

January 2, 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.

A New-to-You Connection - Give It a Try!

New Opportunities for a New Year

One of the blessings of celebrating a new year is that wonderful feeling of fresh, new possibilities and opportunities that seems to be felt by one and all. As you consider your goals and hopes for 2023, you may also want to consider a fresh "new-to-you" way of connecting with our wonderful Zion family. -

- **Pastor's Bible Study** - Every Thursday at 2:00pm via Zoom, Pastor leads a friendly, welcoming group in Bible study. The class studies the 2nd Lesson for the upcoming Sunday. All are invited to join, and first-timers are especially welcome! Each week, Pastor sends an email with the Zoom link to anyone interested. To receive the link, please email the [church office](#).
- **Men's Weekly Prayer Breakfast** - Every Monday morning, the men of Zion gather to start their week with conversation, prayer, fellowship, good food and good coffee, lots and lots of good coffee! They meet at the Rainbow Restaurant in Mascotte. For more info, please contact men's breakfast organizer, [John Renn](#).
- **WELCA (Women of the ELCA)** - Zion's women's group meets on the 1st Monday of the month (2nd Mon. if the 1st is a holiday). Together, we spend time in prayer, in Bible study, and in planning for our many mission activities. Members can attend either in-person or via [Zoom link](#). The morning's schedule is as follows: casual fellowship from 9:30am; Bible study from 10:00am till 10:35am; business meeting from 10:45am till 11:30am. All women of Zion are invited to attend either one or both of the sessions.

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

Jan. Church Council Mtg. -
Sun., Jan. 8th, 12:00pm

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

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

2023 Congregational Mtg. -
Sun., Jan. 29th, 11:50am (+/-)

Sanctuary Flowers

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

A Change of Seasons - Your Help is Needed

Saturday, January 7th @ 9:00am

The time has come to put away the lovely and much-loved Christmas decorations which have adorned our sanctuary throughout the seasons of Advent and Christmas. **Any and all are encouraged to meet at the church this Saturday, Jan. 7th**, to help take down the decorations and to put in place the white paraments to be used for *Baptism of Our Lord* Sunday. Sorting, wrapping, taking down, setting up and storing - there's a job for everyone. Hope to see you Saturday! If you have further questions, please contact our wonderful decorations coordinator, [Pat McCurdy](#).

Church Women United - Focus on Human Rights

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

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](#).)

Free Mah Jongg Lessons Start This Month!

Fridays @ 1:00 - Jan. 13th thru Feb. 17th

Looking for a fun, friendly challenge for 2023? Zion's very own mah jongg fellowship group is offering free "How to Play Mah Jongg" lessons **to any and all in our Groveland community**. Join our group of easy-going, patient, relaxed players for a fun afternoon (we play for the excitement of winning, not money). The 6-session series of lessons will run on Friday afternoons from 1/13th thru 2/17th. For more info and to register, please contact our awesome organizer, [Gail Huntley](#), or email the [church office](#). Spread the word to your friends & neighbors!

2023 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2023 are now available for pickup from the table in the church fellowship room. If you have any questions, please let our dynamic Zion treasurer, [John Renn](#), know.

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, January 8th
(*Baptism of Our Lord*)

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

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

January Birthdays

4th - Joan Missell

9th - Barbara Bell

Prayer Request List

Our intercessory prayers are requested for:

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

Comfort in Sorrow: Family of Dolores Maggi upon the loss of Marion

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

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Annual Congregational Meeting 2023

Sunday, January 29, 2023

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 29, 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.
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 early January. Annual reports about Zion's activities in 2022 will also be shared. Additional agenda items should be proposed to the Council before its January 8, 2023, meeting. **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!"