

May 5, 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.

Ministry Notes & Updates From Around Zion

- The **installation of Pastor Karin Albaugh** on Sunday, April 23, 2023, was, indeed, a very special day at Zion. The [worship service](#) was meaningful and inspirational, and the reception following was both lively and lovely. (Photos from the reception are attached to the email with which this issue of *Zion Connection* was sent.)
- Certainly, we all want to do our part in helping Pastor Karin feel part of the Zion family. To that end, **name tags are available in the narthex**, and all are encouraged to please wear them for a while longer so Pastor can get to know each one of us by name.
- Plans are underway to update our **Zion Lutheran Church Directory** over the summer. Please take a moment to triple-check the current listing for you/your family and let [Susan S.](#) know of any updates.
- Since April, the usual month for our **annual church family picnic**, was filled with the excitement and busy-ness of Pastor's installation, the picnic has been moved to the fall this year. Full details to come!
- This week marks 2 years since Zion's Communications & Technology team started our (mostly) bi-weekly *Zion Connection* newsletter. **Thanks to all who have submitted articles and info** about our life together as a worshiping and serving community. Keep up the good work! ([Submit Info Here](#)).

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

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

Rachel's Day Observance -
Sun., May 7th

Ice Cream Party for May Birthdays - Sun., May 7th

Church Council Mtg. - Sun.,
May 14th, 12:00pm

Day of Pentecost - Sun., May
28th (Wear **red** to church!)

Women's Summer Fellowship Event #1 - Friday, June
2nd, 10:00am @ Twisted
Biscuit in Tavares

Sanctuary Flowers in May -

The chancel flowers in May are given by Paul & Diane Brown in celebration of Diane's birthday.

Women's Summer Fun & Fellowship - #1 (of 3!)

Friday, June 2nd, 10:00am @ Twisted Biscuit in Tavares (Carpool leaving Zion promptly at 9:30am)

While we traditionally do not meet during the summer, WELCA has planned three fellowship opportunities for the coming months. ALL women of Zion are invited to join us and to bring their friends. These summer fellowship events are all about "fun and games" - no duties, no business, no responsibilities. We hope you'll join us!

Summer Fun Event #1 - Back by popular demand, we'll be "hitting the road" to Tavares for a yummy brunch at [Twisted Biscuit Diner](#). You are welcome to drive directly to the diner (4101 County Rd 561, Tavares, FL) and meet the group there. Or, those who would like to carpool will meet at Zion at 9:20am and drive over together. If you plan to carpool, please be on time; we will leave Zion **promptly** at 9:30am. Also, if possible, please rsvp to Pat M., Joy A. or to the [church office](#) so we can tell the restaurant how many to expect. We hope to see you there!

Synod Assembly 2023 - Renewed in Christ

Friday, June 8th thru Sunday, June 10th in Orlando

Each year, Synod leaders, clergy, congregational leaders, and laity of the Florida-Bahamas Synod gather for a joy-filled time of worship, workshops, decision-making and fellowship. The theme of the [2023 Synod Assembly](#) is "Renewed in Christ" based on Hebrews 13:6-8. This year's keynote speaker is [Bishop Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport](#).

In alternating years, the 3-day agenda at Assembly either focuses more on workshop sessions and provides dozens of workshops covering all areas of congregational ministry, or the agenda focuses more on plenary (business of the church) sessions. 2023 is the year of mostly plenary sessions, and important business will be conducted by those attending as designated voting delegate(s) from each congregation.

Assembly 2023 will be held in Orlando from June 8-10, 2023. For us at Zion, commuting for 1 or more days is an easy option for those who prefer not to stay overnight. For more info, please talk with Pastor, one of our Zion Council members, or email the [church office](#).

Special Note: While most of us will not be able to attend Assembly 2023 in person, we are all called to lift up in prayer the vital work being done and the important decisions being considered by our voting representatives and church leaders.

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, May 7th

(5th Sunday in Easter)

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 14th

(6th Sunday in Easter)

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 21st

(7th Sunday in Easter)

Acts 1:6-14

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

May Birthdays

15th - Karen McCamant

21st - Monika Zetterlund

23rd - Diane Brown

30th - Margareta Akesson

Prayer Request List

Prayers for healing have been requested for: Nalja, Leif, Monika, Malcolm, Dylan, Mike, Bob, Jim, Karen S., Chris, Donald, Ginger, Linnea, Karen M., Kim, Rich, Michael, Susan, Holly, Angie, Cheryl, Tom, Ken and Lou Ann.

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

Reprinted and/or Updated Articles

Reprinted from 04/13/23 edition of *Zion Connection* -

Rachel's Day Observance

Boldly Standing For Children - Sunday, May 7th @ Zion

Our Zion unit of Women of the ELCA is preparing a special Rachel's Day observance to be held at the beginning of worship on May 7th. Since 1995, Rachel's Day has been observed by Women of the ELCA annually on the first Sunday in May. The original focus of Rachel's Day was, and still is, shining a light on gun violence against children. The day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15–17. In those verses, Rachel grieves for her children. Rachel's Day is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear.

From [EducationWeek](#) Website: School shootings—terrifying to students, educators, parents, and communities—always reignite polarizing debates about gun rights and school safety. To bring context to these debates, *EducationWeek* journalists began tracking shootings on K-12 school property that resulted in firearm-related injuries or deaths.

There have been 14 school shootings to date this year (April 2023) that resulted in injuries or deaths. There were 51 school shootings with injuries or deaths last year, the most in a single year since *EducationWeek* began tracking such incidents in 2018. There were 35 in 2021, 10 in 2020, and 24 each in 2019 and 2018

[From WELCA Website](#): Mass shootings are not the only exposure children have to gun violence, certainly. Violence is embedded into many a child's life. Twenty years ago the emphasis was the loss of inner city children to gang gun violence. Drugs, abuse, neglect, poor education, health and hunger also contributed to the death of children.

Today, children are also threatened with death by suicide, often a result of being bullied. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people, according to the United States Center for Disease Control. For every suicide among young people, there are at least 100 suicide attempts. More than 14 percent of high school students have considered suicide, and almost 7 percent have attempted it. Victims of bullying are between two to nine times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims, according to studies by Yale University.

Whether the threat is from a school shooter, from bullies, or any one of a myriad of other social ills, we need to understand - No group of children is safe until all children are safe.