

# Zionews



*May 2021*

**WE ARE OPEN AGAIN**

**BUT YOU MUST OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

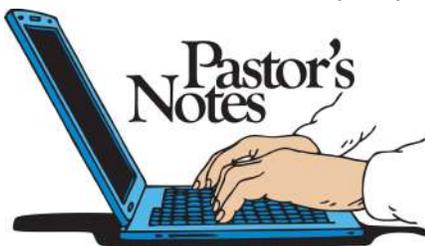
**TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

## **Welcoming and hospitality are not the same thing.**

Being in Vacationland means I have to make this distinction that usually gets overlooked, especially with the new college downtown. Although pointing out the difference between welcoming and hospitality has more to do with how businesses have redefined words, there is something for Christians to see here.

We need to make sure that at Zion we do not conflate what people experience at a hotel or a restaurant with what they experience when they come to worship. Because of the development of the hospitality industry, the idea of hospitality now carries an overtone of transaction that can make hospitality at a place of worship more about money and commerce than experiencing the presence of God in our lives. This change in meaning creates several challenges for congregations.

Transactional hospitality is not about welcoming people but creating an environment where people are more ready to open their wallets. When people come to Sandusky for vacation, we let them get away with rude behavior because they're putting money into our local economy. This kind of transaction demeans people by reducing people to money. It also encourages people to make bad decisions if those bad decisions get us money.



Transactional hospitality emphasizes what an organization can get from people. Congregations fall into this trap when we let people--both members and visitors--do things because they *might* give us money or because they *might* be "new blood" for volunteering in the congregation. This approach turns the time, talents, and treasures of people into commodities for the congregation rather than seeing them as the gifts from God for the sake of proclaiming the gospel that they are.

# Note From The Pastor



Visitors notice this, and being on the receiving end of transactional hospitality is a big reason visitors don't come back to a congregation. (This also happens with members, but that aspect is more complicated than I can unpack here.)

Focusing on welcoming can help us avoid the pitfalls of transactional hospitality, especially if we strive to welcome Jesus. Our mindset about visitors and members shapes how we welcome people. If we expect to get something out of others, then transactional hospitality will guide our interactions. If we focus on welcoming Jesus in each person, we can see everyone as God sees them--as our siblings in Jesus loved by God.

God calls Zion to welcome all people not because of what Zion can get out of them but because of how God has welcomed each one of us. God welcomed you as you were before you were baptized. In your baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, redemption, and salvation, not as a transaction that you had to pay for or must now pay for but as a free gift so that you could know there is no barrier between you and God's love.

God's holy welcome, full of grace and mercy, calls us into relationship with God and with all those people God loves, which is everyone! Zion's mission this year (and an emphasis for the future) is to welcome all people. This is Zion's mission because God first welcomed us. God welcomes us not because of what we have given or what we have to give but out of love. Zion welcomes all people in love because of God's love.

God's holy welcome, which we seek to embody, honors people for who they are now and trusts that the Holy Spirit will empower each person to embody God's good news. God's holy welcome helps people be who God has made them to be.

And all this happens at the door!

May God's welcome empower you to share the Easter news!

PE



All 3 Weekly Services are  
streamed live on YouTube



You can use this QR Code to  
access our YouTube channel

## **Carolyn's Corner . . .**

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the world celebrated Earth Day. The purpose of this day is to make us aware of and to help us appreciate our connection to the earth and our environmental challenges. As a kid growing up on a small farm, I well remember my family's enjoyment in the hard work of planting, weeding (ugh!) and harvesting garden produce, as well as the crops in the fields. Yes, it was long days and hard work, but the satisfaction we all had when the first strawberries or tomatoes were ready to eat made us forget the drudgery and enjoy the "first fruits."

Earth Day brought us lots of information regarding recycling, good household cleaners, best houseplants to have, importance of saving trees-the list goes on and on. I even saw one item about "green" school lunches!

When we read the story of creation in Genesis, we hear that God created all of nature and said that it was good. God gave responsibility for all of this to humans to care for. And, here we are today . . . our lives have demanded so many things. In order to maintain the standard of living we have become accustomed to, we **need** electronics, frozen dinners and microwaves. We **need** cars and planes, convenience foods and toys and much more. All of these things we've become accustomed to make our lives easier and more enjoyable. All are good.

Following this past year that has brought us the pandemic, climate change, violent hurricanes, and wildfires burning thousands of acres of trees and homes, the Earth Day theme is, Restore Our Earth. This theme focuses on our world leaders – and us, to focus on restoring the world's ecosystems through natural processes and emerging green technologies.

As Christians our job is to find ways to care for God's creation. It's not wrong for us to be able to enjoy modern conveniences. It is wrong for us to waste and trash our environment. We can look for products that have conservative packaging, recycle whenever possible. We can make ourselves aware of good chemicals and environmentally friendly products so that what we do isn't harmful. For more information about Earth Day and how to be involved, go to [www.earthday.org/2021](http://www.earthday.org/2021)

God created beauty. It is our job to take care of it, not just for ourselves, but for future generations.

Blessings,  
Carolyn



### Nickels and Noses for March

As a reminder, these numbers are two months behind to account for the bookkeeping schedule.



#### March Offerings

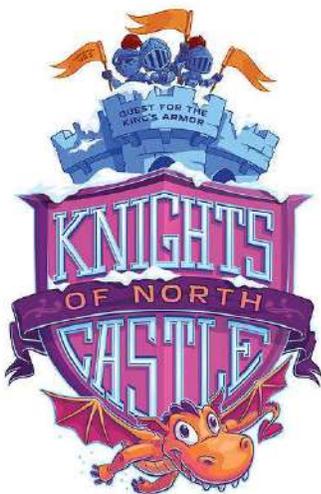
	Monthly	Year to Date
<b>Actual</b>	\$26,089.53	\$89,540.65
<b>Budget</b>	\$35,417.00	\$109,725.00

#### March Attendance

4 Saturdays, 4 Sundays

1 Saturday in person, 3 Sundays in person

	In Person	Online	Total	Average
<b>Saturday</b>	18	230	248	62
<b>Sunday</b>	177	760	937	234
<b>Total</b>	195	990	1,185	296



### Knights of North Castle Vacation Bible School

## August 2-6

### 9 am to noon

All children age 3 thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Discover how to serve God and what God's

Theme verse:

***Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.***                      *Ephesians 6:10*

Weather permitting, most activities will be outside

## NEEDED!

To help keep our children in shade and out of the rain during  
Vacation Bible School

10x10 or larger canopies for the week of  
August 2-6.

If you have one to share, please leave a message for  
Deacon Carolyn at 419-625-2112



## Readings for May services

	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading		2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Gospel
May 2, 2021	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
May 9, 2021	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
May 16, 2021	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
May 23, 2021	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 30, 2021	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

## Do you have a graduation in your family?

We are looking for the names of Zion members who are graduating from high school or college.

***Please send their name, school from where they are graduating, and what their plans for the near future might be to:***

**Deacon Carolyn at  
Csteinaim@zionsandusky.org**



Our Church's Graduates

# WORSHIP HELPERS SCHEDULES



## Prayers of the People *for BOTH services*



May	2	Betty Bickley/Sarah Mears
	9	Carla Mitchell
	16	Judy Mears
	23	Judy Burrows
	30	Betty Bickley/Sarah Mears

## Children's Message *for BOTH services*

May	2	Nancy Kinsel
	9	Laurie Mears
	16	Hope Bailey
	23	Jon Carver
	30	Pastor Eric/Deacon Carolyn

## Lectors

		8:00 am	10:30 am
<b>May</b>	2	Andy Gundlach	Judy Mears
	9	Mark Stuckey	Martha Thompson
	16	Jarrod Todi	Karen Wu
	23	Addison Stradtman	Carla Mitchell
	30	Jean Bossetti	Laurie Mears

**If you are unable to be at church on your scheduled date, please find someone to trade dates with and let the church office know about the change (419) 625-2112**

# **Save the Date: WELCA Eastern Conference Spring Meeting**

**Women of Zion, the WELCA Eastern Conference will meet on  
Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 9 am until Noon**

**St. Peter Lutheran Church  
243 Benedict Ave., Norwalk**

**Registration opens at 8:30 am and the cost is \$7.00.**

**This covers your lunch from Subway and materials for the meeting.**

**The conference will begin at 9:00 am and run until lunch at Noon.**

**NW Ohio Synod Program “Pivoting” will be presented as well as two short Bible studies: “Spritual Gifts from the Beginning” and “The Plan” based on readings from Jeremiah and Ephesians. We will observe a short worship service.**

**IVY- Invest in Youth, a transition program for foster children will benefit from our love offering and gifts in kind (TBA)**

**We will meet at St. Peter’s outdoor pavillion. Masks are required and social distancing is to be observed. We will move indoors in inclement weather.**

**With out wonderful program plans, the NWOS of the WELCA hopes that you save our date. We will see you there!**

# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting

## April 14, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

### CALL TO ORDER:

President, Martha Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### ROLL CALL:

Present: Rev. Bodenstab, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Faye Gast, Carla Mitchell, Sheree' Miller, Roslyn Orticari, Martha Thompson, Kevin Yontz, and Recording Secretary, Lori Wobser. Absent and Excused: Andrew Castello, Savannah Castello, Darlene Lowery, and Jarrod Todi

### OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER:

Pastor Eric opened with a devotional on *Family of Origin* and prayer.

### AGENDA:

Amended agenda accepted and reflected in New Business.

### CORRESPONDENCE

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the March 10, 2021 Council meeting stand as submitted.  
The minutes for the March 17, 2021 Special Council meeting stand as submitted.

### CLERGY REPORTS:

**Pastor Eric** – Written report submitted. Report filed as submitted.

**Deacon Carolyn** – Written report submitted. Report filed as submitted.

### OFFICER REPORTS:

**Martha Thompson, President** – No report submitted.

**Vice President** – No report submitted.

**Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Kinsel** – Financial reports submitted. Tom has met with Don Hanck to discuss Barnes Wendling contract. Tom working with Lori on redistribution on accountant related tasks. PPP Loan preparation charge was verified and paid. Tom would also like to see the restart of a Finance Committee.

### MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

**Worship & Music – Sheree' Miller** – No written report submitted. Verbal report: Hymns were selected through the end of June. The next meeting is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Looking for May ushers for services.

**Faith Formation – Jarrod Todi** – No written report submitted. Verbal report given by Deacon Carolyn. The Children of Zion lessons are wrapping up for Spring. VBS is planned for August 2-6, 2021. This year it will be held outside using canopies. For Easter, gift bags were passed out to the children participating in the program and those who were unable to attend received gift bags via delivery from Deacon Carolyn and Vicki Boesch.

**Stewardship & Administration –Roslyn Orticari–** Nothing to report.

**Youth & Young Adult – Andrew Castello and Savannah Castello –**

No written report submitted. Verbal report from Deacon Carolyn: Vicki Boesch has planned a Youth meeting for April 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon for pizza and conversation.

**Property & Facilities – Faye Gast** – No written report submitted. Verbal report: Kevin Yontz purchased an air purifier for the Library. Investigating the cost of repairs for the ice machine. Looking at the next step in the lawn/landscaping project.

**Parish Life – Darlene Lowery** – Nothing to report.

**Mission & Outreach – Nancy Stewart** – No written report submitted. Verbal report: Care and Share has started distribution from their building. Team Zion has stepped up with Monday afternoon volunteers. Nancy Kinsel reported that Global Outreach has 11 ELCA churches around Mexico City

meeting monthly. We are still waiting to hear back from OHgo as far as a plan to begin distribution from our parking lot.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Barnes Wendling Contract:** Discussion taking place of realignment of duties and renegotiating the contact.

**Revisit Outreach:** The list of members for outreach has been updated. Redistribute some of the names so that new council members have outreach opportunity.

**Drive Through Communion Distribution:** Though we have reopened, and members are partaking of communion both in service and at home, we still have several members continuing to come through for the distribution. It was decided that we would revisit this on a monthly basis to see if it needs to continue.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Church Contact Person:** Office Administrator is the church contact person. It is the responsibility of ministry teams to notify the office of meetings scheduled, contractors/vendors scheduled to do work on the premises, what the scope of the work is being done, and who needs to be updated on progress.

**Schedule Council Retreat:** This year's retreat is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the church from 9:30 am -3:30 pm. Deacon Carolyn will talk with Darlene Lowery to plan lunch.

**Reestablish Finance Committee:** Tom would like to have a committee to include the Secretary/Treasurer, a member or two from Council, other members with past treasurer experience/business experience. This is separate from Stewardship and Administration.

**Technology Committee:** No need for a committee. We need more volunteers to commit to help with the A/V system; Saturday nights especially. There is instruction as well as a step by step, easy to read manual to follow.

**Synod Assembly:** September 24-25<sup>th</sup> in person. All other details are yet to be determined. In addition to Pastor Eric and Deacon Carolyn, we can send 1 Youth member (someone who is in High School), 1 Young Adult (someone who has graduated from High School but is under the age of 30), 2 voting representatives (preferably 1 male/1 female).

**NWOS Microgrants:** The Synod has funding for outreach projects meeting specific parameters. Applications are due by May 17<sup>th</sup>. Deacon Carolyn will lead a committee in discussion of ideas on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, following the 10:30 am worship service.

**Weekly Mailing:** We will continue the weekly mailing of the service leaflet as a means to reach out to our members. We will evaluate at the next Council meeting. A motion was made to wait until May to reevaluate sending out the weekly bulletin. Motion carried.

**Hymnals Back in the Pew Racks:** Hymnals were initially removed out of concern for covid spread via touch surfaces. A motion was made to put hymnals back only in the rows where they are marked for seating. Motion carried.

**Outside Groups:** Standard covid protocols will be followed. A motion was made to allow Zion groups, Zion sponsored groups, and the outside groups of Firelands Chorus and Vacationland Band, if and when the time comes, to use the building. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Lord's Prayer lead by Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Wobser, Recording Secretary

# May 2021



Please check with your ministry team leader to see if you are meeting in person, hybrid, or virtually.

All Saturday and Sunday worship will be in person and online unless we are at level 4.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  6:00 Worship
2 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am COZ—Virtual only 10:30 am Worship 10:30 am WLEC Noon - Drive Through Communion Distribution	3  2:00 pm Temple Caretakers  6:30 pm Quilters	4  9:00 am Quilters  6:00 pm Executive Council	5 7:30 am Lectionary Study  9:30 am Staff Meeting  6:30 am Confirmation—Zoom	6  9:30 am Priscilla—Zoom	7	8  6:00 Worship
9 Happy Mother's Day!  8:00 am Worship 9:30 am COZ—Virtual only 10:30 am Worship 10:30 am WLEC	10 10:30 am Praying In Color—Zoom  2:00 pm Temple Caretakers  6:30 pm Quilters	11  9:00 am Quilters	12 7:30 am Lectionary Study  9:30 am Staff Meeting  7:00 pm Council	13	14	15  6:00 Worship
16  8:00 am Worship 9:30 am COZ—Virtual only 10:30 am Worship 10:30 am WLEC	17  2:00 pm Temple Caretakers  6:30 pm Quilters	18  9:00 am Quilters	19 7:30 am Lectionary Study  9:30 am Staff Meeting	20  9:30 am—Women's Bible Study—Zoom	21 	22 9:30 am Council Retreat at Zion  6:00 Worship
23  8:00 am Worship 9:30 am COZ—Virtual only 10:30 am Worship 10:30 am WLEC	24 10:30 am Praying In Color—Zoom  2:00 pm Temple Caretakers 5:00 pm Property & Facilities—hybrid 6:30 pm Quilters	25  9:00 am Quilters	26 7:30 am Lectionary Study  9:30 am Staff Meeting  7:00 pm Faith Formation—Zoom	27	28	29  6:00 Worship
30 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am COZ—Virtual only 10:30 am Worship 10:30 am WLEC	31 Memorial Day 2:00 pm Temple Caretakers 6:30 pm Quilters					