



**ZION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH • SCHOOL**
COLOGNE, MN

14745 Co. Rd. 153
Cologne, MN 55322

www.zion-cologne.org

**January
2022**

Rev. Eric Zacharias
Pastor
Home: 952-466-2123
Cell: 952-843-3678

Tom Marcsisak
Principal

Amanda Teschendorf
Administrative Assistant

Church/School Office
Phone: 952-466-3379
Fax: 952-466-2703
E-mail: office@zion-cologne.org

Mission Statement

Zion Lutheran Church, Cologne, MN is a branch of Christ's family saved by grace alone, rooted in God's love, and growing in faith through worship, teaching, fellowship, and service as we reach out to others with the good news of Jesus.

BORN FOR THIS

Life is filled with many challenges, many of which arise unexpectedly. When a crisis comes, would you be able to adjust your life to meet the demands? You might find that you are more resourceful than you thought.

The Bible is filled with many people whose lives were challenged by events and decrees—and when challenged, they rose to the occasion. Noah was called upon to build an ark. Joseph's life moved from being a son to being a slave, and then a prisoner; yet, in time, he rose from this to a place of prominence. In his old age, Moses is called upon to bring the nation of Israel out of Egypt to the promised land. Gideon the farmer becomes a warrior and judge; similarly, Saul is called from the fields to become a king—and a warrior of great fame—as is his successor, David the shepherd, who excels in his role.

When trouble comes, you do what you can with what you have. Ruth endures hardship, for the sake of her mother-in-law. Esther, recruited for the king's harem, wanted to ignore the plight of her people, the Jews, but was challenged by her uncle to speak to the king on their behalf. Mordecai asks, "Who knows but that you have risen to your place for such a time as this?"

Life is filled with changes—and challenges—that we think we can't handle. Mordecai's question to Esther is instructive to us: Who knows but that God has caused you to be the very one to meet the challenges, for such a time as this.

Mary was confronted by an angel and told that she would be the mother of God's Son Jesus. She knew this was an impossible thing, but accepted the task before her, knowing that all things are possible with God.

Jesus seems to know, from early on, that he was born to do God's will. He does this earnestly, teaching and preaching; he heals the sick and casts out demons; he confronts evil at the highest level, even risking his own life, in order to do the will of God. When taken before the Roman governor, Jesus tells the purpose of his life: "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice" (John 18:37b).

Pilate's world is filled with doubt and is managed by bouts of courage and uncertainty. His sense of truth and justice is undercut by his uncertainties and fears.

Jesus was born to meet these uncertainties and fears and displace them with God's gift of faith. The promise is made real to us in Christ. It is there for all who believe. You are born for this time—and reborn in Christ to meet everything that confronts you.

Blessings to you, in Christ—Pastor Eric Zacharias

LADIES AID/LWML

Meeting Notes from December 9, 2021

Twelve members attended our December meeting (9:30) in the meeting room. The opening devotion was given by Roxanne Pieper, with a focus on Advent. Roxanne read the Christmas card which she prepared for all the shut-ins, along with their gifts, delivered prior to the meeting. Pastor Zacharias then led the group in a study of "Noel," from the Lutheran Women's Quarterly (page 16), which prompted much discussion; the study was interspersed with stanzas from Martin Luther's, "Welcome to Earth, O Noble Guest," which were sung by the group.

President Bev Eggers welcomed us to the meeting, and we recited the LWML Pledge. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Financial Report was discussed, approved, and filed for audit. Our December Mites were dedicated and given to the Lutheran Bible Translators. We will also split the donations received from the Christmas Potluck between Bethesda and Lutheran World Relief.

Correspondence * Thanks were received from: Tom and Julianne Marcsisak, for the gift and surprise party; the Morschen's, for their Christmas gift; the family of Henry Krueger, for the funeral reception (with a gift of \$100), the family of Gloria Amend, for the funeral lunch (with a gift of \$100); and from the American Bible Society. The Dwelling Place and the Dakota Boys' Ranch sent information, along with a request for a donation.

The Funeral Committee will be assisting with the Hollace Brockoff funeral on Dec. 10th. Hillcrest is catering the event, serving sandwiches and hot dish; Martha Molnau and RoNaye Gnan, from the Martha Group, will assist.

Zion's Christmas Potluck—and surprise for the Marcsisak 's 40th Anniversary/years of service at Zion—was a success! The gym was decorated with a display of favorite toys (toy cars and trucks were placed on the tables) and a banner was hung on the inside wall of the gym. Prior to entering the gym, Pastor asked that all the teachers who were present come to the front of the church, along with their spouses, to be recognized for their years of service.

Brittany Moen and Stephanie Morschen have been at Zion twelve years; Kateryna McCloskey, four years. Of course, Mr. Marcsisak has been at Zion forty years, as both he and Julianne were called to serve at Zion in 1981 and were married on December 19th. They were quite surprised and honored for the recognition. It was estimated that we served approximately 125, which is quite a jump from previous years. Tom, Brittany Moen, and Audrey Morschen played music prior to the meal. The daughters of the Marcsisaks provided a picture display of their parents, which was a great chronicle to behold. Thrivent Financial provided a congregational gift card for the event; the group agreed that the remaining money be applied toward light-activated candles in the church windows.

Roxanne Pieper and Betty Klaustermeier made up sixteen gift bags for the shut-ins, which they delivered personally. These bags included snacks, hand sanitizer, puffy mints, coloring books, and word finds. Their work and personal visits were greatly appreciated.

New Business * The leadership will meet on Thursday, Jan. 13th (9:30) to work on the LWML program books. Contact will be made to those who are on the funeral serving list to see if they are still interested in serving; at the same time, we will obtain the best phone number to reach them. Zion's LWML will be hosting the next Board meeting on Saturday, Feb. 26th (9:30). Zion's Annual Prayer Service will be postponed until March; we will discuss this in our February meeting.

We sang "Silent Night" for our December birthdays, Barb Scholz and Mary Zacharias. Martha Molnau was hostess for the December meeting. There will be no regular meeting in January, and our next meeting will be held Feb. 10, 2022 at 9:30; the hostess for the meeting is yet to be determined. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Zacharias, Secretary

WHAT A YEAR...

By Tom Marcsisak

As we take down the 2021 calendar and hang one up for 2022, we look back on the memorable events of 2021 at Zion Lutheran School.

The highlight of JANUARY is "usually" Lutheran Schools' Week. This year it was postponed until March due to COVID concerns. Things got back to a bit of normalcy as we returned to athletic competition. Basketball games were played with competitors wearing (sometimes even correctly) masks and referees "blowing" handheld whistles.

FEBRUARY was a short but busy month. Fifth and Sixth graders started basketball, and the seventh and eighth graders competed in the Lutheran High School Basketball Tournament. First through fourth graders had an opportunity to get a "taste" of basketball during "mini-camp" in the gym after school.

In MARCH, plans for Lutheran Schools' Week were finalized with lots of "group" activities adapted for COVID reasons. Some highlights of the week included Snow Art, Dr. Suess Day, a trip to Feed my Starving Children, a school-wide ZOOM version of the Match Game, and Outdoor Snow Olympics complete with bonfires and s'mores. The students also "traveled" to Thailand on this year's Online Mission Trip sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Things got even busier at the end of the month for Addison Dietzel, Nathan Lenzen and Abby Moen. These three young people spent a good portion of the month studying for their confirmation questioning held on Palm Sunday weekend. They did an amazing job at both questioning on Friday and on Sunday when they confirmed their baptismal vows and made statements of their faith.

The month of APRIL brought with it the annual Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. Once again, our students proved that they are "growing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." The volleyball season that was postponed from fall took place in April and May. A postseason tournament also was held at Lutheran High in Mayer. This year's Spelling Bee also took place with students taking the written test at their own schools rather than traveling to Lutheran High. The McCloskeys welcomed Hannah into their family on the 10th, and we welcomed Mrs. Zacharias into the 7th and 8th grade room to take over Mrs. McCloskey's teaching duties.

In MAY, the older students presented their "fall" play titled "...And Then There Was One." The play once again proved that things are not always what they seem to be. Play Day took place very much like it normally does. Graduation and preschool and kindergarten "Moving Up Ceremonies" were also held. Addison, Nathan, and Abby were sent off to high school prepared--to the best of our abilities and by the grace of God--for the physical, spiritual, and academic challenges of high school. We also said goodbye to Betty Meuffels, our cook who retired at the end of the school year. Like all of our past cooks, she will be hard to replace.

JUNE and JULY are generally quiet months in the hallways of Zion Lutheran School, but lots of things take place behind the scenes. This year, three new people were hired to fill open positions in the school. Jill Stieve will replace Betty in the kitchen. Mrs. Laabs was brought in to teach 7th and 8th grades until Mrs. McCloskey's return in January. Mrs. Buesgens was hired to serve as kindergarten and preschool aid. Our 2021-2022 school year theme of "In All Things" was evident as the hand of God guided us in all these things. Our Washington, D.C. trip scheduled for June was postponed until 2022 in hopes that more things will be open in the D.C. area.

In AUGUST, preparations were made for the upcoming school year. Many school tours were given and many new students were added. It was decided to offer "after school care" for preschool students helping families out with transportation issues. Our office administrator, Amanda Teschendorf, agreed to fill this new position.

In SEPTEMBER, Zion began another school year welcoming over 20 new students to our school--we even had to order more lockers. This year began more like other years. Students again played in the gym before school. Lunch was returned to the cafeteria, and choir songs were again heard. We still continued to wash hands, clean and disinfect surfaces, and closely monitor students and staff for signs of illness.

OCTOBER was a busy month. Volleyball returned to a fall schedule. Plans for Trunk or Treat were made, and the event was blessed with wonderful weather and very happy participants.

The month of **NOVEMBER** was again a little different in that the Soup and Pie Supper and Craft Sale were canceled. Zion students missed helping serve pie and clearing tables. The fall play was again postponed until spring. Illnesses made it difficult to rehearse with a full cast. In November we also said goodbye to Mr. Arnold Scholz. He served as principal, teacher and coach here at Zion from 1963-1993. His funeral was on the 30th.

Finally, as the year comes to a close, in **DECEMBER**, we focused on Christmas. Christmas is that joyous season when we prepare our homes and our hearts for the birth of our Savior. This year the students presented "One Night in Bethlehem." They took us back to Bethlehem and shared through scripture, narration, and song the wonderful news of "...the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of ALL THE YEARS are met in thee tonight."

As 2022 begins we pray for God's continued blessings on the Zion family.

Happy New Year!!!

ANNUAL REPORT

If you are a secretary or a treasurer of a Zion organization, you will need to provide an Annual Report to the office. Financial reports are needed from each treasurer. **All reports should be submitted to the office by the 12th of January.** Thank you, in advance, for your help.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who so thoughtfully remembered us this Christmas season. Your generous gifts and heartfelt good wishes are greatly appreciated.

-The staff of Zion Lutheran Church and School

Dear Members of Zion,

Thank you to all who remembered us on the anniversaries of our marriage and our years here at Zion. Your kind words, cards, and gifts were all greatly appreciated. Our family has been very blessed over the years by the members of our Zion family. Zion is a very special place, and we thank God for directing us here. A special thank you to the people who organized the celebration. We were truly surprised. God's blessings to you all in the New Year.

-Julianne and Tom Marcsisak

FINANCES

Salary:

Beginning Balance (1/1/21)	\$17,993.57
YTD Income	\$465,654.86
YTD Expenses	-\$437,765.11
Current Balance (12/30)	\$45,883.32

Missions:

YTD Total (12/30)	\$8,370.00
Budgeted	\$8,370.00
Non-budgeted	\$0.00
2021 Pledged	\$6,500.00
2021 Goal	\$15,000.00

LHS:

Year to date total (12/30)	\$27,857.66
2021 Commitment	\$22,330.00
Per communicant member	\$55.00

Building/Repair Fund:

Account Balance (12/8)	\$9,666.09
Suggested household contribution	\$550.00

USHER SCHEDULE

January 2 nd	Evan and Addison Dietzel
January 9 th	Matthew Traver Konrad Breeggemann
January 16 th	Lydia and Anna Brueggemeier
January 23 rd	Amber Brueggemeier Grace Dose
January 30 th	Sophia Morschen Brooke Sauter

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

BIRTHDAY LIST

- 1 Gary Bierstedt
Lisa Brueggemeier
Sophia Morschen
- 3 Beverly Ulrich
- 4 Vivian Buetow
Robert Gennrich
Mark Melcher
- 6 Carley Ulrich
- 8 Addison Dietzel
Kendra Rhodes
- 9 Nissa Klaustermeier
Marlin Melcher
- 11 Olivia Buetow
- 12 Janice Pechonick
- 14 Justin Brueggemeier
Christina Vinkemeier
Brenda Worm
- 16 Kevin Rolf
- 17 Bradley Bierstedt
Joan Johnson
- 18 Emma Buetow
Jennifer Buetow
- 20 Dennis Vinkemeier
- 21 Kevin Gennrich
- 22 Sydney Haller
- 23 Edwin Brueggemeier
Wesley Nielsen
- 25 Eben Karnitz
Thad Karnitz
- 26 Karen Brockoff
Jane Ische
Whitney Olson
- 28 Christopher Buetow
Charles Dietzel, Sr.
Barbara Henschen
Wesley Rolf
- 29 RoNaye Gnan
Jeffrey Rolf
Lori Zacharias
- 30 Joycelyn Rolf
Emily Salonek
Kaisley Pitstick
- 31 Rodney Boelke
Sydney Bruesehoff

VISITATION LIST

- Belle Plaine**
Marjorie Wolter
Norma Woolery
- Cologne**
Marville Schmidt
- Norwood Young America**
Donald Herrmann
Barb Scholz
- Waconia**
Harold Bruesehoff
Darrell Knorr
- Shakopee**
Joycelyn Rolf
- Maple Plain**
Harriet Tellers

REMEMBERING OUR SOLDIERS

John Michael Bones
Eben Karnitz
Eddie Karnitz

FUNERALS

Hollace Brockoff
Born: 11/27/1948
Died: 11/27/2021
Funeral: 12/10/2021

It has been quite a process to get the Zion Church Service available to watch on YouTube. We continue to tweak the system in an effort to get the best video and audio to our interested viewers. Here are a few suggestions when trying to watch the service while away from Zion.

1. From your computer, tablet, or phone go to Youtube.com
2. In the search bar near the top, type Zion Lutheran Church Cologne, Minnesota.
3. Find and click on the Black Cross Icon representing Zion Lutheran Church.
4. Click on the service that you wish to view (These should be labeled by either date or description).
5. **For best results**, it is advisable to view the service approximately 30 minutes or more after the scheduled start time. For example, if the service begins at 9:30, begin viewing at 10:00 or later. The internet speed at Zion is not always sufficient to get the service uploaded simultaneously.

Please be patient as we continue to work through the process to the best of our ability.

2022

JANUARY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01 New Year's Day
02 Church Service 9:30 AM	03 School Resumes	04 Dartball 8 PM @ NYA	05 Confirmation 5:30 PM	06 Chapel at the Harbor 9:00 AM	07 Chapel 8:10 AM	08
09 Church Service Communion 9:30 AM	10	11 Dartball 8 PM v. Hamburg	12 Confirmation 5:30 PM	13	14 Chapel 8:10 AM	15
16 Church Service 9:30 AM	17 ZEL Meeting 6:30 PM Council Meeting 8 PM	18	19 Confirmation 5:30 PM	20	21 Chapel 8:10 AM	22
23 Church Service Communion 9:30 AM Voter's Meeting after Church	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Lutheran Schools Week					
30 Church Service 9:30 AM		Dartball 8 PM v. Waconia	Confirmation 5:30 PM		Chapel 8:10 AM	
		01	02	03	04	05



Zion Lutheran Church

14745 Co. Rd. 153
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Return Service Requested

*Happy
New Year*

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT ZION!

Zion Lutheran School's Mission Statement reads: "Feed My Lambs...through the teaching of Christian faith and guidance in the Christian life for personal growth and development." Here at Zion, we do not just train children academically. With God's Word as our guide, we also focus on their spiritual development as well-- equipping them to live their lives in a way pleasing to God.

SO...

If you have a three or four-year-old who is ready to take that big step into preschool...**CHECK US OUT!**

If you have a student ready to take that next big step into Kindergarten...**CHECK US OUT!**

If your child is attending school somewhere else, and you're wondering if there may be a better fit...**CHECK US OUT!**

If you know someone who may fall into any of these above categories, encourage them to...**CHECK US OUT!**

YOUR RECOMMENDATION MEANS A LOT!