

February 17, 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.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday Service - February 22nd @ 11:00am

The liturgical season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter), is a time when Christians are called to reflect on the meaning of Christ's journey to the cross, death and resurrection. It is a season of deep inner reflection and soul searching that culminates with the joyous celebration of Easter. An Ash Wednesday service with Imposition of Ashes will be held (both in-person & [via livestream](#)) on February 22nd, at 11:00am.

Personal Lenten Reflection

Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, has once again prepared its annual Lenten devotional for personal or congregational use throughout the Lenten season. This 2023 Lenten devotional, *God Loved the World*, offers a meaningful opportunity for personal Lenten reflection. The devotional series is available on the [Luther Seminary website](#).

Recap From Meetings Held on Feb. 12th

As anticipated, Sunday, Feb. 12th, was indeed a BIG day at Zion! We had a wonderfully large turnout for the extra-special day, and important decisions were made regarding our future together as the Body of Christ in this place. Thanks be to God!

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

Pastor's Bible Study via
Zoom - Thursdays, 2:00pm

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

Installation of 2023 Council
and WELCA Officers - Sun.,
Feb. 19th during worship

Ash Wednesday Service -
Wed., Feb. 22nd, 11:00am

 **Farewell Reception for**
Pastor Nielsen & Marci
- Sun., Feb. 26th

Ice Cream Party for March
Birthdays - Sun., Mar. 5th

Sanctuary Flowers in February -

The chancel flowers in February are given by Stephanie Stankiewicz to the Glory of God.

Recap of Meetings - (cont.)

Meeting to Consider a Pastoral Call

Some weeks ago, the Call Committee recommended to our Church Council that Pastor Karin Albaugh be called as Zion's permanent, part-time pastor. Council voted to accept the committee's recommendation and presented it at Sunday's meeting. Highlights of Pastor Karin's life experiences, education, ministry and spiritual gifts were shared. The motion to extend a call to Pastor Karin passed unanimously.

Special Thanks: Zion's long-serving Call Committee has been steadfastly working behind the scenes for quite some time. Our church family is extremely grateful for the service of current members, Susan Skyzinski, Pat McCurdy, Rich McCamant and Jean Harrass, along with that of former members, Maryanne Lenning, Ran Slifer and Ann Schultz. Thank you to all who served so faithfully!

Annual Congregational Meeting 2023

At the Annual Congregational Meeting, the minutes of the two congregational meetings held in 2022, the 2022 financial report, and the 2022 ministry reports were all approved, as were the 2023 Annual Budget and all proposed Amendments to the Constitution.

Council Pres. Mike Harrass led the congregation in thanking hard-working Council members, Ran Slifer and Ann Schultz, who have completed their terms. Three new Council members were elected - Becky Wehman, Pat McCurdy and Susan Skyzinski. What a blessing all those, past and present, who serve on Zion's Council are!

Farewell Reception for Pastor & Marci

Sunday, Feb. 26th - Immediately Following the Worship Service

The extra-special, encouraging, caring, dynamic, teaching, fist-pumping, cookie-loving, learned, insightful, singing, positive, always-smiling interim ministry duo of Pastor Howard Nielsen and Marci Nielsen have faithfully and lovingly led us for the past few years. Please join your Zion family in bidding a very, very fond farewell to them both.

Lutherans You Should Know in Black History

JUST Love Team Honors Black History Month - Feb. 2023

The FL-Bahamas Synod's JUST Love team works toward racial justice, authentic diversity and JUST Love. Throughout Feb., the JUST Love Team is presenting *Lutherans You Should Know in Black History*. This week, we focus on the [Civil Rights Era - Rev. Dr. Nelson Trout](#).

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, February 19th

(Transfiguration of our Lord)

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday, February 22nd

(Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 26th

(1st Sunday in Lent)

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

February Birthdays

7th - Jim McGovern

15th - Dee Shields

18th - Etta Brown (99 yrs.)

26th - Keith Bell

Prayer Request List

Our prayers are requested for:

Healing & Strength:

Nalja, Leif, Monika, Malcolm, Dylan, Mike, Bob, Jim, Karen S., Chris, Donald, John, Ginger, Karen M., and Linnea.

Comfort in Sorrow: Family of Mary Frances Trout (beloved sister of Helen Renn)

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

Reprinted and/or Updated Articles

Volunteer Opportunity - Prison Ministry (reprinted from 1/27/23 issue)

Submitted by Diane Brown - Thanks, Diane!

Now that the holidays are over and we're in a new year, are you thinking about making any changes to the way you spend your time? Are you wondering where you might volunteer your time (or more of your time) to make an impact in our local community?

I would like to invite you to consider assisting me with the ministry at the Lake County Jail (a/k/a Detention Center) in Tavares, specifically with the Christian book carts. We have 2 book carts, but I can only push one. With a second person, we can offer a larger selection of Christian books to the female inmates. Often, I'll get requests for books that we have in the library, but couldn't fit on the cart. I'll bring the book the following week, but the woman may have been released by then and we've missed the chance to have her read something that might have made a difference in her life and consequently the lives of those around her.

Your time commitment would be Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 to around 3:00. Unfortunately, I am unable to provide transportation as I spend the whole day at the jail handling other library duties. **Being a reader would be a bonus, but is not required.** The jail is a unique environment that most of us haven't had any contact with in any capacity, so you may have lots of questions. I've been doing this for many years now, so I'm confident that I can answer any questions you may have.

The Lake County Jail only allows volunteers to work with inmates of the same sex, so I'm looking for a woman (or women) to help with the women's book carts. **If any men are interested**, I can answer any questions you may have and put you in touch with the Chaplain to discuss taking the men's Christian book cart to the male inmates. At present, we do not have anyone doing that. Thank you for considering this ministry opportunity.

WELCA Dates & Details (reprinted from 2/10/23 issue)

Please mark your calendars for the following special events. If you're interested in any of the following, please let [Pat M.](#) or [Joy A.](#) know. We already have at least 1-2 women interested in each of these very special events. A wonderful time of fun & fellowship is guaranteed!

- **Heart of FL Spring Fling** - Sat., March 25th, Mt Dora
- **God Spa** - April 21st -23rd, Luther Springs, Hawthorne ([Details](#))
- **2023 Triennial Convention** - September 19th - 21st, Phoenix, AZ
- **FL-Bahamas Fall Gathering** - November 10th - 12th, Leesburg

WELCA February Devotion: *Justice, the Foundation of God's Love.* God calls us to be part of restoring the foundation of justice, which includes loving our neighbor. [Read the February devotion.](#)