
THE ZION HERALD

September 2022

"Happy are those whose strength is in God, in whose heart are the highways to Zion." Psalm 84:5

September Readings

September 4

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

- Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Psalm 1
- Philemon 1-21
- Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

- Exodus 32:7-14
- Psalm 51:1-10
- 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- Luke 15:1-10

September 18

Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

- Amos 8:4-7
- Psalm 113
- 1 Timothy 6:6-19
- Luke 16:1-13

September 25

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

- Amos 6:1a, 4-7
- Psalm 146
- 1 Timothy 6:6-19
- Luke 16:19-31

The Pastor's Ponderings



Last month, I wrote to you about the Social Statements of the ELCA. These social statements are designed to give guidance, feedback, and a place to engage in conversation about topics important in our society. The ELCA has a total of 13 Social Statements on a variety of issues. This month, I'll cover the social statement on abortion.

Abortion may be one of the most divisive issues in our country – particularly in the last year. The ELCA's social statement on abortion recognizes that there is a great deal of difference in viewpoint and nuance to this issue but also seeks to provide pastoral/spiritual/biblical guidance to our members. You can read the entire social statement on the ELCA webpage.

The Social Statement itself is 13 pages long so this summary is naturally very limited. It is, however, my best attempt to sum up the statement.

As the ELCA, we pray for and support a vision of society where induced abortion is: (1) Rare (2) Available (3) Safe.

Public policy relating to abortion:

- 1) The church opposes a total lack of regulation of abortion. It also opposes a total ban on abortion.

- 2) The church supports laws and policies that reduce unintended pregnancy including comprehensive sex education, community pregnancy prevention, voluntary birth control and/or sterilization, and development of new forms of contraception.
- 3) The church supports laws and social policies that support housing, access to healthcare, childcare, education, parental leave, etc. We recognize that our responsibility in reducing abortion extends into care for the child and family.
- 4) We oppose laws that intend to deny any pregnant person abortion services if they:
 - a. Use coercion or lack of information regarding options available.
 - b. Deny termination of a pregnancy due to maternal health or extreme fetal abnormality.
 - c. Are intended to harass or put undue hardship on someone seeking or contemplating an abortion.
- 5) The church opposes forced or coerced abortion and/or sterilization.

The social statement of the ELCA draws from a few central, Biblical points:

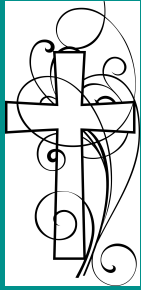
- 1) Human beings, created in God's image, have intrinsic value and dignity.
- 2) All life is a mysterious, awesome gift from God.
- 3) What God has created is currently corrupted by sin.
- 4) God calls us to repentance, renewal, and responsible living.
- 5) We are empowered by the forgiveness we receive from God to love and serve our neighbor.

Some core beliefs that emerge from the social statement:

- 1) We mourn any loss of life or potential life.
- 2) We are disturbed when circumstances lead a person to see abortion as their best possible option.
- 3) We confess that we have failed as a church and a society to adequately provide conditions that support all life. We further confess that we have not adequately provided and promoted ways to reduce unintended pregnancies, fetal abnormalities, poverty, sexual assault/coercion, etc.
- 4) The church recognizes that the "moral decision" on induced abortion is not a clear line. The church does recognize that an induced abortion in cases of maternal health, extreme fetal abnormalities, and rape/incest/sexual coercion should be assumed as a "moral decision" rather than an immoral one.

Abortion may be one of the more socially complex and nuanced statements the ELCA has developed. As with all our social statements, there is likely to be disagreement among members and the statement is designed more to be a starting point of discussion and not a "ruling." If you would like to have a conversation about the ELCA Social Statement on Abortion (or any of the other social statements) I'd be happy to do so.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Sharilyn



Share Your Faith Story

On May 15, we gathered for a potluck and talked about Sharing our Faith Stories. Some of you even shared a few times when you'd had "God Sightings" or had recognized God working in your life. Thank you to Clara Willmann who was the first to share a Faith Story with us! We are looking for more willing to share their story with our congregation. This could take many forms: writing a brief article for the newsletter, speaking briefly during the announcements at worship, or joining a group of other members to share your stories and pray together. Contact Pastor Sharilyn if you are interested in finding a way to share your faith story!



God's Work Our Hands

**SUNDAY
SEPT 11, 2022**

God's Work Our Hands is the ELCA's denomination-

wide day of service. Each congregation is encouraged to participate in ways that can help in their individual communities.

This year, Zion Lutheran Church will be hosting a Free Laundry Day at DOK Laundry from 1PM-5PM. We have organized a Thrivent Action Team grant to provide funds to purchase some of the needed detergent and dryer sheets, but donations are still welcome for those as well as financial donations to supply the necessary quarters for the machines. We will do laundry until 5PM or until the money runs out!

Won't you consider joining us? This is a service so desperately needed in our community and so very appreciated by families who otherwise might struggle to have clean clothing, bedding, etc. Sign up at church or contact the church office!

September Birthdays

Don Goetz.....9-9
Tanner Hendricks.....9-11
Barbara Schoel.....9-15
Tom Willmann.....9-15
Viola Willmann.....9-19
Dennis Walker.....9-23
Iris Johnson.....9-25
Orville Uggen.....9-27
Gene Banter.....9-28
Max Langdon.....9-28
Autumn McCammon.....9-29

Second Sunday on the Square

When paperwork was put together for your new pastor way back in the pre-COVID days, one of the priorities for your pastor was: "Get involved in community partnerships to build an inviting Christian network in the county." Another was "Help us create an outreach program to bring in new members and reach the community." Those are both being lived out in the Second Sunday on the Square Community Worship events! On September 11, there will be another worship

service led by a Hartford City congregation and an opportunity to worship with our neighbors from different churches. Plan to attend! Bring a lawn chair or blanket!



Congregational Council Minutes - July 18, 2022

Present: Mark Prout, Cindy Knote, Neil Stroble, Libby Stroble, Pastor Sharilyn, Paige Walker

Absent: Drew Walker

A. Opening

1. Call Meeting to Order - Mark Prout at 7:00pm
2. Devotions by Paige Walker

B. Secretary's Report

1. Amend/Approve minutes from last Council meeting
 - a. Motion to approve from Neil, 2nd by Libby, Approved by All
2. Correspondence
 - a. Letter of thanks from Gideon's for donations from congregation.
3. Add Items to Agenda
 - a. None

C. Pastor's Report

1. Meet & Know Members
 - a. Second mailing was sent with very few responses. Will produce a final mailing/ membership list next month for council to double-check.
 - b. Communion & Pastoral Care Visits: June-10, July-8
2. Youth Education Program
 - a. Confirmation to start in the Fall.
 - b. Adult faith formation will be led by Linda Walker during the Sunday School hour starting in the fall and will include post-confirmation youth.
 - c. Looking Ahead: Easter Vigil Campfire
3. Outreach Program
 - a. Read-the-Bible in a Year continues to be successful.
 - b. Food Packing at Second Harvest on August 6
 - c. Second Sunday on the Square-Community Worship Service
 - d. Reformation Sunday-"Homecoming" Sunday
4. Community Partnerships
 - a. Ongoing local ministerium
 - b. Performing hospital rounds at IU Blackford once a week
 - c. Rotating jail ministry (every other month)
 - d. Recently invited to do rotating worship at Upland University Nursing Center
5. Other Initiatives
 - a. "Tell Your Story" (Spring/ Summer/Fall 2022) - ongoing
 - b. Time & Talents (Summer/Fall 2022)
 - c. Mental Health Ministry: Living Grace Mental Health Support Group beginning at the end of August. It will follow BCS calendar for a total of 16 sessions.

D. Committee Reports

1. Parish Education & Youth - Drew
 - a. Linda Walker volunteered to lead adult Sunday School and post-confirmation youth will be included.
2. Worship/Music/Memorial - Libby
 - a. First part of summer is completed. Lots of requests for favorite hymns. Might not be able to get to all of them, but will do our best.

3. Mission & Ministry - Cindy
 - a. Met as committee. Hope it to have one event per month. July-Second Sunday on the Square. August-Second Harvest. September-God's Work, Our Hands. October-Community Trunk or Treat?

E. Council Reports

1. Deacons
 - a. Attendance and Holy Communion Report: mid 40s
 - b. Assistance Requests: none
2. Elders
 - a. None
3. Trustees
 - a. Leak in Pastor's office
4. Treasurer
 - a. Report (as of July 13)
 - Deacon's Fund Checking 764.43
 - Deacon's Fund Savings 66.24
 - General Fund, Thrivent Invested 83,037.61
 - General Fund, VIA Checking 11,695.80
 - General Fund, VIA Membership 56.28
 - General Fund, VIA Money Market 60,371.25
 - Memorial Fund, VIA Checking 16,846.42
 - Memorial Fund, VIA Money Market 4,095.49
 - Mission Invest., Memorial Fund 7,036.29
 - ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings 1,723.07
 - ZLCW Kitchen Fund Checking 150.00
 - TOTAL ASSETS 185,842.88
 - b. Offering have been down a little bit. Some money might need to be transferred to cover everything this month.

F. Business

1. Summer Picnic will be August 21. Church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and drinks. Congregation to bring sides, desserts. Drew and Neil will handle grilling.
2. Church letters on sign our front need repaired. Allan Stallsmith is getting some replacement letters. It will cost approximately \$350.
3. Anti-virus software for computer was purchased.
4. Installation Service July 31. Pastor needs 3 volunteers for short speaking parts. Cindy, Mark, and Neil volunteered.
5. Blackford County Healthcare Initiative: Dr. Jennifer Clamme has been working with the State of Indiana for a grant to help with healthcare in the community. She would like to create a non-profit over the next two years to be in place when the grant runs out. Given the Pastor's background in social/mental health work, she has asked if Pastor would be interested in being the Project Manager (administrative position that would be overseeing the grant funds and setting up the non-profit). It would be one day a week probably beginning in the new year. The grant would pay for Pastor's time. Council asked for more information and will discuss again.

G. Closing

1. Lord's Prayer at 8:01pm
2. Next Meeting: August 15, 2022 at 7:00pm with devotions by Mark Prout

Confirmation Homecoming October 2022

We will be having a confirmation class “homecoming” event this year on Reformation Sunday! One of the things we will need is help in getting current addresses or contact information for people who were confirmed in 1972 (50 year confirmation reunion) or 1997 (25 year confirmation reunion). We are still looking for contact information for these individuals:

Confirmed in 1972
Gregory Wayne Klink
Vicki Ann Peterson
Kelly Sue Stath

Confirmed in 1997
Jeremy Joseph Johnson

Please contact us if you know how to reach any of them!

Time and Gifts Survey

It has been a significant amount of time since we did a survey of members and their gifts for ministry. Remember that all of us have gifts for ministry in some form. Sometimes we forget that the countless tasks that are needed in a congregation – from changing the paraments, reading lessons at worship, sharing musical skills, dedication in prayer, and so many other things are also ministry. And very necessary part of our ministry at Zion!

Please plan to complete one of our Time and Gifts surveys. On September 11, we will dedicate our gifts to God’s Ministry with a special liturgy at worship. Your ministry is needed!

Mental Health Support Group – “Living Grace” – Mondays at 6:30PM

One in five individuals in the United States experience a mental health disorder. Living Grace is a 16-week small group designed to guide people through simple biblical and neuroscience insights and tools to reduce stress, depression, anxiety, and other challenges. It is a support group made to work alongside medication, therapy services, or pastoral counseling to help members reach mental health recovery. Members as well as any member of our community are welcome to join. Pastor Sharilyn will be leading the first 16-week series starting September 12 at 6:30PM. Meetings will last approximately one hour.

LIVING GRACE GROUP has been shown to:

- > Reduce symptoms of mental health difficulties.
- > Aid in overall mental health recovery.
- > Renew your faith.

TOPICS INCLUDE...

- > Stigma
- > Medication
- > Healthy Thinking
- > Rest, Relaxation & Joy
- > Cycles and Triggers
- > Staying Resilient





September 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship & Communion 10:30am	5 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am	6	7	8	9	10
11 Worship 10:30am God's Work, Our Hands 1pm-5pm Second Sunday on the Square 6pm	12 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am Mental Health Support Group 6:30pm	13 Piecemakers 9:00am	14	15	16	17
18 Sunday School & Confirmation 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am	19 Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am Mental Health Support Group 6:30pm	20 Council Meeting 7:00pm	21	22	23	24
25 Sunday School & Confirmation 9:30am Worship 10:30am	26	27 Piecemakers 9:00am	28	29	30	
<div>Pastor Sharilyn Out of Office INKY Synod Leadership Conference</div>						



**308 S Monroe St
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Sharilyn Wendt, Pastor
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zionluth.hc@gmail.com
www.zionhc.org

Sunday School & Confirmation 9:30am (Sept 18)
Worship at 10:30am

September 2022

Council Members

President & Elder	Mark Prout
Vice President & Elder	Cindy Knot
Secretary	Paige Walker
Treasurer	Libby Stroble
Deacon	Drew Walker
Trustee	Neil Stroble

Pastor Sharilyn's Information

Cell Phone: 812-272-2936
Email: sharilyn.wendt@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9am-Noon
Other Times by Appointment
Please call first to be sure she is in!

Sunday Servants

Lector:

September 4 - Linda Baker
September 11 - Linda Baker
September 18 - Linda Baker
September 25 - Sandy Langdon

Acolyte:

September 4 - Walker Family
September 11 - Clamme Family
September 18 - Walker Family
September 25 - Clamme Family

Assisting Minister:

September 4 - Jody Stanley
September 18 - Mark Prout