

the Guiding Light

May 2021

Monthly Newsletter of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pembroke, ON

"Celebrating God As We Serve Others"

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday – 9am – 12 noon

In This Issue

From the Pastor

Minutes

Notes & News

Membership List Update

Treasurer's Report

Article from Wayne Kirk

May Volunteers

May Calendar



Spring Blessings and Greetings to all!

Do you feel the COVID Fatigue? Browsing the internet and if you google Covid fatigue, you will get 14,4000,000 (14million 400thousand) hits! Bottom line, its real. The WHO, *World Health Organization*, defines Pandemic fatigue as "*demotivation to follow recommended protective behaviours, emerging gradually over time and affected by a number of emotions, experiences and perceptions*". The organization says it is a "natural response" to a prolonged global health crisis, especially at this stage. It manifests itself in an unwillingness to follow guidelines and recommendations, whether social distancing with friends or mask-wearing; a decreased effort to remain informed about the pandemic; and, finally, the possession of lower risk perceptions related to Covid-19. Source: <https://www.harpersbazaar.com/uk/beauty/mind-body/a34296930/what-is-covid-fatigue/> First of all, I am grateful for those in the medical science field who are searching for a

solution to COVID 19. I am grateful that the vaccines are now available to almost all adults. I am grateful that those in my demographics have received their first shot. Now waiting for our second sometime in July. I am grateful for our church leadership for providing support and guidance and spiritual leadership necessary to guide us through our shut downs and following local health protective restrictions and guidelines.

We can also turn to the Bible to get a perspective of God's way of dealing with our situation. Psalm 91 teaches how God takes care of His own. There are 16 verses, and to summarize we are reminded that those who belong to God through the faith in Jesus Christ dwell in the inner sanctum of the presence of God. Like a mother bird that cares for her young under her wings. Through God's grace, love and mercy, He will show all, his salvation involves the deliverance through whatever may come our way. This applies to all challenges in life including Covid 19. When we are led by our faith we remember and are guided by God's Word, as in Psalm 91, to erase all fear, anxiety and panic that can overtake us when the Government in Ontario and around the world, implement even more restrictions in efforts to control this pandemic and attempt to eliminate it all together.

There is a lot of worldwide advice on how to deal with COVID19, yet, we are encouraged and when set our sights on Who God is, What God expects of us, and the more we can experience the strength hope, peace and confidence that only God can provide, we have hope for the end of this pandemic.

As Philippians 4:6.7 says. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NRSV) We are encouraged to follow the comforting authoritative counsel of Scripture to experience God's provisions as are needed to face Covid 19 and any other challenge that comes our way in this life.

Remember the words of the old hymn "God will take care of You", written by *Civilia D. Martin* that says:

*"Be not dismayed what-e're be-tide,
God will take care of you.
Beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.
"Through days of toil when heart does
fail,
God will take care of you.
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.
"All you may need he will provide,
God will take care of you.
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you."*

Peace and God's Grace to you. Pastor Leena Jensen

Prayer for the COVID Fatigued

Father God,

*Together we come before You with empathetic and full hearts to pray for the anxious. Lord, we know that **anxiety** is not of You, but it is something that throws us like waves in a storm. Help us to cast our anxieties and cares upon You ([1 Peter 5:7](#)). As we all take those first steps back into the world after such a season of isolation and fear, we pray that each and every one of us would feel Your presence. Embrace us with Your peace as You calm the waves. May we breathe in Your peace and exhale our worry. Help us to step into this upcoming season with firm steps knowing You are with us forever.*

In Jesus Name,

Amen

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller Street
Pembroke, Ontario

Church Council Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2021

Present: Chair Susan Dupuis, Pastor Leena Jensen (interim pastor).

Members: Karen Gauthier (secretary), Rick Gerundin, Jill Kellough, Kathy Nieman, Denise Schizkoske, Gerry Vandersleen (treasurer), Patricia Wegner.

Excused: Scott Lange, Diana Wegner.

Opening: The meeting was opened at 7:05pm by Susan Dupuis. Opening devotions were given by Pastor Leena.

Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson: Pastor Leena asked re nominations for chairperson through due process. Karen Gauthier nominated Susan for chairperson. Council, and Susan, were in agreement with the nomination. Susan Dupuis was acclaimed as chairperson. Susan then asked for nominations for vice chair through due process. Jill Kellough nominated Denise for vice chair. Denise, and council, were in agreement with the nomination. Denise Schizkoske was acclaimed as vice chairperson.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. Additions/changes: worship and music committee report was deleted from the agenda.

Motion to approve agenda: Rick Gerundin.

Seconded: Denise Schizkoske.

Approval of Minutes: The previous council meeting minutes of February 9, 2021 were reviewed.

Motion to approve minutes: Jill Kellough.

Seconded: Patty Wegner.

Finance Report: Treasurer Gerry Vandersleen welcomed new council members and gave a report on the comparative balance and income statement. Gerry brought attention to the grant money received from the Pembroke Petawawa District Community Foundation for the community garden in support of the food bank. Gerry also noted regular offerings, total revenue and total expenses are down compared to last year. Some CEWS money will be coming for December, and some for January; at present the church's finances are managed on a month by month basis. Gerry thanked Pastor Leena for providing continuity to the congregation at this time.

Pastor's Report: Our interim pastor, Leena Jensen, gave the following report. "Zion has resumed In Person Worship Feb. 17, Ash Wednesday as Provincial Stay at home restrictions have been lifted.

1. Wednesday Lenten Services on Feb. 24, 7pm Lent 1 were cancelled due to snowstorm.
2. Attended the Stations of the Cross, presented by the ZLW, excellent Lenten time opportunity for prayer reflection and meditation. Kudos to the ZLW.
3. Confirmed with Music & Worship Committee I will preside Maundy Thursday and Good Friday
4. A Baptism is scheduled for Saturday, April 3.
5. Confirmation classes will resume on March 14 at 11:30. A time for confirmation will need to be discussed with the parents of confirmants. Rationale is that as you have a new pastor coming, we could wrap up this class of confirmants and the newly called pastor can start fresh with a new group of students.

I would like to proceed with the confirmation of the confirmants on Trinity Sunday, May 30th, the Sunday after Pentecost as Pentecost falls on the long weekend of Victoria Day Holiday. Also, I recommend the service be held at 2pm in the afternoon.

6. It looks like Grace Rankin and Bethlehem Woito will be resuming In Person Worship starting May 2. I will be able to continue Sunday Services through the month of April. I will advise Music & Worship of these developments at our next meeting. This will still allow me to finish up with the confirmants and preside at their confirmation service.
7. The Installation of the new council for the 2021 year was done at the Sunday March 7, 2021 service.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

Committee Reports:

- **Property-** Gerry Vandersleen gave the property report. A property committee meeting was held last night. Rental properties have had their rent increased by \$25/month, which is still considerably low for rent. The bathroom in one of the homes needs repair; Todd Phannehour will look into. Gerry was approached by Doug Maliff about a potential space for the food bank. In a couple of years, once their present arrangement is finished, the food bank is looking to have their own dedicated building. The food bank is interested in the vacant property upon which they would erect a building and then lease the land from the church. Gerry will consult with the church's lawyer about this potential arrangement. There was a discussion amongst council re usage (1-2 days/week, not Sundays). This may be a good partnership with other community service providers. Council was in agreement for Gerry to proceed. The lights in the balcony are causing some glare for the singers, so property will look at track lighting with LED's, with a dimmer switch (a quote and then an electrician will be required). Property is also looking into a different doorbell at the elevator entrance. A railing along the walkway to the elevator entrance has been installed and the plan is to eventually replace the cement walkway as well.

Ongoing Business:

- Susan handed out Conflict of Interest Policy and Confidentiality Agreements. A moment was taken for council members to read and sign these agreements.
- Hall request from Victim Services- a phone call was received from Alyssia Bevis. Victim Services is looking for space (parish hall) for training for new volunteers, between 15-20 people, 3 hours/week (at night), beginning in April, for 12 weeks. Victim Services is a community support for those who are in need of support due to trauma, accidents, violence, etc. There was a discussion amongst council members; some questions were voiced re Covid protocols. Susan indicated that managed events are okay as they have someone who is managing protocols for distancing, sanitizing, etc. Council members were unanimously in agreement with offering the parish hall (no fee) for this cause.
- Hall request from Pembroke Horticultural looking to rent the parish hall for a meeting on April 8. Approved.
- Request to support a non-germane resolution at the 2021 Eastern Synod Assembly- Pastor Leena gave council some background on the issue. At present, pastor's pensions contribute to the ELCIC-GSI pension plans (basically a savings plan which is payable upon retirement). However, defined pension plans offer a guaranteed a pension, spousal benefits, and guaranteed pay outs as they are backed up by big assets. Small organizations/groups that can't afford their own pension funds can join bigger defined pension plans. Joining a defined pension plan would expect to increase the retirement income of all ELCIC pastors with no change in contribution rate and less risk to plan members. It is hoped that this issue would be raised on the floor at the Eastern Synod Assembly but in order to do so, more churches are required to support the issue. Council is in agreement with sending the resolution to the Eastern Synod. The Resolution would read, "That the Eastern Synod petitions Group Services Inc. to prepare a report detailing the advantages and disadvantages of the ELCIC joining a public sector type defined benefit pension plan and to make the report available to ELCIC congregations and GSI pension plan members."
- Lay persons to attend 2021 Eastern Synod Assembly and 2022 ELCIC National Convention. Eastern Synod Assembly is being held online this year (June 25-26). We can have up to 4 parishioners attend but we may not get the volunteers due to the virtual format. However, it is important for someone from the church to attend. Susan asked for those interested to approach her, and she will be looking for other volunteers as well.
- The 2022 ELCIC National Convention will be held in June 2022 (usually in Western Canada) and will be an in-person event. There is no cost to the church as the National Convention pays all fees. 53 delegates are eligible to attend from the Eastern Synod, 27 of which will be lay people. In order to be one of the 27, the member has to complete a biography and write an excerpt on how they can contribute. An endorsement form is also required. The nomination has to be sent to Eastern Synod by April 25...voting for the National Convention occurs at the Eastern Synod Assembly (for the 53 delegates).

The National Convention allows delegates to see the bigger picture of the church. Anyone can attend.

Adjournment: *The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. Motion to adjourn: Jill Kellough. Seconded: Karen Gauthier.*

*The next Church Council Meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm.
Devotions will be given by: Karen Gauthier.*

**W & M - Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Celebrating God As We Serve Others**

Present: Pastor Leena, Debbie Wegner, Emma Rabishaw, Blaine Sack, Koit Rull, Carol Boldt, Ellen Vandersleen, Joan Lehman

Regrets: Scott Lange, Gayle Seegmiller

Welcome and Opening Devotions: Debbie welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes: Completed online

Approval of Agenda: Two additional items added (Confirmation and Altar Guild)

Committee Reports:

Pastor Leena's report:

- It was a busy Lenten and Easter season.
- Pastor Leena was pleased with the attendance at the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. She shared that she felt the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- Pastor Leena thanked Zion for the opportunity and experience of being our interim Pastor. She noted that Zion is blessed with people that work well together and she was happy to be part of our team.

Blaine's Report:

- Blaine expressed his thanks to everyone who helped with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services. It was wonderful to be able to participate in person this year!
- Blaine will reach out to Casavant to see if they are able to do a spring tuning of the organ.

- The piano is also due to be tuned. Blaine will call *Ottawa Piano* to ask if they can recommend a piano tuner in the area.
- Blaine plans on registering for the Summer Institute of Church Music soon
- In order to reduce the risk of covid transmission, the lock and key will not be used on the gates leading to the balcony for the time being.
- Prior to recording the service, lighting checks should be done.
- Consideration should be given to re-installing the light on the pulpit. The committee will revisit this once Pastor Scott has arrived.

Presiding Pastors for April and May:

- April 11 - Pastor Jim Goos
- April 18 - Pastor Leena Jensen
- April 25 - Pastor Jim Goos
- May 2 - Pastor Doug Reble
- May 9 - Pastor Jim Goos
- May 16 - Pastor Jim Goos
- May 23 - Pastor Adam Snook
- May 30 - Pamela Harrington

Attendance Limits and Volunteers:

- The number of volunteers should be decreased while allowable attendance is decreased.
- Volunteers will be reduced from 16 to 10 each Sunday.
- Under the new restrictions a total of 56 people can be in the church at one time (46 parishioners and 10 volunteers).

Quiet Communion:

- Pastor Leena offered to do the mid-month Quiet Communion services for April and May.

Prayer List:

- A request to have the last names added to people on the prayer list was discussed. The committee agreed the best solution, to respect privacy, is to add the full names in the Guiding Light and bulletins but not announce full names on the recordings.

Registration for April Services:

- Anyone wishing to attend in person services during April and May (if allowed under Covid guidelines) are asked to call / email Jean by Thursday at noon to register.

Confirmation:

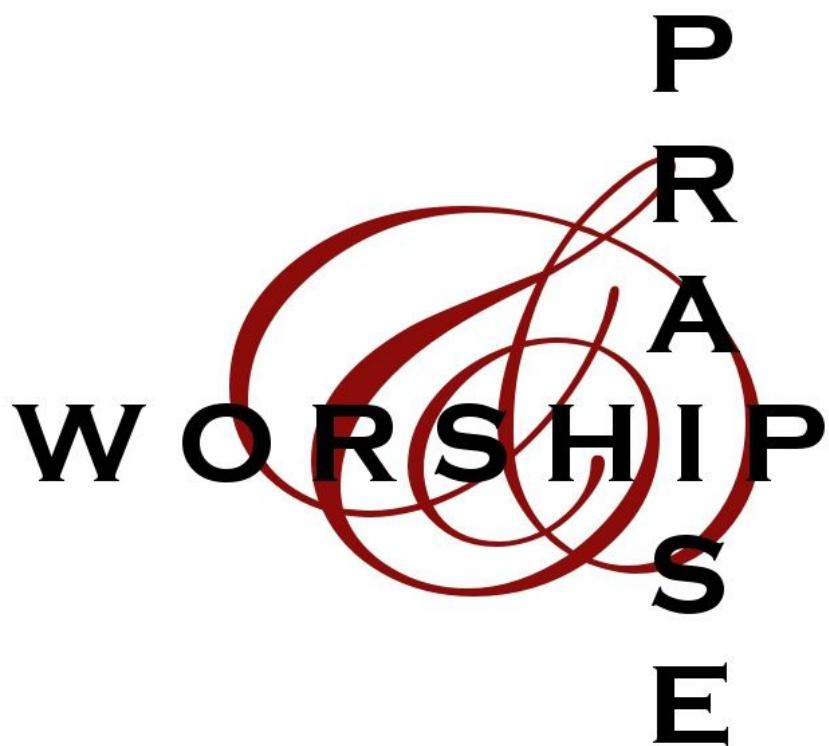
- Pastor Leena will continue with the confirmation classes and will be confirming students on May 30th at 1:00.
-

Altar Guild:

- After 11 years of faithful service on the Altar Guild, Carol announced she will be looking for a replacement. She is willing to continue in the role until the new person has been trained..
- Thank you Carol for the countless hours you have volunteered in this position!

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.



Notes & News

Garage Sale

We are planning to host our annual garage sale sometime this year. Due to Covid the exact date is unknown. We are hoping June but it may not be until the fall. If you have anything that you would like to donate, please hold onto it or arrange to bring it to the church when things open up a bit more. We really appreciate your donations and want to thank you for your continuing support.

Thank you!

Update Regarding Jason and Karen Godin

Jason and Karen are most grateful for all the support our congregation and friends have given them. Your help means so much and is sincerely appreciated. We have helped to ease some of the burden.

Please continue to keep Jason in prayer as he continues with his treatment. Jason is finished the radiation treatments and will be starting stronger chemotherapy next week. It has been a challenging journey and will need continuing care. As we uphold Jason and family in our prayers may they experience God's peace and love.

Ellen Vandersleen

Social Ministry Chair

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4: 6-7

Membership List Update

We have begun working on our membership list so that it includes accurate information regarding the complete membership. At the beginning of this project, we identified 1067 members. Of this number 65 families are presently living outside of the Pembroke area. We also have approximately 150 families who have not been active in our ministry for 3 years or more. Our average attendance at Sunday worship, prior to covid 19 was 120 members. According to our constitution, if you have not communed, worshiped, or supported the church with offerings in a two-year period, you may be removed from the membership roster of the congregation. Your name would then be placed on a responsibility list as one who is in special need of the congregation's prayer and concern. You would also lose the right of voice and vote at congregational meetings.

Council decided that a letter would be mailed to families who fall within this category. We understand that covid 19 has impacted the decision to travel or attend our regular worship services. This list was created going back 3 years to help accommodate for this. I am attaching a copy of the letter that is being sent out so that you can see the wording. If you are contacted by a family member or friend who has received the letter you will be able to refer to it. We are hoping that members who have moved from the area have found a church close to them that they can share their time and talents with. They can build a rapport with the Pastor and congregation who can support them in both good times and bad.

This letter will also reach out to local members who we have not seen for quite sometime. It is our hope that they will remember us and want to return to the spiritual support offered by having a regular connection with us and God in this beautiful place of worship.

It has been many years since this type of work has been completed. We apologize to members who may feel forgotten. It is our intention to make regular contact with members going forward.

We want to make sure that we are here for our members when they need us. In order to:

- continue to reach out with printed bulletins on a weekly basis to those who cannot attend our worship services and do not have access to watching our recorded service

- to be able to continue the recording and posting of our worship services
- to have a full-time pastor to attend to the ailing, to preside over funerals, baptisms, wedding and confirmation and Sunday worship services
- to maintain our place of worship
- to continue to support the community where they need us
- etc.

We need the memberships financial support. This is also being a member. It can be done whether you live close or far, are able to attend worship services or not, be on a committee or not. We want to be here for you when you need us.

We understand the connection that we feel to “our church”. The place that we grew up in and worshipped in. For some it was from birth to today. For others, you joined our family at a different point in time but now feel a part of our family. We want to continue to be here for you. That means that when covid is over and we create a new normal we need your participation. That may mean Sunday worship, volunteering on a committee, watching us from afar and financially help.

As the P.S. on the letter says “We do not mean to offend anyone. In order to take good care of the resources God has blessed us with, we need to keep our records up to date. Whatever you decide, we’ll still be here to serve you if you call upon us.”

Please pray for all our family members as they read our letter and make their decisions.

Susan Dupuis, Church Council Chairperson
The letter is on the following page!



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

E.L.C.I.C.

454 Miller St., Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4

Telephone: 613-732-8792 Fax: 613-732-1650

e-mail: zionoffice@nrtco.net

www.zionlutheran.ca

“Celebrating God as We Serve Others”

Date:

Dear Friends in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Recently, our Church Council, at Zion Lutheran Church, has been reviewing the membership records for our congregation in the light of our constitution. One of the things the constitution does, of course, is outline who is a member of Zion Lutheran Church and who is not.

According to our constitution, if you have not communed, worshiped, or supported the church with offerings in a two-year period, you may be removed from the membership roster of the congregation. Your name would then be placed on a responsibility list as one who is in special need of the congregation's prayer and concern. You would also lose the right of voice and vote at congregational meetings.

Our records show that you have not participated in our ministry in some time not fulfilling your membership obligations. This concerns us a great deal.

We miss your presence at Zion Church in Pembroke. If you are involved in a ministry elsewhere, we rejoice with you at finding a new church home. However, if you are not worshiping anywhere at this time, we would like to extend a warm welcome back into our Christian community.

Please know that we'd love to hear from you. Feel free to give me a call at 343-369-2057 or Jean at the church office at 613-732-8792. Should our records be incorrect we'd love to know that too!

But should we receive no response, we will assume that you do not wish to maintain your membership at Zion Lutheran Church and your name will be removed from the list of members. That would be our loss.

May God be with you in whatever decision you make regarding your participation in the life of Zion Church. Our prayers and concerns go with you.

In Christ,

Susan Dupuis
Church Council Chairperson

From Your Treasurer

Zion's Income and Expenses as of April 20, 2021

The weekly amount of \$5,381.46 is needed to cover our budgeted costs. Of this weekly amount \$4,250.00 comes from PAR and regular offerings and \$1,131.46 comes from hall rent, general reserve, house rentals, solar panels and other revenue.

Offerings	\$61,158.40
Missions and Outreach	\$241.00
Other Donations	\$774.00
Solar Income	\$3,117.81
Other Earned Income	\$3,609.88
Fundraised for general use	\$0.00
Total Income to Apr.20	\$68,901.09
Benevolence Expense	\$6,000.00
Directed Gifts Expense	\$34.00
Committees Expense	\$1,739.20
Utilities Expense	\$8,726.40
Church Insurance	\$18,488.52
Property Maintenance	\$6,149.21
Other Operating Expense	\$10,177.61
Net Payroll	\$16,097.79
Benefits Expense	\$2,271.72
Expense Total to Apr.20	\$69,684.45
Net Total for 2021	(-\$783.36)
Previous Surplus/Deficit	\$10,853.36
Net Equity to Apr.20,2021	\$10,070.00

To all that attend Zion,

I hope this edition of the Guiding Light finds you in good health. Covid is definitely having a negative effect for our church. Our payroll and benefits are down by \$24,360.00 because of the absence of a fulltime pastor. CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) relief will be minimal going forward. This will be applied to the payroll line. We are fortunate to have some reserves to bolster our income, but these will run out. We have set up e-transfer to the church's office e-mail zionoffice@nrtco.net for online donations. You can still mail your cheque or arrange to drop off at the office. Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is another way to give weekly whether you're away or here. Contact the church office at 613-732-8792.

Thank you for your prayers and continuing support. May God bless you and keep you safe,
Your treasurer, Gerry Vandersleen

Nothing Feels The Same

Submitted by Wayne Kirk

Even an ordinary day doesn't cut the mustard anymore. The days are so unlike before, especially now with this mixture of variant viruses. Not even one special holiday mirrors what used to be. In our souls and beliefs, we can even celebrate religious celebrations by ourselves, but so much is missing and eliminated from the festivities. The lockdown was certainly not good tidings for many. However it's good news that individuals as young as fifty can now be vaccinated at pharmacies in certain areas. This means that slowly but surely the tortoise is still ahead of the rabbit as they continue their journey to what seems at times, the distant finish line. If and when this pandemic comes under control, all of our health care workers should receive an extended paid leave of absence, if only to say thank-you. How true the saying "You don't know what you've got till it's gone" - resonates throughout the world. Maybe all of us will have a much higher appreciation for the things we all took for granted when they return. We are all tired of being alienated from loved ones, extended family and friends. Just leaving to perform worship assistant duties for Good Friday service, when I leave the altar in silence I will bend and touch the cross in front of the altar and say a prayer for all.

May Volunteers

Worship Assistants

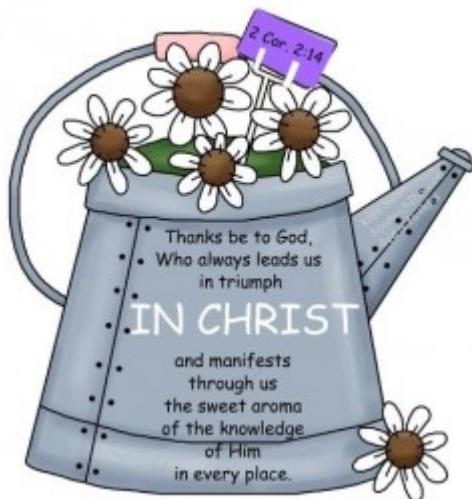
May 2 – Lorraine MacKenzie
May 9 – Debbie Wegner
May 16 – Wayne Kirk
May 23 – Gayle Seegmiller
May 30 – 10am –Ellen Vandersleen

Projector Operators

May 2 – Krista Grosskleg
May 9 – Diane Hammel
May 16 – Susan Dupuis
May 23 – Ellen Vandersleen
May 30 – 10am –Rick Gerundin

Sexton

May 2 – Diane Hammel
May 9 – Koit Rull
May 16 – Don Boldt
May 23 – David Lehman
May 30 – 10am –Diane Hammel



Ushers

May 23 – Cindy Thrasher, Debbie Wegner
May 30 – 10am –Sonya Grife, Cheryl Sack

Counters

May 23 – Andrew Zadow, Debbie Wegner, Richard Faught
May 30 – 10am – Murray & Sandra Sell, Mervyn Bimm

Greeters

May 23 – Patty Wegner
May 30 – 10am –Debbie Sitkiewicz

Video Recorders

May 2 – Rick Gerundin
May 9 – Ellen Vandersleen
May 16 – Ty Phannenhour
May 23 – Alex Hammel
May 30 – 10am –Ty Phannenhour

Sound Operators

May 2 – Larry Seegmiller
May 9 – Murray Sell
May 16 – Todd Phannenhour
May 23 – Krista Hammel
May 30 – 10am –Todd Phannenhour





May 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Easter 5 10am Taping of Easter 5 Service	3 Read Acts 10:44-48	4 7pm Worship & Music Mtg. 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	5	6 Read Psalm 98	7 Read 1 John 5:1-6	1/8 Read John 15:9-17
9 Easter 6 10am Taping of Easter 6 Service Mother's Day	10 Read Acts 1:15-17	11 7pm Council Mtg. 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	12	13 Ascension of our Lord Read Luke 24:44-53	14 Read 1 John 5:9-13	15 Read John 17:6-19
16 Easter 7 10am Taping of Easter 7 Service	17 Read Acts 2:1-21	18 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	19	20 Read Psalm 104:24-32, 35b	21 Read Romans 8:22-27 Guiding Light Deadline	22 Read John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
23 Pentecost 10am Holy Communion with Rev. Adam Snook 11:30am Confirmation Class	24 Victoria Day Read Isaiah 6:1-8	25 7pm Narcotics Anonymous	26	27 Read Psalm 29	28 Read Romans 8:12-17	29 Read John 3:1-17
30 Holy Trinity 10am Holy Communion with Pamela Harrington 1pm Confirmation Service	31 Read Genesis 3:8-15					