.62
-Expenses: Payroll, Taxes	9,200.16	40,800.84
Bills Paid	8,637.91	26,750.63
Ending General Fund Balance	\$62,061.99	\$32,511.48
Loans, Payables Due	0.00	0.00
Current Status of General Fund	\$62,061.99	\$32,511.48



DORCAS SOCIETY NEWS: Church Garage Sale

Thursday, August 3rd & Friday, August 4th (8am - 4pm) & Saturday, August 5th (8am – Noon)

Donations will be accepted each day beginning Saturday, July 29th through Wednesday, August 2nd (Noon - 4:30pm). *Please use the west conference room entrance.*

SAVE THE DATE ~ VBS
JULY 24TH – 28TH @ Eagle Lake campus
Looking for volunteers!
Contact Rhonda Stadt 708-254-7814



PEACE LUTHERAN – IMPORTANT DATES:

Tri Congregation Committee Meetings:

Wednesday, 7pm, at Beecher campus (Zion):

May 3rd

Tuesday, 6:45pm, at Eagle Lake campus (St. John):

May 16th

Services of Thanksgiving: **May 21st**

St. John, 8am @ Eagle Lake (Pr. LaMie)

St. Paul, 8am @ Beecher (Pr. Stein)

Zion 10:30am @ Beecher (Pr. Rock)

Charter Service for Peace Lutheran Church: **May 21st, 3:30pm @ Beecher campus**

PLC Voters Mtg w/Election of Officers: **June 4th, 11:45am @ B**

PLC Installation of Officers: **June 11th, 8am @ EL**

PLC Installation of Pastors/Celebration: **TBD**



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ~ Help Needed

In order to keep the landscaping at our church building well maintained, we are asking for help. There is a chart in the narthex, that divides up the areas of landscaping. If you are able to help, please sign up for

the area you are willing to take care of for **the season**. These tasks can be done on your schedule. If you want to set up a group of your friends to work together and take care of a section, you are encouraged to set this up yourself. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Bunte 708-946-2472.

THANK YOU for your help in keeping the outside landscape of our church maintained!

CHOIR PRACTICE: 7pm on Thursdays, May 11th & 18th.

Contact Jan Schulz (313-204-2854) with any questions.



HANDBELL/CHIME CHOIR

Please contact Bridget Garling at bridgetarogers@gmail.com or James Radtke at 708-295-1387 or jjrardtke2@gmail.com with any questions.

FROM:



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Vacancy Pastors:

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TO:



*And when he had said these things, as they were
looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him
out of their sight. Acts 1:9 ESV*