



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

14745 Co. Rd. 153
Cologne, MN 55322

www.zion-cologne.org

**November
2020**

Rev. Eric Zacharias
Pastor

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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.

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING

November is upon us--and soon we will be getting ready for Thanksgiving. Do you feel thankful? A lot of your spring and summer was locked up, with Covid-19 precautions that were in force. To a large extent, there are many limitations still in place and the television network news always leads with Covid numbers that heighten fears. As winter draws near, many worry that the cases of Covid will spike. The real fear is that sniffles from the annual colds and flus will panic and distance people even more. Focus on Covid is causing more harm than good.

Further hibernation and distancing is not a good thing. In October 54,000 people signed the Great Barrington Declaration which states that lockdown protocols are "producing devastating effects" upon communities, economically, physically, and psychologically. Among the signers are 2,600 medical / public health scientists and 3,500 medical practitioners. "Those who are not vulnerable should immediately be allowed to resume life as normal... Keeping these measures in place until a vaccine is available will cause irreparable damage, with the underprivileged disproportionately harmed." Worry and anxiety and frustration causes people either to withdraw into depression or to lash out in anger and violence. While precautions are understandable, obsessive protocol is counter-productive to our society.

Misinformation? Increased testing indicates that while many are "positive" for the virus, most are asymptomatic--and there are far fewer hospitalizations and deaths. So far, the estimated 220,000 Covid-related deaths are a tenth of the 2.2. million deaths that were predicted when the China virus was discovered. (That number includes those who have died with Covid, not necessarily by Covid.) The CDC says that even for those over 70, the infection fatality rate is .054%, with a survival rate of 94.6 percent. The U of M recently showed that while Europe is erupting, the US is doing far better, as herd-immunity is impeded by lockdowns.

Limit Thanksgiving? *Psychology Today* notes that holiday celebrations are important, as they are like road maps, or markers within our life; "the way meals are shared or how major events are marked, rituals are a central part of life. They are a lens through which we can see our emotional connections to our parents, siblings, spouse, children, and dear friends. ...Rituals give us places to explore the meaning of our lives and to rework and rebuild family relationships. They connect us with our past, define our present, and show us a path to our future as we pass on ceremonies, traditions, objects, and ways of being with each other" (March 1993).

Thanksgiving is a product of faith; it flows from those who know that every blessing of life is of God. Our praise to God is not only of those physical things we have received; it is also in anticipation of things to come. Jesus called us to look to our "daily bread," and not being overly anxious about our life. If God has given you the gift of salvation, why do we think that God will not continue to provide?

Thanksgiving is essential to your soul, not as an earthly feast, but as the natural response to the gift of God: your faith. Every Sunday is a day of Thanksgiving, especially as it remembers the Resurrection of our Lord, as his risen body proclaims the atoning sacrifice that redeems our life.

**Celebrate Thanksgiving. Our gathering is not ritual--it is essential!
Blessings in HIS name! Pastor Eric Zacharias**

LADIES AID/LWML

Organization Notes

Seven members met for the October meeting, keeping "social distance." Our president, Bev Eggers, welcomed us and Roxanne Pieper opened with a devotion written by Rev. Rob Schneck, entitled, "Loving Your Neighbor and WWJD?"

Bible Study was based on an article from the Lutheran Women's Quarterly which was read and discussed: "What Promise of Jesus is guiding your next step?" As Jesus is the fulfillment of God's plans, we discussed Bible verses that offer hope. Among the responses was Jeremiah 11:29, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Pastor pointed out that God does work in ways that are often mysterious but which shows his design. For example, Saul was a young farmer, looking for runaway donkeys. On the third day of his search, he inquired of the "seer" as to where these animals might be. The "seer" was Samuel, who not only told him where to find the livestock but invited Saul to come to a feast where he would be made King over Israel. God literally guided Saul's feet to the very place where his future and the destiny of the nation would be changed (1 Samuel 9).

The LWML Pledge was recited and the meeting was called to order. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Financial Report was given and after a motion was carried and filed for audit. In the course of discussion, it was pointed out that the latest Quarterly featured two items from MN South groups on page 25.

Correspondence from September included a thank you from Mr. M, along with a request from LAMP and Dakota Boys' Ranch. We voted to make Lutherans for Life the October Mite Project.

Christian Growth Report The Fall Zone Rally will be held at Trinity, Waconia on October 3rd. Another gathering will be the "Minnesota Mission Get Together" to be held October 10th at Mayer Lutheran High School. At the time, 170 were registered to attend. An online "link" will be available, so that everyone could see this full-day event online.

Funeral Committee There have been no funerals in September. Carol Buetow, our Coordinator, is at home following surgery and doing well.

Kitchen Committee The annual deep cleaning of the kitchen, which hasn't been done yet this year, except that dust was blown out of the coils of the standing refrigerator when it froze up in August. Kitchen usage has been less due to Covid. The future is uncertain regarding the meals that are served at funerals, along with other public functions that Zion holds.

Flower Committee Flower displays are arranged on week-to-week basis.

LWML Sunday will be Sunday, October 3rd. There will be a special order of worship, as prepared by the LWML, but participation by women will not happen, due to covid concerns. Pastor will make copies of coloring sheets, provided by the LWML, to be given to the children during the children's sermon on Sunday. Pastor Stefan Wismar will be the guest pastor leading worship.

Leadership If anyone is interested in having the opportunity to serve, we are having elections in the November meeting (9/5/2020).

Annual Events The Cookie Sale and Church Christmas Party are both held in December. The consensus of the group was that it was just too uncertain at this time to consider holding either of these events. We talked about other methods of making these events happen but came to no good solution.

October Birthdays included Gloria Am End, Evelyn Boltmann, Martha Molnau, and Betty Klaustermeier. As Betty was present, we sang the Birthday Song from our LWML booklets to her.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer. Our next meeting will be held Nov. 5 at 1:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Zacharias, Secretary

LET US GIVE THANKS

By Tom Marcsisak

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. That is not an earth shaking announcement, but this year I think it is more important to remember than ever before...at least in MY lifetime. However you choose to celebrate this year, take a moment to give thanks to God for His many blessings. Yes, 2020 has been an "interesting" year, but remember the words we all have said so many times...many of those times without even thinking about what we are saying, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good; His mercy (steadfast love) endures forever" Psalm 136:1.

SO WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL ...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! AUCTION LIQUIDATION SALE!!!

Sunday, November 8th and Monday, November 9th. Everything donated for last Spring's Silent and Live Auction will be put out in the gym for inspection and purchase following church. The sale will go until 1:00 P.M. on Sunday and from 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Monday. GIFT CARDS may be purchased for face value and taken with you either day. Other items will be bid on by either phone number or email. Winning bidders will be notified in that manner as well You may return Monday to check on your bid and raise it if you like. We ask that you wear a mask and use the same social distancing protocols that you would use in any retail setting.

FALL PLAY

The sixth through eighth graders have begun working on their annual fall Theater Production. This year's play is titled "And Then There Was One." This spoof is filled with sight gags and "dad jokes" (my kind of humor). Ten people are brought together by mysterious invitation to the Reef Mansion on a tiny, isolated island. Not one of them knows the host who is nowhere to be found. Still, he has left an ominous recording that bodes evil for the guests. The play is scheduled for Monday, November 23rd at 7:00 P.M. but that may (and will probably) change. We will keep you updated.

CHRISTMAS EVE

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...Eve will be different this year. Putting close to 300 people in church might not be the best idea. I am in the process of preparing a program so that the students may still share the Christmas Story as only they can but doing it in a virtual format. Once again, we will keep you updated. Christmas is still a ways away, but not that far--Hallmark Christmas Movies have begun.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give THANKS in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT DECORATING

Mr. Marcsisak will be bringing up the church Christmas trees after Thanksgiving Service. He will be putting the lights on the trees on Friday but would like help with decorating them on Saturday, November 28th at 10:00 AM. If no one shows up that day, they will just have lights and no ornaments.

ZEL MEETING

ZEL (Zion Education League) meeting will be held on Monday, November 30th at 6:30 PM. All parents of Zion students are invited and encouraged to attend.

VOTERS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The quarterly voter's meeting was held on Monday, October 12th. The main order of business was election of officers. Gerry Buetow was re-elected as Elder; Kurt Vinkemeier will continue to serve as a Trustee; and Rodney Boelke will continue his service on the School Board. Rick Haler will join the ranks of the other Head Ushers. In other business, the purchase of a video recording system for live streaming services was discussed. A report was given on the status of our COVID (PPP) Loan. Preliminary application has been made for forgiveness of the loan. Thanks were expressed to all the individuals who have worked to keep Zion functioning in these uncertain times.

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

Please join us on Thanksgiving morning as we offer thanks for our bountiful blessings. We ask that you also share your blessings by providing a nonperishable food item for the local food shelf. These items may be placed on the table in the lobby.

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

Notification to Employees and Parents: A small amount of asbestos is contained in the building materials at Zion. This would include our classrooms, auditorium, storerooms, and basement area. This material is in stable condition and there is a management plan in place to maintain it. We do our own surveillance every six months to ensure that there is no change. By law, we must inform staff and parents annually of the availability of our asbestos management plan. This plan is available by contacting David Traver, Asbestos Program Manager.

FINANCES

Salary:

Beginning Balance (1/1/2020)	-\$49,498.96
YTD Income	\$290,761.32
YTD Expenses	-\$347,315.12
Current Balance (10/21)	-\$106,052.76

Missions:

YTD Total (9/30)	\$4,080.00
Budgeted	\$4,080.00
Non-budgeted	\$0.00
2020 Pledged	\$6,500.00
2020 Goal	\$15,000.00

LHS:

Year to date total (9/30)	\$22,067.66
2020 Commitment	\$22,715.00
Per communicant member	\$55.00

Building/Repair Fund:

Account Balance (10/29)	\$7,071.97
Suggested household contrib.	\$550.00

USHER SCHEDULE

November 1 st	Lindsey Moen Sophia Morschen
November 8 th	Colin Bingham Matthew Traver
November 15 th	Konrad Breeggemann
November 22 nd	Grace Dose Alison Dose
November 26 th (Thanksgiving)	Maia Klaustermeier Hannah Klaustermeier
November 29 th	Anna Brueggemeier Lydia Brueggemeier

FROM THE OFFICE

Office Hours are 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM, M-F

Please have bulletin items to the office by noon on Thursdays and newsletter items to the office by the third Friday of the month. Thank You!

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

BIRTHDAY LIST

- 1 Darrin Dietzel
Oksana Molnau
- 4 Donna Stacken
Shane Mickle
- 5 John Miller
- 6 Julianne Marcsisak
- 8 Marlys Lenzen
Barb Hermann
Alison Dose
- 9 Darren Schlueter
Daniel McCloskey
- 11 Dave Bingham
- 12 Gary Herrmann
Jim Block
Shamariyah Molnau
- 14 Brian Gennrich
Cadee Vinkemeier
- 15 Cynthia Hansen
Stephanie Morschen
- 16 Danica Dietzel
- 20 Dylan Bingham
- 23 Carol Buetow

- 24 Gail Erickson
- 25 Kirsten Huinker
Curtis Hodgin
- 26 John Hokkanen
- 27 Hollace Brockoff
Heidi Breeggemann
- 28 Amy Gennrich
- 29 Greyson Penning
- 30 Barbara Hoffmann

ANNIVERSARY LIST

- 2 Vlad & Tonya Spector
- 3 Herman & Bev Eggers
- 5 Nathan & Camile Kelzer
- 14 Jeff & Deb Brueggemeier
Jim & Angie Block
- 17 Greg & Brenda Worm
Paul & Susan Stuewe
- 19 Larry & Carol Ische
Mike & Jolene Bergs
- 22 Jon & Barb Henschen
- 24 Rob & Diane Miller
- 28 Rob & Jenise Polingo

VISITATION LIST

Belle Plaine
Marjorie Wolter
Norma Woolery
Darrell Knorr

Cologne
Gloria AmEnd

Norwood Young America
Herman Gennrich
Barb Scholz
Henry Krueger
Joycelyn Rolf

Waconia
Harold Bruesehoff

REMEMBERING OUR

SOLDIERS

John Michael Bones
Eben Karnitz
Eddie Karnitz

2020 NOVEMBER
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Church Service 9:30 AM	02	03	04 Confirmation 6:15 PM	05 Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting 1:30 PM	06 Chapel 8:10 AM	07
08 Church Service Communion 9:30 AM	09 No School	10	11 Confirmation 6:15 PM	12	13 Chapel 8:10 AM	14
15 Church Service 9:30 AM	16 School Picture Retakes	17	18 Confirmation 6:15 PM	19	20 Chapel 8:10 AM	21
22 Church Service Communion 9:30 AM	23 6th - 8th Fall Play (tentative) 7:00 PM	24	25 No School Confirmation 6:15 PM	26 No School Thanksgiving Service 9:30 AM	27 No School	28 Tree Decorating 10:00 AM
29 Church Service 9:30 AM	30 ZEL Meeting 6:30 PM	01	02	03	04	05



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Return Service Requested

"Now thank we all our God"
is the most popular hymn of
Thanksgiving. Did you
know that it was written by
a Lutheran pastor, Martin
Rinkart, at the height of a
severe plague in 1637?

Rinkart was the only
surviving pastor in
Germany, conducting as
many as 50 funerals in a
day. From the darkest part
of his life, he wrote this
eminent hymn of
Thanksgiving.
From the darkest part
of life, the glory of God
shines brightest.

Now thank we all our God
with hearts & hands & voices,
who wonderous things has done
in whom His world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near
us, with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.



All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
with them in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven & earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.