

March 18, 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.

Eastern Europe Crisis - Lutheran Disaster Response

How We at Zion Can Help Through the [ELCA's LDR](#) -

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Millions of civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and to neighboring countries. According to one report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 3 million people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries and over 1 million people are displaced within Ukraine. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an [interfaith call for peace](#) in the region.

Church Calendar

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast -
Mondays - 8:30am @ Rainbow
Restaurant in Groveland

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

Mah Jongg Fellowship -
Fridays - 1:00pm @ Zion

Church Council Mtg. - Sun.,
Mar. 20th @ 12:00pm

WELCA Meeting via Zoom -
Mon., Apr. 4th @ 10:00am
Link: [WELCA Zoom Mtg.](#)

Holy Week - April 10th - 16th

Easter Sunday Worship - Apr.
17th @ 11:00am

Zion Church Family Picnic -
Sun., Apr. 24th @ 12:00pm

March Flowers -

March flowers are given by
Ann Schultz in loving memory
of her husband, Rick Schultz.

(Lutheran Disaster Relief - cont.)

What we at Zion can do:

- Pray: Please pray for those in Ukraine, Russia, Poland and neighboring countries that have been affected by the crisis in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.
- Give: Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region. [Click here](#) to donate online **or** donate via check made payable to Zion and marked "LDR Eastern Europe."

Church Women United Upcoming Events

Church Women United will resume the celebration of May Friendship Day and Day of Least Coin on Friday, May 6, 2022, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, located at 130 Lone Oak Drive, Leesburg, FL. You are invited to attend. Masks are required, and we will practice social distancing. We look forward to worshipping with you. Officers of CWU up for election are President, Vice President and Secretary. Please consider one of these positions or the nominating committee. Church enrollments of \$15 are due now.

Also upcoming: There is a State Assembly by ZOOM on Tuesday, March 29, at 1:00pm. There is an initial fee for registration of \$15. Zion Lutheran Church hopes to be hosting the celebration of World Community Day the first Friday in November 2022.

If WELCA or other members of Zion plan to attend any of the above events, please rsvp to [Joan Missell](#).

Thrivent Choice Dollars - It's Time!

Through [Thrivent Choice®](#), Thrivent clients with membership, of whom Zion has several, can contribute to organizations and causes they care about—and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funding through Choice Dollars®. Through Thrivent Choice, more than \$360 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide.

In past years, several members of our Zion family have directed their Choice Dollars to our church, which is an enrolled organization. We hope you will consider doing so again. Attached to the email with which this *Zion Connection* newsletter was sent is a flyer with more details. [Click here](#) to direct your Choice Dollars. **Please note that current year Choice Dollars expire on March 31st.**



Scripture Readings

Sunday, Mar. 20th

(Reader: Rae Starke)

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, Mar. 27, 2022

(Reader: Pat McCurdy)

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday, Apr. 3, 2022

(Reader: Becky Wehman)

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Zion Family Birthdays in March -

8th - Paul Brown

8th - Terrence Renn

13th - Gail Huntley

May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans.

Psalm 20:4

Updated &/or Repeated Information

Reprinted from previous edition(s) of *Zion Connection* -

Enhance Your Charitable Giving

A Note From Our Treasurer, John Renn

With fixed incomes and inflationary pressures, we may feel challenged about our support of Zion and other charitable groups. For those with IRA's, there may be a way to enhance your giving by minimizing the tax liabilities from withdrawals from the IRA. It's called the "QCD."

IRA holders age 70.5 and up are required to make minimum withdrawals from tax-deferred accounts, often called the RMD (Required Minimum Distribution). But there is a provision to direct the distribution to a qualified charitable organization such that the distribution is not subject to (federal) income tax. This is the QCD or Qualified Charitable Distribution.

If you have not done this before, your financial or tax advisor can demystify this process and show you how easy it is to maximize your contribution. **Disclaimer:** *This is intended only as educational and informational material. It is not financial or tax advice. Please consult a qualified professional for guidance appropriate for your circumstances.*

WELCA Spring Fling

Each spring, the women of Heart of FL Conference gather for *Spring Fling*, a fun time of renewing friendships, singing, Bible study, delicious lunch, guest speaker and closing worship with Communion. This year's *Spring Fling* will be held on **Saturday, March 26th, at St. John's Lutheran in Winter Park**. Mark your calendars, and let's fill a car or two for the event from Zion! For more info, please contact [Louise Willim](#).

Updated info: A detailed event flyer is attached to the email with which this ZC newsletter was sent. There is still room in our Zion car for YOU!