

January 12, 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting 2023

NEW DATE: Sunday, February 12, 2023

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held February 12, 2023, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be live-streamed ([Link](#)) for members who are not able to attend in person. At present, the agenda includes the following items:

1. Proposed amendments to the constitution, mandated by ELCA synodical action last year. **Full details of the proposed amendments are attached to the email with which you received this ZC newsletter.**
2. Election of Council: Two council positions for 3-year terms need to be filled, and congregational approval of Becky Wehman to continue for the two remaining years (she was selected by the council in early 2022 to fill a vacancy).
3. Approval of the 2023 Budget.

Copies of the proposed agenda items will be made available in mid-late January. Annual reports about Zion's activities in 2022 will also be shared. Additional agenda items should be proposed to the Council no later than January 22, 2023.

Super Special Note: If there is interest, it has been proposed that the meeting be followed by a pot-luck lunch. All in favor say, "Yum!"

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

Church Women United Mtg.
- Fri., Jan. 20th, 9:30am @ St.
Philip LC in Mt. Dora

WELCA Monthly Bible Study
& Mtg. (Hybrid) - Mon., Feb.
9th @ 10:00am ([Link](#))

2023 Congregational Mtg. -
Sun., Feb. 12th, 11:50am (+/-)

Sanctuary Flowers

The beautiful chancel flowers in January are given by Dona & Erik Olesen in celebration of our Zion church family.

Other News From Council

Submitted by Council President Mike Harrass

At the meeting on January 8, 2023, Council approved -

- Changing the Congregational Annual Meeting to Feb. 12, 2023. (See full announcement on page 1 of this *Zion Connection*.)
- Designating funds for the purchase of small gift items to be put in activity bags for our very youngest visitors, as well as Christian storybooks and activity/coloring pages for varied ages of older children.

Update on the pastoral call process: The call process is still proceeding, but Council has not yet taken action. This means we still cannot discuss details at this time.

Agenda and ministry year-end reports for the annual meeting are in the works. Once all reports have been received (in the next week or so), they will be sent via email to all members of the Zion community.

CWU to Recognize Rae Starke

Friday, January 20th, 9:30am @ St. Philip Lutheran Church

Zion's very own Rae Starke will be honored at the upcoming [Church Women United](#) annual Human Rights Day Celebration on January 20, 2023, at St. Philip Lutheran Church in Mt. Dora. (See the reprint of full article from last week's *Zion Connection* on page 3.)

Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Pray Without Ceasing - January 15th thru February 11th

Since 2005, Women of the ELCA (**and men, too!**) has been actively working to end human trafficking. Some work on education and awareness. Others provide support to agencies helping women to leave or who have left human trafficking. Others still are working to change laws that criminalize the victims of trafficking.

The 4 weeks prior to the annual NFL Super Bowl (2/12/23) have been designated as a time of prayer to end human trafficking, during which the people of the ELCA organization are called to engage in prayer. Daily prayers for use from Jan. 15 - Feb. 11, 2023, are [available here](#).

To delve deeper, a guide entitled ["My Neighbor is Not for Sale"](#) has been prepared to bring congregations the facts, figures, and stories of the insidious world of sex trafficking of children and youth in our country. Education is the very first step in prevention efforts.

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, January 15th

(2nd Sunday After Epiphany)

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 22nd

(3rd Sunday After Epiphany)

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, January 29th

(4th Sunday After Epiphany)

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

January Birthdays

4th - Joan Missell

9th - Barbara Bell

Prayer Request List

Intercessory prayer is a meaningful way we can support one another. Our prayers are requested for:

Healing & Strength:

Rich, Leif, Monika, Malcolm, Dylan, Mike, Bob, Jim, Karla, Karen, and Chris.

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

ALL People of Zion - WELCA Pick-A-Project Needs You!

The Stringboard is Back - Please check it out!

At our January meeting, our small but faithful band of regular WELCA attendees was inspired by our first Bible study of the year, led by Pat McCurdy (Thanks, Pat!). The primary take-away lessons were “believe the unbelievable can happen,” and “with a little faith, we can do mighty things.” Those of us in attendance decided to take both those messages to heart as we moved into our regular business meeting.

At our business meeting, we stepped out in faith and made bold plans for our 2023 calendar year. We admit that the calendar is ambitious - more than the few among our Zion family who have the time or ability to attend WELCA meetings can handle in addition to our many other commitments to various Zion ministries. While some of our planned activities for the coming year are WELCA-specific, many have nothing to do with WELCA at all really - they are in direct support of Zion’s ministry as a congregation. **And that’s why we need you, ALL People of Zion.**

On the stringboard in the fellowship room are the many tasks and projects that WELCA members have planned for the coming year. (A master list of the tasks and projects, along with a 2023 calendar, is attached to the email with which you received this issue of the ZC newsletter.) **We ask that ALL members of our Zion family prayerfully consider the list of projects and tasks.** Is there something you could help spearhead by suggesting new ideas and sharing your skills or know-how? For most of the activities on the stringboard, there are two cards in case you would like to work with a partner. For ALL of the activities, WELCA members will be more than happy to assist in any way needed. Please help us make the unbelievable believable in 2023!

Updated from 01/02/22 edition of *Zion Connection* - Church Women United - Focus on Human Rights

Friday, January 20th, 9:30am @ St. Philip Lutheran Church

Update: If able, please bring an item(s) in support of [Lake Sumter Children’s Advocacy Center](#): juice boxes, individually packaged snacks such as chips or cookies, or cleaning supplies.

Reprint of Details: The Lake County Unit of [Church Women United](#) will be holding its annual Human Rights Day Celebration on January 20, 2023, at St. Philip Lutheran Church, 1050 Boyd Drive, Mt. Dora. Individuals who have worked for the cause of human rights will be acknowledged and honored. Coffee fellowship will begin @ 9:30am, and the worship service will be held from 10:00am-11:00am. ALL churches are invited and welcome. Please invite your friends to come and join us! (Special note: Carpooling from Zion will be available. If you would like to meet at church to ride together, please contact Pat McCurdy or Joy Albrecht. For questions about the event, please contact [Joan Missell](#).)