



Zionews



Special November 2020 Edition

Why This Pastor is So Cautious

edited from Pastor Eric's blog post on his website theothru.net

For the first time in six months, Zion has begun some worship inside the building together. I am anxious about this and will be every time we meet, but probably not for the reasons you think.

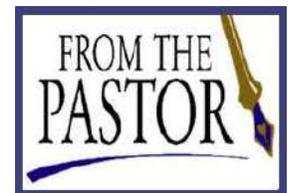
Caring is the Job

I care about you. Part of being a pastor or deacon in the ELCA is caring about the well-being of the members of the congregation that has called us and the community in which the congregation ministers—both in this life and in the next. I can't not care.

I care about what's happening in your families. I care about your health issues. I care about your vacations. I care about your education. I care about how you read the Bible. I care about how you live your life as a reflection of God's Word in the world. I care about the building we have inherited from generations past as a mission outpost for doing ministry. I care about the state of the restrooms. I care about the five families in the congregation who have been affected by this pandemic--four through the death of loved ones, and one who has to self-quarantine. I care about those who think the pandemic is a hoax. I don't really care about the color of the carpet, or the paint color, or the wallpaper pattern, but I do care that they are in good repair and represent the congregation well when we have visitors. I care about your relationships with other members. I care about your relationships with people who aren't members. I care about your callings, and how you discern them, and where they take you. I care about our music—although less about style. I care about our services. I care about the other staff and clergy at Zion and in the area. I care about the witness we give to the gospel across denominational lines. I care.

Where the Job Takes Me

Because I care, that means I have to go into places like hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice centers. In this time of a global pandemic, I am thankful that the places I have done visits seem to be taking the necessary precautions seriously. However, we also know that by the time we know there has been an outbreak at a nursing home or care facility, others in the community will have also been infected. And at some point, that might be me.



I still have to do funerals, although they do look a bit different. And in times of grief, these new practices of social distancing and mask wearing have been not-too-surprisingly forgotten or pushed aside. I do know of at least one colleague who was infected at an outdoor funeral service because of this.

Where the job takes me means my family is put at risk every time I visit someone or do a funeral. This, too, is part of the job, but it means that we as a family don't do much right now. This isn't because I live in fear, but because I care. My job can put me at significant risk of becoming a vector of infection

in the community, and I cannot risk that. As we try worship in the building again, this risk only increases, and I grow anxious because I care.

You will say that worship is also part of my job. And it is, which is why we have significantly altered our family's life so I can create and produce two different services that publish at three different times across three different platforms, both old and new. I've developed new skills in video production and editing. This way we still have three services every weekend. As is the case for most, we have discovered that we are reaching more people through these methods than would ever actually come and worship with us in the building. And as we begin adding to this some kind of worship in the building again, I grow anxious because I care about reaching as many people as we can with God's word.

Who We Are

I am a pastor in the ELCA under call in a congregation thereof. At the national level, the average age of a member of an ELCA congregation means that based on age alone the average member is already at greater risk from this pandemic than the general public. And while I have not done the math because I don't want to ask impolite questions of my elders, knowing the members of Zion, it's a safe bet that our average age is higher than the national average for the ELCA.



As a pastor, I am often included in conversations about the health of members. Through these conversations, I know that many of our members have underlying and ongoing health concerns beyond age that put them at higher risk in this time of pandemic.

I also know that people in these two groups will be the first who want to be back in the building, and so I grow anxious because I care.

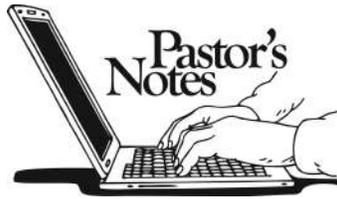
While we finally have everything set and the personnel hired to gather inside following appropriate guidelines, I know Zion. We love to sing together. Guess what we won't be doing. And we love to hug. Guess what we won't be doing. And we love to stand around after worship, talking and taking refreshment. Guess what we won't be doing. I know what we are doing in the building won't be what people want, so I grow anxious because I care.

Being Caring

This article is not about judging congregations who are doing something other than what we're doing. Every congregation and every community will deal with this emergency based on the gifts they have and the challenges they face. There will be diversity in caring responses.

Zion has had a live radio broadcast since the 1970's, so when this all first started, we still had a way for people to worship together. We had also installed the equipment needed to start live-streaming worship, so we started using it sooner than expected. Because we're a downtown church, we don't have any sizable grassy areas to gather for outside worship, and with the radio show, something needs to go out over the sound system for the broadcast. Recording services for broadcast on WLEC and social media has become our mainstay in worship in this time of emergency. And we are thankful to God for these gifts!

Over the summer, we tried drive-through distribution of communion after the end of the radio broadcast—something our building and parking lot are rather well set up to do. With the Great Thanksgiving happening live at the end of the radio broadcast going right into the distribution, my theological and liturgical mind was mostly mollified. This way people were at least able to come to the



building, see some friendly faces, and receive communion. We have been doing this on first and third Sundays at lower local risk levels in case something did go wrong. Thank the Lord nothing has, but I am still anxious every time we do it—especially if I've had to do a visit or funeral in the previous ten to fourteen days.

Now we're moving to doing this distribution weekly, with an inside option at a different time. Will things be fine? Probably. Will the people who come follow the guidelines? Probably. Will the people who come for the inside service be disappointed by the service? Probably. Will people who are staying home at this time be angry that we're meeting inside the building? Probably. And I am anxious because I care.

Being Cautious

With pandemic fatigue and the six month wall both deeply settled in, this is when I must be overly cautious. If I'm not, then at best, I will have to spend more time doing visits in hospitals and nursing homes. At worst, I get sick, and my family gets sick, and the congregation gets sick, and other people in the community get sick, and whatever healthy members of the congregation there are have to figure out how to do worship when I'm in the hospital...

We are all tired of the guidelines. We all want things to get back to something like normal. We're all sick of it. But I don't have a choice on being cautious. It's part of being a pastor, now more than ever. And with everything that could go wrong, anxiety is also part of being a pastor now.

So I ask your help.

- Don't sow discord by publicly insisting on social media or in the local gossip chain that things must happen the way you want. There's a real chance you don't know all of the challenges keeping your congregation from doing something in the building. See the Building Updates article later in this issue.
- Follow the guidelines, both from public health officials and Zion. These guidelines exist, especially from the congregation, because we care both about you and about everyone else.
- Be kind to your congregational leadership. Our council is dealing with something we haven't seen since 1918. We are doing the best we can for everyone because we care. And we make decisions about worship as a council. It's not on me or any one member of council to decide what to do.
- Be cautious and at least a little anxious. If you let your guard down, it won't affect just you—especially if you're meeting in person at Zion or in the community.

We will get through this by supporting one another and sharing each other's burdens. I believe you care—and about more than your own self-interest. Please alleviate some of my anxiety and prove me right.

Your caring pastor,
PE



Congregational Meeting News

Please read carefully

*We will have our November congregational meeting on
Sunday, November 8th at noon.*

How will We Meet?

If Erie County is in Level 1 or Level 2, this will be a hybrid meeting, with some people attending in the building and some people attending through Zoom.

No more than 55 people will be able to attend in person, some in the worship space and some on chairs in the Gathering Room, and following all the guidelines about meeting in the building. Reservations for those wanting to attend in the building will need to be made with the office.

If you are able to use Zoom to attend the meeting, please leave the seats in the building for those who cannot use Zoom. An email with information on joining the meeting will be sent out through our Constant Contact email list before the meeting. If you are not in that list, please let the office know so we can add you.

If neither in the building or via Zoom are possible, it is possible through Zoom to call in. You would call 1-646-558-8656 and use the Meeting ID 812 7204 3577. Long distance charges may apply.

Following the laws and continuing resolution, the minutes must record who was physically present, who was present via video, and who was present via telephone. So if you attend the meeting through Zoom, we will have to take roll as you come into the meeting.

If Erie County is in Level 3 or Level 4, we will postpone the meeting until we are in Level 1 or 2.

How will We get the Reports?

In accordance with the laws of the state of Ohio and our own continuing resolution, C10.01A20, which was approved by the council at the September meeting, "all materials that would be handed out at the meeting are available via mail and/or email no less than two days before the

meeting if it was not part of the report packet.” This newsletter contains the report packet with the ballot of nominees for Council and next year’s Nominating Committee and the proposed budget. If anything additional should need to be handed out at the meeting, it will be mailed or emailed to the congregation.

How will We have Discussion?

The way our A/V system was upgraded means those attending in the building will be able to see and hear those attending via Zoom, and those attending via Zoom will be able to see what’s going on in the meeting through the camera at the back of the church and hear what’s happening through the sound system.

Those who attend in the building will need to use a microphone to speak so that those attending via Zoom can hear the discussion. Those attending via Zoom will be muted, but will be able to raise or lower their hand--a feature of Zoom--so they can be recognized by the president and given the floor. You can do this even through a phone call by pressing *9 on your phone. Pastor Eric will be hosting the Zoom meeting from the A/V balcony in the building to bring raised hands to the attention of the president.

If you are a Zoom user, we will be having some practice sessions on using Zoom this way. Some of this will happen during the Zoom Fellowship Time on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., but watch your email for invitations to additional practice sessions!

How will We Vote?

When it comes to voting, the continuing resolution gives the following structure: “All votes at such congregational meetings follow this order of priority:

- a. motion assumes unanimous vote;
- b. if there is dissent, a voice vote will be cast;
- c. if there is a request for a division of the house or if the chair is uncertain after the voice vote, there will be a roll call vote; and
- d. for any vote that requires or is requested as a ballot vote, ballots will be mailed out to those in attendance at the meeting to be returned to Zion by the date designated in the mailing, which will normally be one week from the date the ballot was sent. Results for such ballots will be communicated to the congregation at the worship services following the date designated for the return of the ballots.”

We anticipate this will be a reasonably short meeting, but it will also serve as a trial for our annual meeting in February, which is required by both state law and Zion’s constitution. The continuing resolution expires when the current state of emergency expires.



Nickels and Noses for September



There is more explanation in this article than normal to help make sense of the numbers, which are not normal. Hopefully this is not a surprise. First is the monthly offerings presented with the actual offerings, budgeted expectation to this point in the year, and where we were at this point last year.

September Offerings

	Monthly	Year to Date	Previous Year to Date
Actual	\$27,301.89	\$299,800.58	\$312,733.87
Budget	\$35,417.00	\$319,518.00	\$311,247.00

It is not a surprise that we are behind budgeted offerings right now. With both the state of emergency and the time of year, we would normally be behind budget. The biggest offerings are usually given around Christmas and Easter, so like many other organizations we look to the end of year giving to help make our budget. Last year was a very good year, but not typical. This year will also not be typical, but for different reasons.

Next is the total income with the same three categories.

September Total Income

	Monthly	Year to Date	Previous Year to Date
Actual	\$32,847.66	\$372,592.49	\$340,814.91
Budget	\$38,098.00	\$342,888.00	\$330,180.00

We did get a small PPP loan with the council’s approval. It was not large enough for *The Register* to publish it, even in their online database. We will not have a problem using all of it for the allotted purposes, so it will be a grant we won’t have to repay. This will help us make our overall budget.

Now to try and make sense of attendance. WLEC does not provide numbers for audience size on the radio, so the numbers here are from our YouTube and Facebook accounts. These numbers are notoriously difficult to compare with actually counting people in a service, so we’re using the rough estimation that the ELCA is developing

To get the numbers, the estimation takes the total number of unique views from YouTube and the total number of 1-minute views from Facebook each from one week after the video went live and multiplies by two. This estimation assumes that there are some people who are watching the videos by themselves and some people who are watching with everyone in their household. Since that’s impossible to know for sure, the guess is to average it out to two based on statistics for members of ELCA congregations.



September Attendance

	Total	Average
Saturday Reflection	216	54
Sunday Worship	810	203
Total	1026	257

For some comparison, our average attendance at the Saturday service in 2019 was 44, and our average attendance at the Sunday services in 2019 was 175. This gave us a total average weekly attendance of 213. As we slowly return to worship in the building, we will want to keep the videos going. The goal will be to live-stream all three services on our YouTube channel with links on our Facebook page.

Carolyn's Corner . . .



¹ I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. ² Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. ³ The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. ⁴ Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!" . . . The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Psalm 116:1-3; 4

In Bishop Daniel's recent Rostered Leaders check-in, he shared this reading from Psalm where the writer is thanking God for bringing him through times of fear, dread and anxiety – much like we as members and friends of Zion and this community are today.

He went on to share *Zunin and Myers Phase of Disaster* framework, which offers some understanding of what we as part of a worldwide pandemic are experiencing. This information is taken from a training manual for mental health and human service workers in major disasters and seems most appropriate for helping us process where we have been these past several months and where we might be in the somewhat near future. I would like to share part of this with you now. This framework consists 6 phases that that seem to be prevalent in most disasters, including the pandemic we continue to be in.

First is the **Pre-disaster phase**. Think back to about January, when we were hearing about this dreadful disease in other parts of the world. We were told something might be coming, but it hadn't yet touched our

lives in a meaningful way, so we weren't too concerned. You may have even heard some folks saying that it would never get to our country.

Next, the **Impact phase**. During this time there was much confusion and intense desire to protect our family. We heard stories of people being extremely and painfully ill, even dying. We saw news reports with video of hospitals overflowing and doing triage in tents outside their buildings. We were willing to shelter at home and take care of those closest to us. Remember the shortage of sanitizers, food, and toilet paper?

Next is the **Heroic phase**, characterized by a high level of activity with a low level of productivity. People are looking for things to do wanting to fix the problem, and causing risk assessment to be impaired. This stage usually moves quickly to the next phase.

The **Honeymoon phase**. Here there is a dramatic shift in emotion. Here community bonding is evident, there is optimism that everything will soon return to normal. Opportunities become available for providers and organizations to assist affected people and groups. It's a time to build relationships. Again this phase is short lived.

The **Disillusionment phase** comes next. Here optimism turns to discouragement, stress, exhaustion, disappointment, dread, and trauma. During this phase many just want to go back to whatever was before and not worry about the consequences. There may be rumors that those in charge don't have a clue as to what is going on. Substance abuse may grow. It can be a very dark and angry time for many. How have you felt about the long lines and clueless drivers? This phase may last months or years.

Continuing with Psalm 116 we hear,

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.⁶ The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. ⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. ⁹ I walk before the Lord in the land of the living. ¹⁰ I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; ¹¹ I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar." ¹² What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, ⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. ¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. ¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. ¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, ¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

The **Reconstruction phase** is the final stage and is experienced as an overall feeling of recovery, generally coming months or years to later. Here people adjust to a new "normal" while continuing to grieve loss. Here we can say to God as the psalmist did,

"You have loosed my bonds. Praise the Lord!" Amen!

***Be well!
Blessings,***

Carolyn





38th Community Celebration of Thanksgiving

Sponsored by **Holy Angels Catholic Church**
and **Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Due to the ongoing Covid health concerns, we will be providing
carryout and delivery services only this year.

What: **Free Thanksgiving Meal**

(Hot and delicious, with all the trimmings)

When: **Thanksgiving Day**

November 26, 2020

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Where: **Holy Angels Catholic Church**

428 Tiffin Ave., Sandusky, OH



**Carryout and
Delivery ONLY**

***For carryout, enter the parking lot from Pearl St. ***

Please call either phone number below to place your order:

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (419)625-2112 by November 25th

Holy Angels Catholic Church (419)625-3698 through November 26th

**We have an urgent need for volunteer drivers to
deliver meals on Thanksgiving Day.**

Delivery drivers should park on W. Jefferson St. or Tiffin Ave.

If you are able to help, please call Holy Angels (419)-625-3698 or

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (419)-625-2112

From Generation to Generation Project Updates

As we near our fundraising goal for the *From Generation To Generation* capital campaign, a lot of work is being done on the building. Since we haven't been gathering for worship in the building, progress has only been limited by the weather. Here's an update on what has been done and what we still have to do.



What's Been Done

Hopefully you have had the opportunity to drive past Zion and see the transformation from just the cleaning of the exterior stone. The two-tone design of the stonework is now visible and stunning.

The tuckpointing and sealing of the stone should also be done by the time you read this. There was more tuckpointing to do than anticipated, even with the overestimation from the age of the building. This probably comes from how long it has been since the stone was cleaned. To help out the stone has also been sealed so that the dirt and grime that discolored the stone will not seep into it again for several decades.

The trim around the building, like gutters, downspouts, and window frames, have all been painted and repaired as needed. They really stand out now!

What Still Needs to be Done

At the time of writing, we were looking for masons to come and work on removing the old sign, installing the new sign, and blocking up the tall windows that are visible on the south side of the building from the outside but behind the organ. All three stairs on Columbus and Jefferson also need to be replaced. With God's grace, these projects will be done before the cold weather sets in.

Some needed inside work has become apparent from the exterior work. A mold problem was discovered in the northeast tower, so remediation and repair will begin as soon as possible. There are also spots around some doors and windows that need some cleaning because they were not sufficiently sealed, allowing water in during the cleaning process. Hopefully by the time you're reading this, it's already done!

The organ is also mid restoration. Right now the keyboards and pedals are off being restored. This restoration should be completed before Christmas. In 2021 after the thaw, two other projects are slated. The sidewalks around Zion will be repoured, and the basement will get a makeover. As we get back into the building, you might not recognize it!



Easter 1953



Zion Foundation Update

The Zion Foundation board has continued to meet in this time. To date, we have awarded \$34,500 in grants in 2020. At the last meeting in September, grants were awarded to two causes. One was a sizable grant to ELCA Disaster Response in response to the many natural disasters that have happened this year. You can learn about how our denomination responds in times of crisis and what all the crises were at the following website.

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

The foundation also helped sponsor a member of Zion raise funds to support Rotary's Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad Foundation, Inc., or MESA, which you can learn about at the following website.

<https://rotarydistrict6600.org/mesa/> So far this year, the Zion Foundation has also supported:

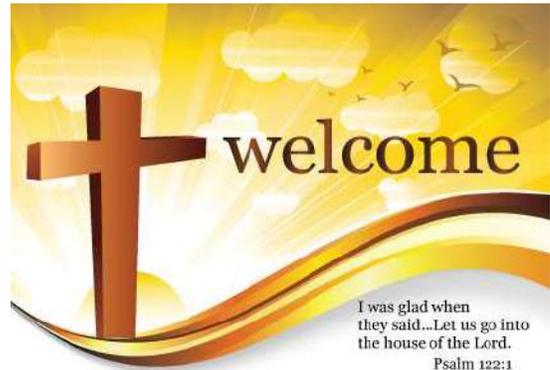
- the Erie County Senior Center Meals On Wheels Program,
- the Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center,
- the Sandusky Community Celebrations Council,
- OHgo,
- our Northwestern Ohio Synod Mission Partners,
- the Community Action Commission,
- Stein Hospice Camp Good Grief,
- the ELCA International Disaster Relief Fund, and
- Firelands Habitat for Humanity.

This is the work of our congregation, supporting God's work in our community, our state, our country, and our world. Good stewardship pays off by providing a way for us to support others.

Zion's Reentry Plan

In this time when we have not been meeting in the building, substantial work has been done getting the building ready for us to get back inside. We now have hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, but it took until the middle of August to get them. Our HVAC system has been upgraded to better deal with airborne particles from both illness and allergens.

We've hired a custodian to do the necessary cleaning. This process, however, has taken longer than expected with several people having been offered the position, and then they backed out.



As we begin to reenter the building for worship and meetings, Zion's council has approved the following plan.

At Level 1 and Level 2

Saturday

6:00 p.m. Saturday Reflection posts on YouTube

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship posts on YouTube

8:45 a.m. Service of the Table inside Zion (max 45 people) 9:30 a.m. Children of Zion posts on YouTube

Fellowship Time on Zoom

10:30 a.m. WLEC Broadcast

Sunday Worship posts on Facebook

11:20 a.m. Great Thanksgiving live on WLEC

11:30 a.m. Drive-Through Distribution

Scheduled through the Office

Individual or household prayer times

These will need to be scheduled through the office so we can allow for cleaning, time for the air to circulate, and to avoid conflicts with recording sessions.

Meetings in the Gathering Room of no more than 25 people for no more than 30 minutes

These will need to be scheduled to allow for setup, cleaning, and time for the air to circulate between meetings. 25 people is the absolute maximum following physical distancing guidelines.

At Level 3 and 4

Saturday

6:00 p.m. Saturday Reflection posts on YouTube

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship posts on YouTube

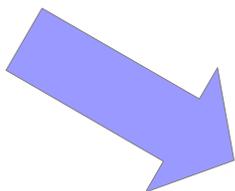
9:30 a.m. Children of Zion posts on YouTube

Fellowship Time on Zoom

10:30 a.m. WLEC Broadcast

Sunday Worship posts on Facebook

If this plan works, then we will add a Service of the Table on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. in January. This will get us back into something close to our normal rhythm with options for some things in the building, some things broadcast, and the drive-through option. Our goal, as always, is to safely include as many people as possible. The council and Music & Worship and Property & Facilities Ministry Teams continue to explore ways to safely do more in the building.



The Music & Worship Ministry Team is working on what we might be able to do for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve, if the current state of emergency is still in effect. We will let you know as those plans become more certain.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting August 12, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER:

Secretary/Treasurer Marjorie Burton called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Rev. Bodenstab, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Carol Albert, Marjorie Burton, Andrew Castello, Faye Gast, Tom Kinsel, Darlene Lowery, Barbara Newton, Nancy Stewart, Martha Thompson, Jarrod Todi, Kevin Yontz, and Recording Secretary, Lori Wobser. Absent: Savannah Castello (Excused) and Jarrod Todi

OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER:

Pastor Eric opened the meeting in prayer.

AGENDA:

The agenda was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of July 8, 2020 were approved as presented.

CLERGY REPORTS:

Pastor Eric - Written report submitted. Verbal report on Drive-Thru Communion Distribution, tracking attendance on YouTube, and personal vacation time with Rev. Ernie Matijasic filling in on September 6th.

Deacon Carolyn - Written report submitted. Verbal report regarding future Sunday School plans, Rally Day, and maintaining contact via mailing.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Martha Thompson, President - No report given.

Vice President - Verbal report submitted. Discussion regarding computers will be continued in Property and Facilities meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer, Marjorie Burton - Written report and financial reports were submitted and discussed. Verbal report explaining CIVISTA transfer for projects paid for out of Property and Facilities fund. Discussion of annual budget proposals for 2021.

MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

Worship & Music - Carol Albert - Verbal report submitted. Hymns were selected through end of September and worship leaders for the next quarter were scheduled. Discussion regarding All Saints Service.

Faith Formation - nothing to report

Stewardship & Administration - Tom Kinsel - nothing to report.

Youth & Young Adult - Andrew Castello and Savannah Castello - Verbal report submitted. The ELCA Youth Gathering has been pushed to 2022 due to Covid-19 concerns. Discussion is taking place for future Fall Into Lakeside plans.

Property & Facilities - Barbara Newton - Written report was submitted. Verbal update given on status of building renovations.

Parish Life - Darlene Lowery - nothing to report.

Mission & Outreach - Nancy Stewart - nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Custodian** - Property and Facilities Committee is overseeing.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **How to Conduct Congregational Meeting and Annual Meeting during Covid-19** - Presentation for continuing resolution for Congregational Meeting C10.01A20. Discussion to be continued at September Council Meeting.
- **Nominating Committee for 2021 Council** - Per C13.02 of the constitution the committee will consist of 5 members (3 from the congregation & 2 from council). Elected at the 2019 November meeting from the congregation were Mary Ann Bevington, Wendy Schonhardt, and R. Jody West. Faye Gast

and Darlene Lowery will be the council representatives. Chairperson is Faye Gast.

- **Annual Budget** – At October meeting we will have to look at and approve proposed budgets to be presented at November Congregational Meeting.
- **Board of Elections** – We have received correspondence explaining the Board of Elections plans regarding in-person voting in November. They have asked if we have any questions or concerns. Decision was made to contact Board of Elections with the understanding that if our building is open for worship, it can be used for polling. If it is not open for use of worship, it will not be available for polling.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Wobser, Recording Secretary

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting
September 9, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Secretary/Treasurer Marjorie Burton called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Rev. Bodenstab, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Carol Albert, Marjorie Burton, Andrew Castello, Faye Gast, Tom Kinsel, Darlene Lowery, Barbara Newton, Nancy Stewart, Jarrod Todi, and Recording Secretary, Lori Wobser. Absent: Excused: Martha Thompson, Kevin Yontz

OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER:

Pastor Eric opened the meeting with a reading and reflection from Romans 14 followed with prayer.

AGENDA:

Amended agenda accepted and reflected in New Business.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of August 12, 2020 were approved as presented.

CLERGY REPORTS:

Pastor Eric – Written report submitted. Review of “attendance” numbers online. September 15th will begin a new teaching series on YouTube and posted to Facebook revolving around the Augsburg Confession. This will run through January. Discussion of Drive Through Distribution that took place on September 6th.

Deacon Carolyn – Written report submitted.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Martha Thompson, President – No report given.

Vice President – No report given.

Secretary/Treasurer, Marjorie Burton – Written report and financial reports were submitted and discussed.

MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

Worship & Music - Carol Albert - Nothing to report. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 16th.

Faith Formation - Jarrod Todi - Verbal report - Rally Day will take place on Sept. 13th. Deacon Carolyn has lesson prepared and has recorded a back to school prayer with Pastor Eric. We will continue the Sunday School recordings as well as a weekly activity mailing to the children. Discussion on Christmas Program. Deacon Carolyn attending online workshop on Christmas Programs.

Stewardship & Administration - Tom Kinsel - will address under New Business

Youth & Young Adult - Andrew Castello and Savannah Castello - Nothing to report.

Property & Facilities - Barbara Newton - Written report was submitted.

Parish Life - Darlene Lowery - Nothing to report.

Mission & Outreach - Nancy Stewart - Meeting to discuss Thanksgiving Dinner set for September 22nd.

OLD BUSINESS :

- **Continuing Resolution C10.01A20** - Conducting Congregational Meetings During Covid-19 - this resolution will provide the option of Zoom for conducting the congregational meeting, either in part or whole if we are unable or limited in meeting in the building. A motion was made to adopt Continuing Resolution C10.01A20 as a resolution offering multiple opportunities to have members attend an annual during an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and motion passed.
- **General Election Poll** - Election Board has stated that the polling location will be moved from Zion to Sandusky City Schools for this year's general election.
- **Annual Budget** - Discussion included looking at the trends/inflation, COLA (cost of living allowance), new needs, modification/elimination of programs. This is still a work in progress and discussion will continue.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Letter of transfer to Zion for David Behrendsen.** A motion was made to accept David Berhrendsen into membership through letter of transfer. Motion passed.
- **Reaching out to members.** - discussion on how we can reach out in a tangible way to our members. Deacon Carolyn to lead further discussion with Parish Life and Outreach.
- **Setting November Congregational Meeting Date and Time** - Discussion of moving the congregational meeting so that we have an extra week of preparation and also so that it does not fall on All Saints Sunday. Motion made to move meeting to November 8th at Noon. Motion carried.
- **Second Deacon Position** - Discussion and a motion was made to contact the Bishop to seek advice on organizing a call for a Deacon. The motion was carried.
- **Building Updates** - Barb Newton verbal report.
- **Custodial Position** - Temporary Job Description and Duties were presented. Motion to authorize the hiring of custodian at 15 hours a week for \$15.00 an hour. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Wobser, Recording Secretary

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting
September 30, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Martha Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Rev. Bodenstab, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Carol Albert, , Andy Castello, Savannah Castello, Faye Gast, Darlene Lowery, Barbara Newton, Nancy Stewart, Martha Thompson, Kevin Yontz, and Recording Secretary, Lori Wobser Absent/Excused: Tom Kinsel

OPENING PRAYER:

Pastor Eric opened the meeting in prayer.

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS:

- Hiring of Custodian: Motion to hire Bill LaCourse as our Custodian/Maintenance person. Motion carried. Lori to contact Mr. LaCourse with the offer.
- Reopen Reentry Plan: Discussion over reentry plan. Service of the Table will begin slow reentry back to the building. Reservations will be required. 45 maximum seating. Call in time for reservations will be Tuesday from 9am -1:00pm and Thursday from 1-4:00 pm. Personnel needed will consist of a greeter for Portico directing members to hand sanitizers/masks and two ushers for the seating and dismissing. Motion was made to adopt the reentry plan. Motion carried. Reentry plan is added to the council minutes book.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Wobser, Recording Secretary

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting
October 14, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Martha Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

DRAFT

ROLL CALL:

Present: Rev. Bodenstab, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Carol Albert, Andrew Castello, Tom Kinsel, Darlene Lowery, Barbara Newton, Nancy Stewart, Martha Thompson, Jarrod Todi, Kevin Yontz, and Recording Secretary, Lori Wobser.

Absent: Excused: Faye Gast

OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER:

Deacon Carolyn opened with a reading from Psalm 116 and shared a brief presentation on the six phases of disaster.

AGENDA:

Amended agenda accepted and reflected in Old Business.

CORRESPONDENCE

The letter of resignation from Marjorie Burton, Secretary/Treasurer, was read.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of September 9, 2020 and September 30, 2020 were approved as presented.

CLERGY REPORTS:

Pastor Eric - Written report submitted. Pastor Eric presented a motion to amend the reentry plan by removing the need for reservations should numbers remain under 45 for the October 25th and November 1st Service of the Table. Motion passed.

Deacon Carolyn - Written report submitted.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Martha Thompson, President - Verbal report. Motion to approve Tom Kinsel to step in as Secretary/Treasurer for remainder of this Council term, Andrew Castello to step in as the Stewardship/Administration liaison for the remainder of this Council term, and Kevin Yontz to step in as the Youth/Young Adult liaison for the remainder of this Council term. Motion carried. Lori Wobser to initiate letter to PNC Bank for check signers.

Vice President - No report given.

Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Kinsel - Financial reports were submitted and discussed.

MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

Worship & Music - Carol Albert - At the September Worship/Music Planning meeting, we worked on hymns through the end of November. Discussion of Thanksgiving Service at the Gazebo. Carol will check on the availability of location for outdoor service. Discussion of Women's Thank offering Service for Sunday, November 15th.

Faith Formation - Jarrod Todi - Verbal report - Curriculum has been planned through the December. Children's Christmas program was discussed. Next Faith Formation meeting is scheduled for October 28th.

Stewardship & Administration - Tom Kinsel - will address under Old Business

Youth & Young Adult - Andrew Castello and Savannah Castello - Nothing to report.

Property & Facilities - Barbara Newton - Written report was submitted.

Parish Life - Darlene Lowery - Nothing to report.

Mission & Outreach - Nancy Stewart - Verbal report on Thanksgiving Dinner planning. First meeting was held on September 22nd at Holy Angels with Terry Diso, Father Hoyles, Gary Ferber, Carolyn Steinfeldt, Nancy Stewart, and Lori Wobser. This year will be carry out and delivery only. Each church will be responsible for cooking 36 turkeys but they must be cooked in the church kitchen. Volunteers needed for cooking turkeys as well as drivers for deliveries. Next meeting scheduled for October 20th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Mold Remediation and Repair:** mold/water damage in northeast stairwell from belltower to the basement. Remediation of stairwell would include removal of wallpaper and some of the damaged plaster, replace damaged plaster, and repainting. The men's choir area restroom which has been damaged will be redone as part of this project. The former Boy Scout closet next to the restroom will have to be remediated and sealed with the room being closed off. The cost of this project is \$11,000. Motion was made to authorize \$11,000 from Operating Savings for Property and Facilities to spend as needed to rectify the mold. Motion carried.
- **Annual Budget:** Ministerial salaries were adjusted to Synod guidelines. Motion to approve presentation of annual budget for year 2021. Motion carried.
- **Capital Campaign:** We have approximately \$90,000. to go to reach our goal. Cleaning, tuckpointing, and sealing project is almost complete. The masons will be starting work on the sign out front as well as the two tall windows behind the organ. The basement plans are still being finalized. The full report will be submitted to the November Zionews.
- **Nominating Committee:** The committee is still waiting to hear back from members. Motion made to allow Executive Council to prepare and present to the congregation the slate of candidates for election. Motion carried.
- **Barnes Wendling Contract:** We will continue to evaluate what is being done and can reevaluate the contract at any time. This contract follows accounting best practices. Motion made to approve renewal of accounting contract for 14 months. Motion carried.
- **Contract Savings Found:** Savings have been made with our Gas contract. Andrew Castello is looking into the electric contract for any possible savings. Lori Wobser has investigated a new phone system and presented the findings to Property and Facility for review. The recycling with Republic Services has been discontinued as Bill Wobser has volunteered to take the recycling weekly.
- **Custodian:** Continued search for qualified candidate for hire. Candidate must pass drug and background screenings. Motion made to authorize Faye Gast and Lori Wobser to find and hire candidate that meets criteria. Motion carried.
- **Helpers for In Person Worship:** We will need volunteers weekly; greeter and two ushers. A schedule will be developed.
- **Cleaning Church Before Opening:** Due to limited operations in the building and the ongoing contractor work, having a cleaning company come in would not be beneficial at this time. Thank you to the volunteers who stepped up to clean the areas trafficked for the in-person Service of the Table. Discussion on looking into profession cleaning equipment and organizing the custodian closet/office. MSDS sheets on chemicals approved for use in the building have been placed in a binder in the custodian closet.
- **All Saints:** Letters were sent to the families of those who lost loved ones this past year. During the week of October 26th - 30th, time slots have been set for family members to sign up for a time of remembrance. Deacon Carolyn is working with Stephen's Ministers and Pastor Eric to have someone present in the building to minister to the families.
- **Congregational Meeting:** Discussion on hybrid meeting. A hybrid meeting will consist of a combination of Zoom and in-person participants. In-person seating will be limited to 65. Requesting that the seating be first filled by those who do not have ability to join via technology. This plan will be implemented in a level 1 or 2. If in a level 3 or 4 at that time, the meeting will be postponed until we reach level 1 or 2. The motion was made to approve the congregational meeting as a hybrid meeting. Motion carried.
- **Bishop:** Following the September Council meeting, a letter was sent to the Bishop requesting a meeting with the Council to help assess where we are and what we need to do as a congregation and what staff we need to accomplish it.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori A. Wobser, Recording Secretary