

April 13, 2023

Zion Connection

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Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

We're all about helping you get connected -

With one another, with your faith, with the greater church,
and with opportunities to serve our community & beyond.

Pastor Karin's Installation - All Are Invited!

A Message From Council Pres. Mike Harrass - Thanks, Mike!

Save the Date! We announce with joy that the installation service for Pastor Karin will occur at **2:00pm on Sunday, April 23, 2023**. All Zion members are welcome to attend and participate. We also want to invite area clergy and the Groveland community to celebrate with us. Pastor Rob Carlson will represent the Florida-Bahamas Synod. There will be a reception following the service. We all look forward to our next steps in the ministry of Zion in Groveland.

Rachel's Day Observance

Boldly Standing For Children - Sunday, May 7th @ Zion

Our Zion unit of Women of the ELCA is preparing a special Rachel's Day observance to be held at the beginning of worship on May 7th. Since 1995, Rachel's Day has been observed by Women of the ELCA annually on the first Sunday in May. The original focus of Rachel's Day was, and still is, shining a light on gun violence against children. The day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17. In those verses, Rachel grieves for her children. Rachel's Day is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear.

(Article continues on page 3.)

Church Calendar

(For more info re: any of these events, [please email the church office.](#))

Weekly Worship Service -
11:00am - In-person and via
livestream ([Link](#))

Men's Prayer Breakfast -
Mondays, 8:30am @ Rainbow

Mah Jongg Fellowship -
Fridays, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Church Council Mtg. - Sun.,
Apr. 16th, 12:00pm

 **Installation Service for
Pastor Karin Albaugh** -
Sun., April 23rd, 2:00pm.

**WELCA Monthly Bible Study
& Mtg.** - Mon., May 1st,
10:00am

Rachel's Day Observance -
Sun., May 7th

**Ice Cream Party for May
Birthdays** - Sun., May 7th

Sanctuary Flowers in April -

The chancel flowers in April are given by John Renn in memory of Helen & William Renn.

1,622 - A Big Number That "Counts" A Lot

According to online encyclopedia, [Wikipedia](#), "A number is a mathematical object used to count, measure, and label." Numbers are certainly important, but usually far more important is what the number is being used to "count, measure, and label." Thanks to the generosity of our entire Zion family, WELCA members recently had the privilege of sorting, bagging into 12-packs, and delivering 1,622 diapers to be distributed to clients at [TNC](#). 1,622 is a significant number, indeed, but even more significant is what that number means to those families receiving the diapers -

- **1,622** dry, comfortable, hygienic bottoms among our tiniest neighbors in South Lake County.
- **1,622** parental sighs of relief that they have been able to provide for their child's needs for at least one more day.
- **1,622** reminders to struggling families that both they and their children are loved and valued by their neighbors.
- **1,622** reminders to those same families that there is hope that a brighter, safer future is possible for their little ones.

Thank you and well done, Faithful Family of Zion!!

Meaningful New Worship Banners

During Lent, Holy Week and Easter, you may have noticed several new worship banners in our chancel area, and more are coming. Worship banners are used as a visual tool on which worshippers can focus. They help us to celebrate the Holy Seasons, to rejoice in God's endless mercy, and to invite participation in His service.

These particular new banners bring with them an added special meaning to our Zion family. They are gifts, made at the requests of the families, from the memorial funds received in memory of our dearly beloved former members, Helen Renn and Jerry Anne Wehman. We give thanks to God for these gifts and for the very special gift of these two women in the life of our church family.

Farewell & Thank You, Roy & Lou Ann!

April 16th will be the last Sunday for quite some time that Roy & Lou Ann Cousino will be worshipping with us. They will be returning to their home state of Ohio for the summer. Thank you both for the blessing of your presence among us and for the gift of Lou Ann's wonderful organ music. Our love and prayers travel with you.

Sunday Scripture Readings for Holy Week

Sunday, April 16th
(2nd Sunday in Easter)
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 23rd
(3rd Sunday in Easter)
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 30th
(4th Sunday in Easter)
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

April Birthdays

13th - Eric Olesen
14th - John Renn
21st - Jeanne Ferguson
29th - Zac Smrekar

Prayer Request List

For healing: Nalja, Leif, Monika, Malcolm, Dylan, Mike, Bob, Jim, Karen S., Chris, Donald, Ginger, Linnea, Karen M., Kim, Rich, Michael, Susan, Holly, Angie, and Cheryl.

For comfort in sorrow: The family of Quinton Ferguson.

To add a name(s), please speak to Pastor Karin, Susan S., or Joy, or [email the church office](#).

Reprinted and/or Updated Articles

(Rachel's Day- cont. from page 1)

From [EducationWeek](#) Website: School shootings—terrifying to students, educators, parents, and communities—always reignite polarizing debates about gun rights and school safety. To bring context to these debates, *EducationWeek* journalists began tracking shootings on K-12 school property that resulted in firearm-related injuries or deaths.

There have been 14 school shootings to date this year (April 2023) that resulted in injuries or deaths. There were 51 school shootings with injuries or deaths last year, the most in a single year since *EducationWeek* began tracking such incidents in 2018. There were 35 in 2021, 10 in 2020, and 24 each in 2019 and 2018

From WELCA Website: Mass shootings are not the only exposure children have to gun violence, certainly. Violence is embedded into many a child's

life. Twenty years ago the emphasis was the loss of inner city children to gang gun violence. Drugs, abuse, neglect, poor education, health and hunger also contributed to the death of children.

Today, children are also threatened with death by suicide, often a result of being bullied. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people, according to the United States Center for Disease Control. For every suicide among young people, there are at least 100 suicide attempts. More than 14 percent of high school students have considered suicide, and almost 7 percent have attempted it. Victims of bullying are between two to nine times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims, according to studies by Yale University.

Whether the threat is from a school shooter, from bullies, or any one of a myriad of other social ills, we need to understand - No group of children is safe until all children are safe.

Reprinted from 03/31/22 edition of *Zion Connection* -

Church Women United

Friday, May 5th @ 9:30am (Full Details on Attached Flyer)

Since 1941, members of the [CWU](#) movement have held a vision of Christian unity and prayerful action. CWU was founded as a racially, culturally, theologically, inclusive Christian women's movement to celebrate unity and diversity and work for peace in the world. On Friday, May 5, 2023, the Lake County Unit of CWU will have their annual May Friendship Day at St. Stephen A.M.E. Church in Leesburg. This year's program is entitled "*Living a Legacy of Love: Doing God's Work.*" All are welcome! Questions/Info: [Joan M.](#)