

January 28, 2022

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.

Zion 's "Behind the Scenes" Outreach (Part 1)

Much of the heartfelt support that our Zion family extends to our greater community is well-known to all. Our members are faithful in their generous and on-going commitment to numerous organizations, both local and far afield. Perhaps not so well-known, even to members of our Zion family, are two well-established but "behind the scenes" designated funds through which Zion has been quietly providing help and support to members of our local community for many years.

The first of these two funds is *Project Zion*. **As our awesome treasurer, John Renn, explains:** "A former member created this fund to be used in support of local outreach and involvement. Past use of this fund included Zion's float in the Groveland Christmas parade. It can also be used to participate in mission outreach should the community experience any type of disaster, for example. The Church Council will make the decision on how to provide support to the community and/or encourage community participation."

Check our next *Zion Connection* for Part 2 which will include info on our *Members Care Fund* and details on how you can contribute to either of these two "behind the scenes" yet vital funds. Also, at this year's **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 30th**, you will have an opportunity to ask questions about these two funds or about any of Zion's many other designated funds.

Church Calendar

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast -
Mondays - 8:30am @ Rainbow
Restaurant in Groveland (For
info: [John Renn](#))

Pastor's Bible Study via
Zoom - Thursdays @ 2:00pm
(For info, email [church office.](#))

Mah Jongg Fellowship -
Every Friday - 1:00pm @ Zion
(For info: [Gail Huntley](#))

Zion Annual Mtg. -Sunday,
Jan. 30th, following the
11:00am service ([Link](#))

WELCA Meeting via Zoom -
Tuesday, Feb. 1st @ 10:00am
Link: [WELCA Zoom Mtg.](#)

Church Council Mtg. -
Sunday, Feb. 13th @ 12:00pm

Annual Bold Women's
Sunday Worship Service -
Sunday, Feb. 27th @ 11:00am

February Flowers -

February's flowers are given by
Joy Albrecht in memory of her
husband, Gregory Albrecht.

Grab Your Calendars, Zion - Lots of Dates!

While Covid has certainly upended almost every aspect of our church gatherings, it has also opened up a whole new world of opportunity for us to work with our greater ELCA church bodies from the comfort of our own homes. All are invited and encouraged to attend any of the following events. More info. on each will be included in upcoming editions of *Zion Connection*. If you'd like more information right away, please just email the [church office](#).

- Final Listening Event on SOCIAL STATEMENT Church, State, & Civic Participation (Virtual) - **Feb. 8th** @ 6:30pm (article on pg. 3)
- Boldly Serving Our Afghan Neighbors (Virtual) - **Feb. 8th** @ 7:00pm
- LSF Good Samaritan Virtual Banquet - **Feb. 24th** @ 7:00pm
- WELCA (Conference) Spring Fling in Winter Park - **March 26th**
- WELCA (Synod) God Spa @ Luther Springs - **April 1st thru 3rd**
- Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly in Orlando - **June 3rd thru 5th**

Boldly Serving Our Afghan Neighbors

**A Call for Congregational Accompaniment and Co-Sponsorship
Tuesday, Feb. 8th @ 7:00pm (Virtual)**

Need is growing following the evacuation of thousands of Afghan refugees to the United States, and we hear the call to bear witness to God's love with Afghan newcomers who have lost their homes and must make new beginnings. Lutheran Disaster Response, the ELCA AMMPARO network, and ELCA Witness in Society will help congregations and individuals answer the call to engage in co-sponsorship, financial support, and advocacy meaningfully and effectively as we rise to show welcome in the days and years ahead.

Event Details:

Tuesday, February 8th

7:00-8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Registration: <https://bit.ly/ELCAwebinarServingAfghanNeighbors>



Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022

(Reader: Rae Starke)

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022

(Reader: Pat McCurdy)

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022

(Reader: Joan Missell)

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

Zion Family Birthdays in Feb. -

7th - Jim McGovern

15th - Dee Shields

18th - Etta Brown

26th - Keith Bell

Updated &/or Repeated Information

Reprinted from 1/1/22 edition of *Zion Connection* -

Zion Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 30th - Following the 11:00am Service

All members of our Zion community are encouraged to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting to review the accomplishments of the past year, vote on next year's Church Council members, approve a proposed change to the constitution, approve the 2022 budget, and to hear about new plans for the coming year. We'll also have an opportunity to express our gratitude to our hard-working 2021 Council members. We look forward to gathering with you - via livestream or in-person. ([Livestream Link](#))

ELCA Social Statement - Church, State & Civic Participation

An Opportunity to Provide Your Input to The Task Force

"This church shall develop social statements ... that will guide the life of this church as an institution and inform the conscience of its members in the spirit of Christian liberty." (ELCA social statement, "[The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective](#)")

How do Lutherans interact with our government? How much or how little should our congregations be involved in the political life of our society? These questions were first grappled with at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and resulted in the document, "Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective." This document as well as the companion are attached. All are invited to attend the following Zoom "Listening Events" to provide input to the task force preparing the final draft of the Social Statement.

Florida-Bahamas Synod Listening Events

(Zoom meeting links)

- [January 23, 4:00 PM](#)
- [February 8, 6:30 PM](#)

Key Documents

- [The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective](#)
- [Government & Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy](#)