



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

14745 Co. Rd. 153
Cologne, MN 55322

www.zion-cologne.org

**September
2024**

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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. with the good news of Jesus.

Happiest...or Blessed?*

The word is out: You and I live in the friendliest state in the United States and in a county considered to be the happiest. Big-Seven Travel asked it's 1.5 million followers to name the friendliest and not so friendly states. And the winner out of all the friendliest states in America? Minnesota takes top spot, for a second year in a row. "It's called 'Minnesota Nice' for a reason – the atmosphere in the Twin Cities and beyond is hard to match, with a homey feel and locals who go the extra mile to welcome tourists."

Carver County was deemed among the happiest (at least the top five, for the past three years), according to Smart Asset, who analyzed family stability, physical health, personal financial health, and economic security for the 980 counties in the country that have a population greater than 50,000.

How does it feel to live in such a place, where you are counted among the friendliest and among the happiest?

When reports like this come out, I wonder if people elsewhere consider pulling up stakes and moving here, with happiness being their chief goal. If that happened, I'm not sure happiness would be the result. People bring their unhappiness with them, along with bad attitude and unfriendliness; people in search of happiness end up in the darkest places.

Happy are the people whose God is the Lord. So wrote King David, in the closing line of Psalm 144. In that psalm, David speaks of God in a very personal way: my rock...my loving god...my fortress...my stronghold...my deliverer...my shield. God is all of these things to him--and blessed are the people who have such a God.

But therein lies the key: The blessings of God are nothing to you, unless God is everything to you. Martin Luther wrote, "The life of Christianity consists of possessive pronouns," meaning, it is one thing to say, "Christ is a Savior" and quite another thing to say, "He is my Savior and my Lord." The devil can say the first; the true Christian alone can say the second.

Blessed are you, dear friends, not because you live in the happiest county in the friendliest state. Blessed are you because God is your Savior, who forgives you your sins, nourishes your soul, guides you daily, delivers you from every evil of body and soul, and gives you eternal life. Blessed are you, for you know you are counted among the blessed, from Abraham forward. In your Baptism, you are blessed by the Blessed One to be a blessing to others. Despite the troubles, trials, and tribulations of life, you know that you are redeemed by God; you can't help but be joyous and loving: friendly and happy. Blessed.

In Jesus' Name,
Pastor Eric Zacharias

**This article was originally published in September 2019*

What's Happening at Zion Lutheran School

This year's school year theme is "Endure."

It is based on Hebrews 12:1-3. As we go through the year, we will be reminded of the steadfast love and enduring presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, who encourages us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Enduring In Faith

Faith is the cornerstone of our Christian life. It is through faith that we receive the grace and salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Chapel this year, we will begin by exploring the essence of enduring faith, rooted deeply in the Word of God and the teachings of our Savior. From the very beginning, we are called to trust in the promises and to hold fast to the hope we have in Christ.

Enduring Through Trials.

Life is filled with trials and tribulations, yet we are reminded in James 1:2-4 to consider it pure joy whenever we face trials of many kinds. These challenges test our faith and produce perseverance. This year we will focus on Biblical insights and encouragement to help us endure through difficult times, always relying on God's strength and guidance.

Enduring with Hope and Joy

Our hope is firmly anchored in the promises of God, and our joy comes from knowing that we are His children, loved and redeemed. Philippians 4:4-7 encourages us to rejoice in the Lord always. This joy is not dependent on our circumstances but is rooted in the unchanging nature of God. This joy sustains us even amidst adversity.

Enduring Together in Community

We are not alone in our journey. Galatians 6:2 calls us to bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ. Community and fellowship are vital as we encourage one another and build each other up in the faith. This year in chapel we will emphasize the importance of unity and mutual support in our walk with Christ.

Enduring In Service and Humility

Jesus, our ultimate example, came not to be served, but to serve. Matthew 20:28 reminds us of the importance of serving others with humility and love. In Chapel we will highlight various aspects of Christian service, encouraging us to follow in the footsteps of our Savior by serving others selflessly and humbly.

Enduring in Prayer and the Word

Colossians 4:2 urges us to devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Prayer and Scripture are our lifelines, sustaining us through every season of life. Our Chapel Services will provide guidance on maintaining an active prayer life and a deep relationship with God's Word, which equips us for every good work.

Enduring with Thanksgiving, Integrity, and Kindness

A heart of gratitude, a life of integrity, and acts of kindness reflect our faith in action. These virtues are essential as we seek to live out our faith in a meaningful way. This year's Chapel Talks will encourage us to embody these qualities, shining the light of Christ in our school, families, communities, and beyond.

Enduring Through the Church Year

The liturgical calendar offers rich opportunities to reflect on and celebrate key aspects of our faith. From Advent to Pentecost, we will incorporate seasonal themes helping us to focus on the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ongoing work of Jesus Christ. These reflections anchor us in the historical and salvation creating events that shape our identity as Christians.

As this school year begins, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Let us run with perseverance, knowing that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. May this year inspire, uplift, and encourage us to endure in faith, hope and love, to the glory of God the Father.

See you in chapel
Mr. M

*the majority of this article was written by Dr. Alan Freeman, director of LCMS School Ministry



ZION SCHOOL LOOKING FOR FOOD DONATIONS

If you would like to help out the school, please consider donating the following items:

Peanut Butter	Ranch Dressing
French Dressing	Ketchup
Brownie Mix	Cake Mix
Jell-o	Pudding
Jelly	Brown Sugar
BBQ Sauce	Granular Sugar
Butter	Chocolate Chips
Butterscotch Chips	Margarine
Rice Krispies	Marshmallows
Hamburger	Miracle Whip
Mayo	
Noodles (<i>egg, spaghetti, elbow</i>)	
Fresh Fruit & Veggies (<i>can be from your garden</i>)	

FROM THE OFFICE

Office Hours are 8 AM – 12 PM, M-F

Please have bulletin items to the office by 11:00 AM on Wednesdays and newsletter items to the office by the third Monday of the month. Thank you!

FINANCES

Salary:	
Beginning Balance (1/1/2024)	\$58,368.48
YTD Income	\$220,415.26
YTD Expenses	\$307,327.43
Current Balance	\$ -28,543.69

Missions:	
YTD Total (6/30/24)	\$1,155.00
Budgeted	\$6,830.00
Non-budgeted	\$0.00
2024 Pledge	\$6,500.00
2024 Goal	\$15,000.00

LHS:	
YTD Total (6/30/2024)	\$14,4213.4
2024 Commitment	\$21,945.00
Per communicant member	\$55.00

Building/Repair Fund:	
Account Balance (8/29/24)	\$19,029.26
Suggested household contribution	\$750.00

ZION SCHOOL OPENING CHAPEL

Congregation members and school parents are invited to Zion School's opening chapel on Tuesday, September 3rd at 8:15am. Preschool students and parents are also welcome!

SOFTNER SALT FUNDRAISER

Zion Education League has started their first fundraiser of the school year that goes through September 13th. Delivery will be September 27th. Available to purchase are 40 lb. bag of pellets for \$9.50, 40 lb. bag of rust-out pellets for \$10.00, and 40 lb. bag of solar salt crystals for \$9.00. If you are interested in purchasing, contact any student at Zion or the office.

USHER SCHEDULE

September 1st	Berlinn Koepp Reagan Koepp
September 8th	Ava Dose Sam Dose
September 15th	Kaydra Boelke Anna Brueggmeir
September 22nd	Brooke Moen Abby Moen
September 29th	Libby Hoen Madalyn Sons

LADIES AID/LWML

Ten were present for our July LWML meeting. We welcomed Mary Lou Baerlin as our guest and invited her to come again. Our meeting began with refreshments from Roxanne Pieper. The opening devotion was given by Bev Rolf, entitled, "Let Your Light Shine," based on a patriotic theme. We sang "God Bless Our Native Land."

The Bible Study, led by Pastor Zacharias, was from the Summer issue of the Lutheran Women's Quarterly, entitled "Speak the Truth in Love." Speaking the truth in love is a vital part of the church's task; we studied what this means and how we know it is the right time to correct someone and how we might approach this.

President Martha Molnau called the meeting to order. The LWML pledge was recited and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Financial Report was discussed and after a motion was M/S/C, it was filed for audit.

Correspondence was read. A thank you from Trinity First, acknowledged our gift of \$25. Other letters were received from American Bible Society, Lutherans for Life, Dakota Boys Ranch (and their honey fundraiser), as well as Southern Valley Alliance, which is working to provide temporary transitional housing for their clients. A motion was M/S/C to give \$25 to Lutherans for Life for our July gift and \$25 to Southern Valley Alliance for our August gift. Our mites were dedicated with a prayer from our group's LWML booklet (#6, p. 8).

Committee Reports Roxanne reported on the convention she and Juliene attended at Mankato. She highlighted several elections and the goals that were met. Thirteen mission grants were funded and the mission goal of \$270,000 was set for the next biennium. A more detailed report will be available online. A motion was M/S/C to pay Juliene Klaustermeier and Roxanne \$324.59 for their hotel and registration for the convention. **The Kitchen Cleaning** was done on July 1, with twelve people involved (nine of these being group members). The coffee machine was repaired and a filter was replaced. We enjoyed treats and fellowship afterwards. Much of the work was done within the three hours (9am-noon), owing to some cleaning being done prior to the event (the walk-in refrigerator, by Jeff and Bev Rolf, and the dishwasher, by Pastor).

July Birthdays included Bev Rolf and Roxanne Pieper, with Bev Eggers having a "star birthday" in August. We closed with prayer. Since there is no meeting in August, our next meeting will be September 12 (9:30am), with Bev Rolf serving as hostess.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Zacharias, Secretary.



Remembrances and Official Acts at Zion

BAPTISM

Cora Mae Menke daughter of Byron & Lisa (Zellman) Menke
Born July 17, 2024 Baptized August 18, 2024
Sponsors: Hunter Lemm and Isaac Zellman

FUNERALS

Lorraine D Boelke, 81 b. 6/20/1943 d. 7/15/2024 f. 7/23/2024

Lila Ella Rolf, 80 b. 7/2/1943 d. 8/4/2024 f. 8/12/2024.

Martin Richard Baerlin 89, b. 5/13/1935 d. 8/12/2024 f. 8/21/2024
(Martin's funeral service and burial was in Dearborn, MI)

BIRTHDAY LIST

- 3 Tori Stacken
- 4 Neal Kroells
Krianna Herzog
Elliot Way
- 7 Luke Vinkemeier
Jeff Sons
Tyler Schulz
Elsie Gustafson
- 8 Elizabeth Hoen
Stacy Dose
- 10 Zachary Bones
- 11 Erin Penning
- 13 Robert Thuening
Ralph Buetow
Inez Buetow
Anna Brueggemeier
Ronald Arndt
- 15 Clayton Sauter
Jeffrey Brueggemeier
- 19 Ronnie Olson
Tanner Olson
Mark Lenzen
Charlie Gustafson
Rachel Boucher
Cashton Stuewe
- 21 MaryJo Sauter
- 24 Tim Huinker
- 25 Ashley Schulz
- 26 Sheryl Gruenhagen
Megan Rolf
- 27 Colin Bingham
- 28 James Rolf
- 29 Daniel Stuewe
Darlene Leistiko
- 30 Jeff Vinkemeier

ANNIVERSARY LIST

- 7 Daniel & Anna Stuewe
- 9 Gary & Cathy Stahlke
- 10 Terry & Jill Bruesehoff
- 12 Tim & Kirsten Huinker
- 16 Jeff & Christina Vinkemeier
- 21 Ralph & Carol Buetow
- 22 Jeff & Stephanie Gardner
- 23 Jeff & Theresa Sons
- 28 Jim & Pam Ische
- 29 Jacob & Cara Buetow
- 30 James & Jean Ische
Matthew & Lori Bernard

**REMEMBERING
OUR SOLDIERS**

- John Michael Bones
- Eben Karnitz
- Edward "Eddie" Karnitz

VISITATION LIST

- Minneapolis**
Joycelyn Rolf
- Cologne**
Dixie Brueggemeier
- Glencoe**
Marlys Lenzen
- Norwood**
Ellen Arndt
Allen & Jean Friske
Barb Scholz
- Waconia**
JoAnn Herrmann
- Maple Plain**
Harriet Tellers

2024 SEPTEMBER

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 Church Service 9:30 AM	02 Labor Day Office Closed	03 First Day of School K-8th Chapel 8:15 AM	04	05 Chapel at The Harbor 10:00 AM	06	07
08 Church Service Communion 9:30 AM	09 First Day of School PK-4	10 First Day of School PK-3	11	12 LWML Meeting 9:30 AM	13 Chapel 8:15 AM	14
15 Church Service 9:30 AM	16 Newsletter Items Due to Office	17	18 5:15 PM Confirmation	19	20 Chapel 8:15 AM	21
22 Church Service Communion 9:30 AM Baptism of Hadley Kae Herzog	23	24	25 5:15 PM Confirmation	26	27 Chapel 8:15 AM	28 Audrey Morschen & Adam Bilskey Wedding
29 Church Service 9:30 AM	30	01	02	03	04	05



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Return Service Requested



HEBREWS 12:1-3



School Start Dates

K-8 September 3rd

PK MWF September 9th

PK TH September 10th

