

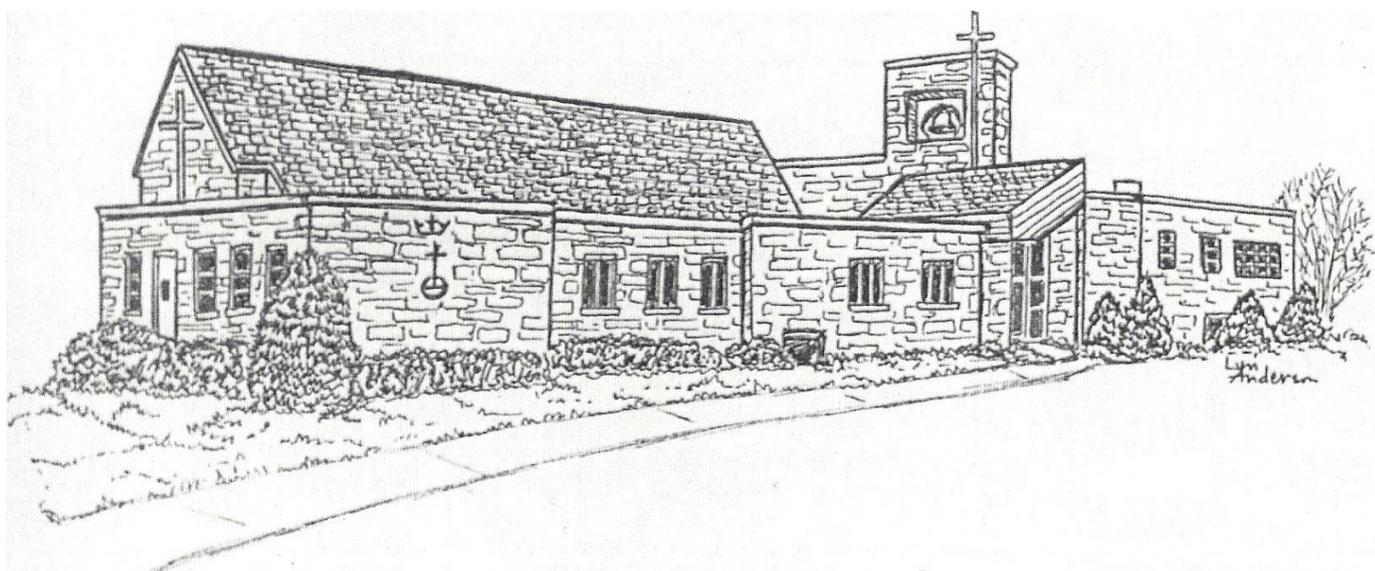
2020 Annual Report

ZION United Church of Christ

240 South Elmwood Avenue
Le Sueur, Minnesota 56058

“Therefore, we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.”

-- II Thessalonians 1:4



This book contains the reports of the various organizations, staff, committees, church council, and the financial and statistical data for the year 2020.

Please read these reports before the Annual Meeting and bring this book with you to the meeting.

Table of Contents

Church Council Members	4
Annual Meeting Agenda	5
January 26, 2020 Congregational Meeting Minutes	6-7
Senior Pastor’s Annual Report.....	8-10
Pastor’s Annual Statistical Report	11
Visitation Pastor’s Report	12-14
Deacon’s Report.....	14
Discretionary Fund Report.....	14
President’s Report	15
Elders’ Report	16
Trustee’s Report.....	17
Zion Choir	17-18
Christian Education Committee	18
Ruth Circle	19
Funeral Committee.....	19
Grief Support	20
Altar Committee.....	20
Scholarship Committee.....	20
Zion Prayer Chain	21
Food Shelf.....	21
Historical Committee	22
Friendly Visitor Report	23
Social Hour Committee.....	24
Memorial Committee	24
Stewardship/Mission Committee	25
Veterans Appreciation	25
2020 Statistical Report.....	26
Investment Funds	27
Zion Fellowship	28-29
Nominating Committee & Sample Ballot.....	30
Audit Committee.....	31
2020 Financial Report & 2021 Budget	32-35

Zion Church Council for 2020

<u>President</u>	Cindy Braun
<u>Vice President</u>	Norm Pioske
<u>Secretary</u>	Mary Trimbo
<u>Treasurer</u>	David Braun
<u>Board of Elders</u>	Brandon Mueller * Delores Loewe David Braun Tanya Riemann
<u>Board of Deacons</u>	Dustin Kahle* Cindy Braun Mary Trimbo Gail Fitzpatrick
<u>Board of Trustees</u>	David Weyl* Norm Pioske Monty Braun Mark Pinney

*Indicates Board Chair

ANNUAL MEETING
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, LE SUEUR, MN
PRELIMINARY AGENDA
DATE TO BE DETERMINED

STARTING TIME IS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICE

CALL TO ORDER – PRESIDENT CINDY BRAUN

OPENING PRAYER – PASTOR KENT

APPROVAL OF 2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT – TREASURER DAVID BRAUN

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS CONCERNING ANY OF THE OTHER PRINTED REPORTS

ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE CHURCH COUNCIL

ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF 2021 BUDGET – DEACON CHAIR, DUSTIN KAHLE

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

**Zion United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, January 26, 2020**

The annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 26, 2020, downstairs in the Social Hall following the 9 a.m. service. Head usher Ron Weyl reported that there were 55 people in attendance, which was more than required for a quorum.

President Wally Johnson called the meeting to order. He asked Pastor Kent to lead the group in an opening prayer.

David Braun made a motion to accept the minutes from last year's annual meeting as printed in the annual report on pages 7 and 8. The motion, seconded by Brian Braun, passed unanimously.

A special meeting was held on March 3, 2019, to discuss and take action on the replacement of the roof. A motion to accept minutes from that meeting (found on page 9 of the annual report) was made by Ryan Thelemann. The motion, seconded by Sherry Johnson, passed unanimously.

Treasurer David Braun presented the treasurer's report. David thanked Chas Jones for her work this year as bookkeeper. David pointed out that Zion is ending the year with a bank balance similar to the balance at the beginning of the year. Brian Braun made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. The motion, seconded by Shelby Lueders, passed unanimously.

Zion's financial reports were reviewed by the Audit Committee consisting of Amy Braun, Gary Thelemann, and Barb Kley. A motion by Delores Loewe was made to accept the Audit Committee's report. The motion, seconded by Judy Loewe, passed unanimously.

President Johnson drew the attention of the members present to the various reports in the annual report and asked if there were any questions or comments. A motion by Vic Lueders was made to accept the reports as printed. The motion, seconded by Sue Felmlee, passed unanimously.

President Johnson called attention to the sample ballot on page 31 of the annual report. The ballot consists of: for elder, Brandon Mueller for a second term; for deacon, Cindy Braun for a second term; two trustees, Mark Pinney and Monty Braun, both first term. President Johnson asked for nominations to the Council from the floor. Since none were presented, Brian Braun made a motion to close nominations and the casting of a unanimous ballot for the nominees listed. The motion, seconded by Karen Pioske, passed unanimously.

There were no nominations for the Christian Education Committee, so that committee will continue with its current membership.

Cindy Braun, chair of the deacons, presented the 2020 budget. A motion by Bob Braun was made to accept the budget as presented. The motion, seconded by Kristen Nepper, passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Roof Replacement—President Johnson announced that the roof over the church office was replaced after the congregation gave approval for this major expenditure. The project, completed by Meisner Roofing of Madison Lake without any added expenses, was paid for from the Elfa Brenke Estate gift.

2. HVAC—Work on the pumps of the HVAC system has been completed by Abel. President Johnson explained these pumps are needed for both heating and air conditioning. Brian Braun made a motion to accept the work which has been done and to pay the bill. The motion, seconded by Mark Pinney, passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Leaking Steam Pipes—President Johnson announced that the source of the problem with the steam pipes and the excess humidity has been identified and eliminated. Fans will be installed a little later.
2. Highway 112 Project—Zion has been told that work on Highway 112 will begin as soon as the weather permits. Once work begins, access to Zion will have to be through the Seventh Street exit on the west side of the building, since the Elmwood entrance will be closed.
3. South Parking Lot—The City of Le Sueur will be doing considerable work on the street on the South side of the building. The south parking lot will not be re-surfaced until the city has completed its work in this area.
4. Conference Delegates—President Johnson announced that the annual Conference meeting will be held June 12-13, 2020, at the College of Saint Benedict at St. Joseph, Minnesota.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

John Pioske commented that he likes to sing, and he would like to sing Christmas carols for more Sundays of Advent. Pastor Kent commented that he has worked out a compromise on this issue. Rubrics of liturgical music state that Christmas carols represent the song the angels sang at the birth of Jesus and should not be sung until Christmas Eve. During the season of Advent, Advent music is appropriate and not Christmas carols.

Pastor Kent informed the group that he has decided on a compromise for Zion. The first two weeks of Advent are free of carols, and the last two weeks of Advent he schedules carols.

John Pioske also suggested that Zion needs to focus on attracting young families and youth. Pastor Kent commented that the demographic growth for the Le Sueur area for the next five years is older citizens. He told the group the Council has been discussing this issue and reviewing data from a report which projects the demography for the next five years. The Council is discussing ways to possibly attract and serve older citizens in this community.

President Johnson announced that 38 pledge cards were turned in today. President Johnson asked if there was further business. Since there was none, Brian Braun made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Sherry Johnson, passed unanimously.

Pastor Kent led the group in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Trimbo, Council Secretary

Senior Pastor's Annual Report - 2020

*"Therefore, we ourselves boast of you among the churches
of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your
persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring."*

-- II Thessalonians 1:4

This has been an incredibly unusual and challenging year for our ministry together! We suspended in-person worship due to COVID in late March, resumed it briefly in September, and suspended it again after Thanksgiving. Our CE program had to switch to setting out packets for parents to pick up. I taught both the Middle School class and a confirmation class via Zoom. We have gone without our usual time together to support one another in our faith and struggles.

And yet, I have seen the people of our congregation respond in new and creative ways to this challenge. The adversities of 2020 brought out our creativity. We have experimented with new ways of sharing the Good News and caring for one another. I am confident that in 2021, we will continue to find new ways to serve God.

Review of 2020 Priorities:

1. Outreach

Needless to say, COVID upset our outreach plans. We had planned to start a "Zion Open House" time for 2 hours every Thursday as a place for area seniors to meet, talk, and have some coffee. Once the epidemic is under good control, I would like to pursue this.

Likewise, our Church School outreach was seriously hampered this year. Jenny Trimbo has tried to organize safe events, but there has been little response. She has also put out class work for parents to pick up. Very few have done so.

On the other hand, our radio outreach was promoted by the COVID restrictions. We even received free advertising via the Henderson town announcement sign (OK, Judy Loewe decides what to put up there, so we *did* have an 'in'). We instituted a weekly e-newsletter for all our members for whom we have email addresses. I scheduled a special Christmas Eve radio broadcast to take the place of our suspended in-person Christmas Eve services. Our Christmas newspaper ads focused on this broadcast, which will also be posted on the Zion Website.

I intentionally redesigned our worship services to fit a pure radio format. My respect for scriptwriters has jumped immensely as I found myself preparing a weekly script for our participants. Council approved our sharing our broadcast with St. Paul's, Henderson, so my wife and I were writing services together. St. Paul's sponsored 6 broadcasts as a thank you!

2. Taking Ownership of our Ministry Together

COVID also put the kybosh on my plans to encourage more lay involvement in our ministry together. Yet I was very pleased with the number of people who volunteered to help with our radio broadcasts! Brian Braun stepped in to run music for our services, using CD's at first and then switching to YouTube

videos (which are covered by our CCLI license, with extra reporting). He continued to run the music during the time we resumed in-person worship (September through the Sunday before Thanksgiving). Ron Weyl read announcements until the fall. Keith Lammers and Steve Pioske continued to record and broadcast our services, with David Braun and Craig Hink pitching in occasionally.

When we resumed in-person worship briefly, several of the Elders helped prepare and serve communion, which was relocated to the end of the service so people at home could take communion with people listening online at the same time.

3. Stewardship

For most of the last seven years, Zion has finished the year ‘in the black.’ I thank everyone of you who gave as you were called to by the Holy Spirit and have made this possible! We had a great response to our stewardship campaign in 2020 and to our guest speaker, Jean Abbott.

When in-person worship was suspended, both council and I were concerned about whether our members would keep up their support. But you did! Through 2020, we have received strong support. We did take out a PPP loan for \$36,000 in the spring. Now, typically, we have to draw on our line of credit for the summer to the tune of \$20,000 to \$35,000. The PPP loan helped, but if it was just the loan helping, we should have come out even for the summer. Instead, we came into the fall with over \$30,000 in our checking account! *You really came through!* Thank you to all who were so committed to maintaining Zion’s ministry in a very unusual and challenging situation! I feel really blessed by your support.

Recommended Priorities for 2021

1. Exploring new forms of outreach

The challenges of 2020 prompted us to begin a weekly e-newsletter, which will become an ongoing part of our outreach. I believe we should also look into streaming live services on YouTube. This would involve (1) finding one or more people who are willing to become our church videographer/s, and (2) Purchasing the video recording equipment and any necessary software to make this happen. Both the Methodist Church and First Lutheran have been doing this for some time, and we can draw on their expertise for what we need to secure to make video worship a reality.

As stated above, I would like to begin a weekly drop-in time for seniors in our area once the danger of COVID has passed. The demise of our two Le Sueur coffee shops could be an opportunity for us to both provide a needed service for our area and allow us to make contact with more seniors, who will make up an increasing number of our local population in coming years (according to projections). I’m willing to start this off, but I will need some members to take this on as a volunteer ministry.

2. Staying connected during and after COVID

This will be our biggest challenge in 2021. The epidemic required us to discontinue all the ways we had been staying connected (worship, social hour, Zion fellowship, men’s and women’s breakfasts, Ruth Circle, church school, Bible study, VBS). While we have begun the e-newsletter, we need to find some inventive ways to reconnect.

The possibility of having a Zoom social hour is one idea. I hope the restrictions will be lifted before the weather improves, but if not, we may want to hold a monthly parking lot worship, in which people would stay in their vehicles and have communion brought to them.

Jenny Trimbo and I have discussed the possibility of holding church school via Zoom until the pandemic subsides. I deeply appreciate all our teachers, but I also want to encourage them to explore new ways of connecting with their students. I also realize that most of us are exhausted by all the changes in our routines that have been forced upon us by COVID. My hope is we can find some more Zion members who are willing to contribute time and creativity in our work with our young people.

After the COVID emergency has passed, we can't just assume our life together will automatically return to normal. Habits of worship and socializing have been broken. We will need to be intentional about restarting them. This will require that our members reach out to each other and encourage each other to get back involved.

Conclusion

I am confident that we can find ways to meet all these challenges *if* our members are willing to volunteer their time and talents to our ministry together. God has given us the tools we need to do God's work. In 2021, we need to commit ourselves to finding those tools and putting them to work for Christ.

God's Peace,
Pastor Kent

Pastor's Annual Statistical Report: 2020

Miles Travelled: 2230.2 Visits: 99 (Home Communion: 12)

Meetings

Regular	19*
Special	15
Clergy	15
Staff	30
Confirmation	24
Youth	12**
Bible Study	4
Community	26
New Member	0
Cont. Edu.	2
Conference	7
Fellowship	13
Rehearsal	1
Other	<u>1</u>
Total	169

Worship

Regular	36
Lenten	6#
Weddings	1
Funerals	11
Nursing Home	2
Other	<u>2</u>
Total	58

Baptisms: 3

Weddings: 1

Funerals: 11

Misc.: * Due to COVID, many regular meetings did not occur. Many were done via Zoom.

** Pastor Kent taught regular confirmation classes, individual tutoring sessions, in-person middle school Bible overview classes, and online classes of both via Zoom.

Some services on video.

Beginning March 29, all in-person worship services were suspended through September 6th. Radio services shared with Pastor Deb Meyer, St. Paul's UCC, through July 12th. In-person services resumed September 13th through November 22nd, then returned to radio only format through the rest of the year.

Due to COVID precautions, Pastor Kent was unable to make as many in-person visits as usual. Many of the visits listed above were made by phone.

Pastor Kent initiated a project of calling every member household to see how our members were doing during the COVID emergency.

Lenten services were one-person dramatic monologues, performed by area clergy. Pastor Kent performed in one, and participated in 2 others.

Pastor Kent was quarantined twice, using one week for Continuing Education. Did not develop COVID. Participated in November 22nd Remembrance Sunday via phone during second quarantine.

Other Activities:

Pastor Kent provided the prayer of invocation and benediction for the Le Sueur AL/VFW Memorial Day service, May 25th.

Pastor Kent made short video messages for a UCC area clergy Advent video and for a Christmas message from CE.

Visitation Pastor Report

Rev. Rosemary Rocha

Visitation. As of December 31, 2020, we have 23 people on our Visitation List.

- 18 reside in congregate settings of various styles:
 - Le Sueur: Comfort Residence (1), Oak Terrace (6), Ridgeview (2);
 - Belle Plaine: Lutheran Home (2);
 - St. Peter: Benedictine Center (1); Benedictine Living (1);
 - Mankato: Autumn Grace (1); Brookdale Nursing Home (1); Vista Prairie (1)
 - New Brighton: Meadowood Shores (1);
 - Rochester: Meadow Lakes (1).

- 5 reside in apartments or townhouses, most on their own.
 - Le Sueur: 2
 - St. Peter: 1
 - Belle Plaine: 1
 - Prior Lake: 1

- **Visitation List.** - I periodically update list and circulate it to staff and Friendly Visitors.

- **Visits in 2020**
 - "In the beginning: monthly group communion in Comfort Residence and Oak Terrace; many thanks to Pastor Deb Meyer for substituting in February when I had a bad cold. Of course, as COVID-19 progressed these monthly group communions ended.
 - January visited in person and shared communion
 - February had a stubborn respiratory, infection which limited my in-person visits.
 - **Ash Wednesday service** at Oak Terrace in main area and in Memory Care Unit.
 - In March I did phone visits.
 - April, in addition to visits, I worked with family of Cynthia Braun to respond to her death and prepare for her graveside service.
 - In May Covid restrictions were placed on in-person visits. I phoned people and also sent cards. Officiated at graveside service for Cynthia Braun. Made follow up calls to family.
 - **Amazon Echo.** This is an electronic device that allows people to communicate with each other and even have visual contact. Through a generous church-member's donation we gave one to Robi Nelson. While it's not working perfectly, we have been able to see each other and communicate frequently. In October, to enable the Echo to work better, Memorial funds were used to purchase her a simple cell phone which the Echo needs to operate. Rosemary keeps the phone with her and when it is no longer needed for this, it will be returned to the church. We were also able to give an Amazon Echo to Peter Braun but Covid closed visitation before I could set it up to be used properly. We are still waiting for that chance.
 - From June through August, I primarily made phone calls, also calling family members for those homebound who were anticipating surgery.
 - August through December I visited by phone and when possible in person. These visits have been creative - through fence and windows, behind plastic shields, dressed with mask and plastic face shield and on three occasions outside, socially distanced and masked. When visiting in person I wear a mask but this is sometimes difficult if the person's hearing is compromised.

- Following the death of Edith Schleeve, I visited with Bob before the service; I shared remembrances of her in the simple November 18 service. I visited him twice after that, once bringing him a poinsettia.
- **Poinsettias.** - With gratefulness to Fellowship for purchasing and paying for these, I volunteered to distribute them to all our shut-ins. Gift cards were sent to members in New Brighton, Belle Plaine and Rochester. This gave me a chance to, if not visit because of Covid, at least wave hello.
- Jan Reinhardt died at the end of December. I met with her daughters by phone to plan a simple service and burial.

Preparing worship and sermons, leading worship and preaching. I like preaching monthly because my work is "behind the scenes" and this gives both myself and the congregation a chance to connect. Some dates were pulpit supply when Pastor Kent was on vacation or ill or away because his brother died. The church compensates me for 40 hours a month. In visiting shut-ins, some months require less time, so preaching helps me complete my 40-hour responsibility.

Sunday Worship

- February 2, 23; March 15; April 19; May 17; June 21; July 5, 12; August 16, 30; September 27; October 11; November 22, 29; December 27

Special services.

- March 4, led Wednesday Lenten service at First Lutheran as part of Le Sueur clergy group;
- April 9 - Maundy Thursday, shared in a video for YouTube with Pastors Kent and Deb and recorded by Diane
- Helped design special services: February 23 for Mardi Gras and November 22, based on the continents, created a litany to remember all who have died from Covid

Memorials and burials.

- May: Officiated at graveside service for Cynthia Braun.
- August: Read scripture at memorial service for Al Mollenhauer at church
- November: Words of remembrance for Edith Schleeve at Kolden; Pastor Kent officiated
- December: While Jan Reinhardt died on December 29, her burial was January 4, 2021.

Meetings/Other

- **Friendly Visitors.** Pastor Kent coordinates this ministry and meeting, I participate; had one meeting in January before Covid. I communicate with group when needed.
- **Staff.** Meet weekly with Pastor Kent; meet with Pastor Kent and Diane once a month to connect and coordinate calendar.
- **Women's Breakfast:** Monthly gathering for breakfast but in February restaurant closed.
- **Executive Committee, Fellowship.** Occasionally met with these groups
- **Staff Christmas greeting** - recorded a video to be shown on church's YouTube page.
- **Newsletters.** Write a monthly letter (11) for Herald and alternate with Pastor Kent to write a letter (26) for the weekly e-mail newsletter.

As we close 2020 I continue to give thanks for the opportunities you give me to use my gifts and talents in ways that make a difference. We've all spent a lot of time at home and even alone. In those moments

it helps me to think of all of you, especially our most vulnerable, and to feel good about still being able to do Christ's work in this often crazy world.

Love and blessings to all of you!

Pastor Rosemary

Deacon's Report

Currently serving as Deacons on the 2020 Zion Church Council are Gail Fitzpatrick, Mary Trimbo, Dustin Kahle and Cindy Braun.

The Deacons have the responsibility to coordinate volunteers to serve as ushers, greeters, and communion servers during worship. Please consider these opportunities to serve. We extend a special thank you to Ron Weyl for making sure things go smoothly during worship services.

The Deacons also have the responsibility of preparing a proposed budget for the following year. If the Council approves, it is presented to the congregation at the annual meeting

As pulpit supply is another of our responsibilities, we are thankful for Rev. Rosemary Rocha, Visitation Pastor who has been able to lead worship when Pastor Kent has been gone.

Thank you to all who have stepped up to serve.

Discretionary Fund Report: 2020

The Discretionary Fund provides for people in need, in our church and our area. Through 2020, this fund has been used to provide for emergency housing, food, gas, and electronic equipment to allow for virtual visits with our shut-ins, along with helping with rent and utility payments. Thank you for your remarkable generosity and care for God's children in need!

Number of people helped this year: 10

Balance as of 01/01/2020	\$ 415.89
Deposits	\$ 3,125.00
Interest	\$.54
Debits	<u>\$ 2,298.82*</u>
Balance as of 12/31/2020	\$ 1,242.61

* Monies to cover last year's Stewardship Sunday speaker and for the confirmation retreat. The retreat was cancelled and monies were reimbursed.

President's Report - 2020

Cindy Braun, President

I consider it an honor to serve as President of Zion Congregation.

To say that this has been a unique experience, in this unusual year would be an understatement. This year has taught me and many others on the council a lot about communicating through technology! From making a motion, a second and voting over e-mail, to holding Zoom Council meetings we have adjusted.

Throughout the year much of our planning and discussion has been about keeping people safe during this pandemic. We have sought guidance from the Minnesota Conference of the UCC and the Minnesota Department of Health, thus canceling in-person worship. I realize that we are all missing each other and long to get back to a normal church life with our church family.

We, as a congregation can be so thankful to have our church services broadcast on KCHK radio. Even though we are apart we can still worship together (in a way). In this time of staying home, our broadcast is such an important ministry. When this past late summer we were experiencing problems with the broadcast it was of utmost importance that we get the problem fixed. Frustration followed as we worked with our phone and internet service and KCHK's and it was finally resolved.

Sharing the church services with St Paul's UCC in Henderson is a bonus for both congregations. We are thankful for all of the monetary support received for this ministry. I would also like to thank all of the individuals for their part in keeping this ministry going.

The year-end status of the church financials is something that the congregation can be proud of and thankful for. In this unprecedented time of COVID-19 there are individuals who have stepped up to build on their financial commitments. I thank you for your overwhelming support. We were granted a Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan, and received notice that it has been forgiven. There is a zero balance on our bank loan. We have not had to use any of the monies /or interest in the United Church Funds.

Our church is blessed to have Pastor Kent Meyer and Pastor Rosemary Rocha, who work together to bring us the word of God. I think we all look forward to the day when we can be back in our beloved sanctuary for worship service. When we sit together and share the Ritual of Friendship perhaps with a hug rather than a handshake. COVID-19 has been a humbling experience for many of us - we are not in charge, and we must praise and thank God for leading us through this pandemic!

Thank you,
Cindy Braun

"Be Joyful in Hope, Patient in Affliction, Faithful in Prayer "

Elders' Report

The Board of Elders in 2020 was made up of Delores Loewe, David Braun, Tanya Riemann and Brandon Mueller.

The responsibilities of the Elders of Zion Church are as follows:

1. The spiritual life of the congregation.

We did the prayer project again this year where we found volunteers to pray for our members. Each volunteer agreed to pray for a portion of our membership list as often as possible throughout the year.

At the beginning of each council meeting one of the four elders says a prayer for 1/12 of the congregation. By the end of the year all members will have been prayed for.

2. Maintenance of our membership lists.

Due to the circumstances this year the Elders did not need to take any action on the membership list.

3. Nominating committee for the elected positions of the church.

Again, this year we have two council members whose terms are up. We are happy to report that Gail Fitzpatrick (Deacon) and David Braun (Elder) have both agreed to take on a second term

On behalf of the Elders of Zion we thank you all for everything you do. It's such a blessing to be able to serve this congregation.

God bless you all,

Brandon Mueller,
Chair of Elders.

Trustees' Report

2020 was a challenging year for the Council and its members of Zion United Church of Christ. Due to Covid-19, this past year the church had approximately three months of In-person Worship.

The Trustees did their normal inspections of the church before the pandemic happened. After their inspections of the church, they came up with a list of repairs that the Trustees had planned to address but with Covid-19 stopping everything, the Trustees chose only a couple items that needed necessary attention, such as replacing lightbulbs, installing exit signs, and a few other miscellaneous items.

The Trustees were notified that the church had water downstairs in the Sunday school classrooms. Members of the congregation cleaned the water up in the classrooms and hallway. This mess was due to the road work that was being done on Elmwood Street, where a pipe that drained the parking lot area broke, which caused the flooding in the basement.

As we move into 2021, we plan to address the following projects.

- Repair the ceiling in overflow room.
- Install new sump pump in the boiler room.
- Have the sump pump replumbed by the elevator on the lowest level.
- Install a sensor in the basement that will indicate if we have another water problem or if the temperature drops to below freezing that could cause water lines to freeze and break.

Thanks to all the members for their continual financial support of all the projects completed this past year. We need to continue to be good stewards of this wonderful building. We also must give thanks to God and our forefathers and mothers who blessed us with this house of worship we call Zion.

Trustee members include, Mark Pinney, Monty Braun, Norm Pioske, and David Weyl.

ZION SENIOR CHOIR

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

Psalms 66: 1-2

I have always loved that passage from Psalms as music has always been a large part of my life, as well as a very important part of worship services for me. After leading the Praise Band for 14 years I put that on pause in the fall of 2019 to take over as Choir director at Zion. After having a good fall and Christmas season of 2019, we had just started working in early 2020 on a cantata for Easter when everything came to a screeching halt due to the Corona virus.

But just as the old saying goes “when one door closes, God opens another”, even though we could not sing in church anymore or sometimes (as is currently the case) could not even hold in-person worship, we were still able to keep the radio ministry going. Even though we couldn't sing in Church, we still wanted to be able to have music in the worship service. So, my job changed again from choir director to downloading music and playing it through the sound system for the radio broadcasts. Most Sundays Pastor Kent picks out the hymns and I pick out the Prelude and Postlude and sometimes an anthem and then download the music to my computer and get it prepared for the Sunday service. Then on Sundays I play the music back at the appropriate times. We have learned lots along the way and I think it has

mostly gone smoothly with just a few minor glitches. While I have enjoyed this time of searching out and downloading and playing this music, I look forward with hope to 2021 and the promise of a vaccine hoping that we can return to in-person worship with the choir.

If you have any comments or concerns about the music used in the Sunday services, feel free to contact me. I can be reached by email at BWB223LS@gmail.com or by phone at 612-756-3164. Thank you!

Brian Braun
Zion Senior Choir Director

Christian Education Committee

2020 started out as it normally did with every new year. We had new goals and activities that we wanted to do but, there was another path we had to follow. The unthinkable happened a pandemic, something we have never gone through before. Schools shut down and distance learning began. Jenny began emailing and posting lessons for each week on Facebook that we would have done in person. Distance learning and Zoom meetings got to be a chore instead of enjoyment. We were missing that personal interaction that you get from face to face. Jenny continued to do what she could do connect with the families.

Summer, we did not have VBS because of the unknown and new restrictions. As a committee for the new school year, fall 2020, we decided that we would come together once a month and go through our weekly lesson and pick-up new learning materials. September was great, we had so many families come, and we decorated face masks along with picking up learning supplies for the months to come. October, we only had one family come and so Jenny knew she needed to take a different approach. For November, she had everyone pick up a packet with Bible verses and to write 30 things that they were thankful for. November 18, 2020, schools were shut down again because of the rise in covid 19 numbers. Distance learning began again, and everyone was kind of in a fog. For December, Jenny made packets that had the advent calendar to be colored by their families, along with a backwards advent calendar for collecting one food item a day to go to the food shelf. Jenny had everyone bring their boxes to church the Sunday before Christmas. We collected 275lbs for the food shelf! Next year, we would like to do the same but increase that number!

We did not have the Christmas pageant this year as well, which we all look forward to every year so instead Pastor Kent and Rosemary, along with Jenny sent out a video of them to the children. We all have enjoyed the extra family time that we have had the past year, makes us all realize how blessed we are in life and what little we need to survive.

2021 we hope to have a somewhat normal year as we know things will not go back to what they were before. We look forward to bringing everyone back together and building that group again! We are always open to new ideas so please let us know what you would like to see or a fun thing we could do.

Thank you,

Christian Education Committee

Ruth Circle

The Ruth Circle is open to all women of Zion Church. We are happy to welcome any new members.

The Ruth Circle meets on the 2nd Friday of the month. Normally we meet nine months of the year – July through December, and March through May, in the Fireside Room. Our meetings include a business meeting, a devotional time, prayer and refreshments. We take turns presenting the devotions and serving the refreshments.

This year, because of the COVID pandemic, we met only once – on March 13, 2020.

Our active members currently include Betty Jo Braun (treasurer), Mavis Grimmelman, Marlyes Latzke, Delores Loewe (chairman), Eileen Wells Pautz, Karen Pioske, Mary Jane Voss, and Marilyn Wells. Lois Andresen is a past member who has moved away from the area but still keeps in touch with us via the mail. Pastor Kent meets with us as well.

In 2020, although we had not been meeting, we agreed to give the same amounts as we had done in 2019 – to the Wednesday night Church School suppers, to cover the cost of a radio broadcast, and to both Church School and Vacation Bible School.

Also, as we have done for many years during the month of November, we collected Christmas gifts (cash only this year at their suggestion) for the residents at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center, to try to ensure that no one there is forgotten at Christmas time. We collected \$240, which they converted into gift cards to be given to residents. “Thank you” to all who participated in this effort.

Since there was no Christmas pageant, we did not pack bags of treats for the children, which in the past have been distributed the evening of the Christmas pageant.

We look forward to 2021 with the hope that we will soon be able to resume our meetings and activities as we have done in the past.

Submitted by:
Delores Loewe

Funeral Committee

The mission of the Funeral Committee is to serve luncheons for funerals of the church members and of the community. Because of the virus, we served only 3 luncheons for the year 2020.

Thank you for all that gave and helped.

Sylvia Denzer
Chairperson

Grief Support Group

For many years now at Zion Church we have had a Grief Care Outreach at the time when their loved ones pass away. It is important to reach out to our members and their families and extend our prayers, thoughts and words of comfort to let them know that we care and are thinking of them at their time of sorrow.

A letter of concern is sent to them, telling them that we at Zion truly care and we want them to know that God gives us comfort in His Word as in Matthew 5:4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” And that by believing in our Lord Jesus Christ, we will see our loved ones once again in heaven.

Sincerely,
Judy Dhaene
Assistant for Grief Care

Altar Committee

The Altar Committee usually meets to set up the communion schedule for the year. This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic it proved difficult to get together. We then decided to copy last year’s schedule and work around that.

We prepare communion and clean up after communion. At Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, we decorate church. We also put flowers on the altar for every Sunday before worship. These duties are done, of course, when church resumes.

Members are Vic & Shelby Lueders, Don & Bonita Boehne, Scott and Lauralie Axtell, Norman Pioske, Glen & Lois Braun, Amy Thelemann, Jim & Gail Fitzpatrick, and Tanya Riemann. We greatly appreciate anyone helping us out especially with decorating at Christmas.

We are always open for new members. If you are interested, please contact us. If there is a conflict with your month to work, switching with other members is always an option. We’d love to have you join us.

Submitted by:
Lois Braun

The Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee meets to review applications for the scholarships provided by our church. All applicants must meet the criteria set by the committee and fill out an application. Scholarships of \$100-\$250 will be awarded depending on the number of applicants received. There was one applicant in 2020.

Zion Prayer Chain

“Trust in God at all times, O people: pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.”
Psalm 62:8

As we all know, 2020 has been difficult, and our Prayer Chain of 24 members prayed often for healing, strength, peace, joy, and comfort for many people. We all need each other, and prayer is an important support that we can share. We are always very willing to bring concerns and thanksgivings to our Lord.

We were saddened this year to have one of our Prayer Chain members, Cindy Adams-Ellis, leave us for her Heavenly home. She was a strong pray-er and we will miss her.

We welcome all people to join us in praying for others. It is a ministry that we can do at home, as we do not have meetings. Most prayer requests are received by email, some by phone, and others in person. Please contact the church office, or me, and we will be very glad to add you to our contact list. You will then be sent the requests that we receive. Even when we can't gather together, we can still pray for each other.

Many blessings,
Jane Schuette
Prayer Chain Member
612-203-5383
vergaen23@gmail.com

Food Shelf

In their hunger you gave them bread...
Nehemiah 9:15

The mission of the Food Shelf is to provide healthy and nutritious food for the hungry in the Le Sueur area. The Food Shelf is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 - 3:30, with the exception of the 2nd Tuesday of the month when it is open until 5:00. As with everything else the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we operate. Boxes are pre-packed according to family size and taken right out to cars and put into the trunk.

As a food shelf, we have participated in the monthly food give away, hosting the November and December events in Le Sueur County. We could not support these missions without the help of volunteers. THANK YOU! We have been blessed by the very generous monetary donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses. It's good to live in a community that cares about their less fortunate neighbors!!

Thank you,

Cindy Braun
Zion Food Shelf Coordinator

The Historical Committee

Although we did not meet in 2020, we were still doing the work of Zion Church. Shelby Lueders made stoles for the Confirmands after they finished making individual symbols that depicted their beliefs and interests.

Early in the year, Pastor Kent asked me to have a few people write down their memories of how COVID-19 impacted their lives, at church and at home. I got responses from David and Betty Jo Braun, Sylvia Denzer, Becky Braun, Jennifer Trimbo, and myself (Judy Felmlee).

Late 2019: First case of Covid-19 reported, Wuhan China

January 30, 2020: World Health Organization declares “Public Health Emergency of International Concern”.

February 6, 2020: First Death from Covid-19 in California.

February 29, 2020: Another death in Kirkland, Washington.

March 13, 2020: President Trump declares National Emergency – At this time, Zion is aware of potential meeting problems.

March 11: Choir rehearses

March 15: Last time choir sings in church

March 15: Church Council restricts church service, taping off certain pews and separating people. Radio Services continue. St. Paul’s in Henderson joins. Funerals are conducted at graveside, mask wearing in church, no food prepared for funerals.

I continued taking pictures of events. On September 7th, the 150th Anniversary was celebrated at Tyrone Church for Dresselville and Tyrone with many members present for the services and meal following.

Church School met on September 16 in the parking lot of Zion Church, making crafts and planning for the coming year.

Pastor Kent celebrated Confirmation with five students: Riley Barry on June 28, Brianna Jones on September 6, and with Grace Bishop, Hunter Jones, and Lawson Weber on October 4, 2020. The pews were still taped and separated and not many could attend, but families felt the service was very meaningful.

On November 22, church services were again suspended and only the few people who are necessary to broadcast the radio service have been attending. A very special Christmas Eve service was broadcast on Christmas Eve over the Radio.

Many, including myself, have never before experienced a pandemic that disrupts so many people and businesses. Let us pray that this ends soon.

Zion Church Historical Committee

Judy Felmlee, Shelby Lueders, John Loewe and Cindy Braun

Friendly Visitors

The Friendly Visitors are a group of Zion members whose purpose is to provide an outreach to members who were once a very active part of our congregation and can no longer be involved in attending worship and serving as they once did. The purpose of our visits is to let them know they are still important to Zion and have not been forgotten. Often the time together is a blessing to the visitors as much as to those being visited.

When the COVID pandemic hit in mid-March, we could no longer make our visits. At that time the Friendly Visitors included: Susan Felmlee, Sylvia Reinhardt, Mary Trimbo, Cindy Lehman, Vic & Shelby Lueders, John & Janice Loewe (during the months they are in Le Sueur), and Orval & Delores Loewe. Pastor Rosemary is the leader of our group.

Currently we have 24 individuals on our list. They are residing in Comfort Residence, Ridgeview Nursing Home, and Oak Terrace in Le Sueur; the Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine; Benedictine Center and Benedictine Living in St. Peter; two facilities in Mankato; and a facility in Rochester, along with a number whom we visit in their homes. Pastor Rosemary has done a wonderful job keeping in touch with these individuals for Zion whereas the rest of us have had to limit our contacts to cards and letters.

When active, the Friendly Visitors meet quarterly to update our lists, make monthly assignments for the next three months, and talk about any problems we encounter or ideas for enhancing our visits or being more effective.

In December the Zion Fellowship again provided poinsettias for the people on our list. Normally the Friendly Visitors would have delivered them, but Pastor Rosemary graciously agreed to deliver them for us this year.

When we are able to resume our activities in the new year, we would like to add a few more Visitors to our group. If you feel you would like to be a part of this effort, you are very welcome. Please contact anyone in our group or the Pastors; or just plan to attend our next meeting, which will be announced in the Herald and bulletins when that time comes.

Submitted by:
Delores Loewe

Social Hour Committee

The Zion Church Social Hour Committee is in charge of the social get together after the Sunday service. The Social Hour is usually held in the overflow room in the back of the sanctuary and occasionally held in the social hall for bigger events. The Social Hour gives members of the congregation a chance to socialize and visit with each other while enjoying a light refreshment and goodies.

The Committee also helps out with special events of the church. Some of these are the stewardship Sunday brunch, baptism and retirement receptions, just to name a few.

Being on the committee is quite fun. You can be as simple in your treats or more elaborate. It's all up to the individual serving that day. Anyone who wishes to join is more than welcome to do so. Please contact one of our members.

Committee members:

Bonita Boehne, Elaine Cronk, Marla Mueller, Phyllis Briles, Eileen Wells, Rebecca Braun

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee meets to discuss gifts received by Zion Church in memory of loved ones who have passed on to their eternal reward. This year, of course, was affected by the pandemic like every other area of our lives. We met once in person, but then conducted business via email.

We want to acknowledge those gifts that were used during 2020:

- To purchase the special candles used to remember people around the world and in our lives who have been lost to the pandemic in memory of:
 - Mayo Flegel
 - Cynthia Braun
 - Arlene Pfarr
 - Tom Haraldson
- To purchase radio broadcasts and bulletins in memory of:
 - Cecil Ernsting
- To purchase upgrades to the microphone and speaker system in memory of:
 - Tom Haraldson

We thank all those members and others who give to the Zion Memorial fund.

Betty Jo Braun, Chair

Sue Felmlee, Secretary

Jane Schuette, Acknowledgements

Sheryl Meyer

Dustin Kahle, Council Representative

Stewardship/Mission Committee Annual Report

The committee began 2020 by planning to hold our Consecration Sunday on the same day as the Annual Meeting. In the lead up to that day we welcomed Jean Abbott to share her message of perseverance and finding the blessings in our lives even when we think there may not be many. Our pledges on Consecration Sunday were plentiful (\$141,528 - up almost \$20,000 from last year) and we have followed through on those pledges to allow our church to carry out its mission in this challenging year. The generous giving from our congregation has been a blessing given the restrictions on being able to worship in person. Keeping our church in your prayers and continuing to support it financially has allowed the general fund balance to be nearly unchanged from this time last year after adding in the Paycheck Protection Program, a forgivable loan payment that we received from the federal government.

We were once again “5 for 5” in 2020 by supporting OCWM and all four special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. The committee has communicated at a distance on an as-needed basis for much of 2020, and we hope to be able to meet in person again soon. The 2021 stewardship campaign will most likely consist of a guest speaker during a Sunday radio broadcast as well as a letter sent to members. Please watch for these communications leading up to the pledging of our gifts for 2021. We know our Zion family will once again be generous in their commitments.

Thinking back to Jean Abbott’s message almost a year ago, she talked about not being angry or regretful about the time she “lost” during her misdiagnosis. She did not have a desire to undo the tough experiences she had because of what she had also gained from those experiences. We’ve all had challenges and changes during 2020, and we hope you’ve also found some silver linings during this time.

Pastor Kent Meyer
David Braun, Council Representative
Sue Kahle
John Loewe
Jan Loewe
Marla Mueller
Ryan Thelemann

Veterans Appreciation

Every year on Veteran’s Day, we call men and women from Zion, who served our country in the military, to thank them for their time and commitment to our freedom. We want them to know how much we appreciate them. It is a privilege for us to hear their gratitude for being acknowledged. We are blessed to get to visit with them and to hear how God has helped them throughout their lives.

We want to include all of our veterans in our calls, so if you know of anyone from our church who would like to be remembered, please phone the church office. We thank our veterans and ask God’s blessings on each of them.

Gratefully,
Jane Schuette

2020 Statistical Report

<u>Additions</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Membership</u>
New Members 0	Deaths 13	As of 1/1/20 387
Confirmation 5	Transfers 2	Additions 6
<u>Other</u> 1	Inactive *	<u>Losses</u> 15
Total 6	<u>Removal</u> 0	As of 1/1/21 378
	15	

<u>Baptisms</u>	<u>Weddings</u>	<u>Funerals</u>
2	1	16

In memoriam 2020

May Flegel	January 1
Cecil Ernsting	February 7
Kathryn Swecker	February 14
Lyle Laabs	March 16
Arlene Pfarr	April 1
Jill Palmer	April 24
Allen Mollenhauer	April 27
Cynthia Braun	May 5
Waldo Helmeke	May 31
Robert Rohloff	September 26
Harold Wagner	October 23
Edith Schleeve	November 13
Jan Reinhardt	December 29

Baptisms

Lydia Elaine Meyer	August 15 th
Ellie Jo von Lehe	August 16 th

Weddings

Joe Braun & Amelia Muir, October 3rd

Inactive or Former Members

Marlene Walson	February 10
Betty Adams Braun	September 5
Cynthia Adams Ellis	October 19

Attendance

Average Sunday Attendance: **

Ash Wednesday	54
Maundy Thursday	Videoed
Good Friday	Ecumenical videoed service
Easter	Radio service
Christmas Eve	Radio service

* Due to COVID, Elders did not review membership list in 2020.

** Due to COVID, in-person worship services were suspended for most of 2020.

Investment Funds Report

The following is the spending criteria which the Church Council members follow in determining the use of any of these funds.

Zion UCC Endowment Fund (360812)

By tradition, any profit above \$62,321 can be spent. Fund includes a \$25,000 memorial from Roger Lammers, which cannot be spent until 2054. Fund also includes \$37,321 from sale of Hahn farm on the south side of church in 2006. Please note this fund has a required minimum balance of \$62,321.

Zion UCC Housing Fund (360813)

Fund consists of sale of Parsonage sold for \$59,596; any profit above this can be spent for pastor's housing expenses.

Zion UCC Scholarship Fund

All dollars are available; the purpose is to provide dollars to Zion's young adults successfully attending a college or trade school.

Zion UCC Improvement & Benevolence Fund (360816)

Principal can be used only for improvement or benevolence of Zion church; no minimum balance requirement.

Zion UCC Horrisberger Family Endowment Fund (360817)

The principal of these funds is viewed as held in perpetuity; however the interest can be used in support and maintenance of worship, educational, mission and religious activities and community services of the Church, together with the upkeep of all properties belonging to the Church. Funds cannot be withdrawn in amounts that would reduce the principal below \$349,340.00.

Zion UCC Brenke Fund (360820)

A gift from the Brenke Estate; no minimum balance requirement.

Zion UCC Brandt Fund (360821)

A gift from the Don Brandt estate; has a limit of only one-third (1/3) can be spent each year for the first three years of the gift (starting 2017).

UNITED CHURCH FUNDS
ACTIVITY JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

	ACCOUNT NUMBER	Balance at 01/01/2020	Withdrawals	Gain (Loss)	Balance at 12/31/2020	Minimum Req'd Balance	Funds Available (Deficiency)
Housing	360813	62,939.20	0.00	5,282.88	68,222.08	59,596.00	8,626.08
Scholarship	360814	20,826.68	(500.00)	1,643.76	21,970.44	NA	21,970.44
Endowment	360812	69,216.85	0.00	5,809.80	75,026.65	62,321.00	12,705.65
I & B	360816	455.72	0.00	57.77	513.49	NA	513.49
Horrisberger Family	360817	362,115.29	0.00	30,394.63	392,509.92	349,340.00	43,169.92
Brandt Estate	360821	5,117.88	(2,113.28)	(11.52)	2,993.08	2,390.42	602.66
Brenke Estate	360820	60,406.31	0.00	5,070.28	65,476.59	NA	65,476.59
		581,077.93	(2,613.28)	48,247.60	626,712.25		

Zion Fellowship

The year 2020 brought many challenges to many people and organizations. We started out the year with a meeting on January 5, 2020, to discuss the annual budget for 2020. A few changes were made to the wording of a few of the line item accounts and the budget was passed.

We also discussed the Spring Luncheon and it was decided to not have the Spring Luncheon but to do a Sandwich and Pie Social in late April or early May 2020.

As everyone knows, we were scheduled to have a meeting on March 15, 2020, but that is when Covid-19 hit and life as we knew it changed completely.

We had no Sandwich & Pie Social. Since the Fellowship was not able to hold a meeting, the Fellowship officers requested and received approval from the Church Council (which represents all members of Zion and was able to meet) to send a letter in lieu of the Silent Supper letter we have sent in the past. This was done in the fall and we received \$1,650 in donations.

The Fellowship accepted with regret Sylvia Reinhardt's departure from her position as our Chairperson when she transferred her church membership elsewhere. We thank her for her years of great leadership, and she will be missed. Now we are seeking a new Chairperson. Sue and Delores are willing to continue in their positions as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. If anyone is willing to volunteer for the role of Chairperson of the Fellowship, please let us know. Keep in mind, the Fellowship consists of both men and women – all voting age members of Zion. The position can be filled by either a man or woman.

We did purchase poinsettias for the shut-ins during the Christmas holiday. Pastor Rosemary distributed these since the Friendly Visitors were not able to.

Submitted by

Sue Felmlee
Zion Fellowship Treasurer

Annual Report of the Congregation | 2020

INCOME			2019			2020
1) Silent Supper			\$1,515.19			\$1,650.00
2) Spring Event			\$2,307.60			\$0.00
3) Bank Interest			\$25.07			\$20.20
4) Misc.			<u>\$330.06</u>			<u>\$0.00</u>
			\$4,177.92			\$1,670.20
EXPENSES	2019	2019			2020	2020
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL		
A) Dining Room/Kitchen	\$100.00	\$114.64	\$100.00		\$0.00	\$100.00
EVENTS						
D) Fall/Spring Meeting	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00		\$0.00	\$25.00
E) Silent Supper	\$100.00	\$85.81	\$100.00		\$0.00	\$100.00
F) Spring Luncheon	\$1,500.00	\$1,132.15	\$1,500.00		\$0.00	\$1,500.00
G) Postage/Misc.	\$30.00	\$23.70	\$30.00		\$0.00	\$30.00
H) Project Fund	\$2,000.00	\$700.00	\$2,000.00		\$0.00	\$2,000.00
I) Contingency Fund	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00		\$0.00	\$500.00
MISSION-ZION						
J) Camp Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
K) Shut in gifts	\$100.00	\$144.76	\$100.00		\$147.95	\$100.00
L) Choir Appreciation	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00		\$50.00	\$50.00
M) High School Grad gift	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
N) Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
O) Zion Discretionary Fund	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00		\$200.00	\$200.00
P) Radio Fund	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$130.00		\$130.00	\$130.00
Q) Teacher Appreciation	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00		\$50.00	\$50.00
R) Vacation Bible School	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00		\$200.00	\$200.00
S) Youth Discretionary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00		\$0.00	\$200.00
T) SCS Bibles	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00		\$0.00	\$100.00
MISSIONS-OUTSIDE						
V) Courage Center	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00
W) Grameen Foundation	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00
X) Ridgeview Hospice	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00		\$150.00	\$150.00
Y) Emmaus Home	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00
Z) Mayo Hospice Foundation	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$150.00		\$150.00	\$150.00
AA) Eden Theolo Seminary	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00
BB) Youth Outdoor	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00		\$0.00	\$200.00
CC) CADA House	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00
DD) Children Home Society MN	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00
EE) Kids Against Hunger	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00
FF) Local food shelf Nic,LS,Sibley	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00		\$300.00	\$300.00
GG) Rotary Backpack Program	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00		\$300.00	\$300.00
HH) Theresa House	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00
II) Amazing Grace Home	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00		\$200.00	\$200.00
JJ) Back Bay Missions	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00		\$150.00	\$150.00
KK) Habitat for Humanity	\$150.00	\$150.00	<u>\$150.00</u>		<u>\$150.00</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
Totals:	\$7330.00	\$4,826.06	<u>\$7,435.00</u>		<u>\$3,004.95</u>	<u>\$7,435.00</u>

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Board of Elders, acting as your nominating committee, presents the following slate for Zion Church Council. Nominations may be received from the floor.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Annual Meeting – January 24, 2021

For Elder

(vote for one)

- | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| () | David Braun - 2 nd term | (3-year term) |
| () | _____ | (3-year term) |

For Deacon

(vote for one)

- | | | |
|---------|---|---------------|
| () | Gail Fitzpatrick – 2 nd term | (3-year term) |
| () | _____ | (3-year term) |

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

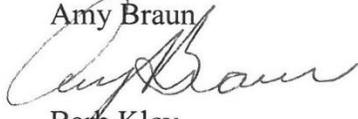
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|---------|-------|
| () | _____ |
| () | _____ |

Auditing Committee

The members of the Audit Committee for 2020 were Amy Braun and Barb Kley. As your Auditing Committee, we have verified checking accounts and savings accounts against the bank statements. We believe the Financial Report at year end 2020 correctly reflects the financial condition of Zion Church as of December 31, 2020.

Committee Members:

Amy Braun



Barb Kley



Zion United Church of Christ - Le Sueur MN
Treasurer's Report as of December 2020

Friday, January 8, 2021

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
Income				
4.101.101	Recorded Contributions	\$ 199,628.45	253,050.00	246059.00
4.101.112	Loose Offerings	885.76	2,500.00	1250.00
4.101.113	Initial Offerings	217.00*	200	220.00
4.101.114	Sunday School Offerings	420.00*	0	
4.101.115	Zion Herald Contributions	147	1,000.00	150.00
4.101.116	Radio Contributions	10,683.00*	9,000.00	9500.00
4.101.117	Coffee Hour Donations	325.91	800.00	500.00
4.101.120	Vacation Church School <small>(separate account)</small>	250.00*	0.00	
4.101.122	Sunday School Christmas	0	0.00	
4.101.123	Reimbursements & Misc. Income	42,553.70*	1,000.00	1000.00
4.101.124	Confirmation Reimbursements (from Conf for trip)	800.00*	0.00	
4.101.125	Advent & other CE Events	0	0.00	
4.101.126	SCS Appreciation	50.00*	0.00	
4.101.127	Youth Account (Recycling cans added here)	600.75*	500.00	500.00
4.101.128	Fellowship Events Inc.	70.00*	0.00	
4.101.129	Birthday/Blessings Income	0	0.00	
4.101.135	SCS Special Mission	0	0.00	
4.101.141	Easter Flowers	187.00*	0.00	
4.101.142	Poinsettias	132.00*	0.00	
4.101.143	Beef Dinner Income	0	4,000.00	4000.00
4.101.145	Upper Room Income	0	0.00	
4.101.146	Misc. & Directed Benevolence	0	0.00	
4.101.148	Designated Income-BULLETINS	70	650.00	
4.101.150	Investment Income	500.00*	0.00	
4.101.151	Investment Capital Gain	0	0.00	
4.101.152	Checking Acct. Interest	14.94*	0.00	
4.101.153	Housing Fund Income	0.00	0.00	
4.101.154	Choir Appreciation Income	50.00*	0.00	
4.101.155	Building Fund Income	1,358.74*	0.00	
4.101.160	Anniversary Income	0.00	0.00	
	Income & Donations	\$ 258,944.25	\$ 272,700.00	\$ 263,179.00
4.101.119	Easter & Holy Week Offering	2,766.00		
4.101.130	Neighbor in Need Offering	1,472.00		
4.101.131	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	1,290.00		
4.101.133	Christmas Special Offering	2,145.00		
4.101.200	Misc Out Reach Offering	10.00		
4.101.203	Zion Discretionary Fund	225.00		
	Out Reach Ministries Income	\$7,908.00	12,000.00	
4.101.400	Transfer In	0.00	0.00	
4.200.001	Capital Fund Transfer	2,113.28*	0.00	
	Transfers	\$2,113.28*	\$0.00	

Annual Report of the Congregation | 2020

4.101.118	Wednesday night supper	754.50		
4.101.201	Strengthen the Church	504.75		
4.101.202	Seminary Support CUE Donation	35.00		
	Total Income	\$270,259.78	\$284,700.00	\$ -
Expense				
5.100.001	OCWM	15,000.00	15,000.00	15000.00
5.100.002	Dues Per capita	3,876.00	3,880.00	3878.00
5.100.003	Seminary Support CUE	0.00	0.00	
5.100.004	Radio Ministry	6,897.80	7,020.00	7020
5.100.005	Special Benevolence	0.00	0.00	
	Missions-Variou	\$25,773.80	\$25,900.00	\$ 25898.00
5.100.010	Zion Discretionary	225.00		
5.100.012	Out Reach-Easter & Holy Week	1,175.00		
5.100.013	Out Reach-Neighbor in Need	1,297.00		
5.100.014	Out Reach-One Great Hour of Sharing	1,265.00		
5.100.016	Out Reach-Christmas Special Offering	1,982.00		
	Out Reach Ministries	\$5,944.00	12,000.00	
	Missions	\$31,717.80	\$37,900.00	\$ 25898.00
5.200.001	Senior Pastor Salary & Housing	62,500.00*	60,000.00	61200.00
5.200.002	Visitation Pastor Salary	12,500.00*	12,000.00	12000.00
5.200.003	Christian Education & Youth Coordinator	6,180.00*	5,920.00	6800.00
5.200.004	Bookkeeper	1,221.63	6,960.00	
5.200.005	Administrative Secretary	24,844.00	24,960.00	28080.00
5.200.007	Custodians Salaries	4,500.00	6,000.00	6000.00
5.200.008	Senior Choir & Bell Director	5,400.00	5,400.00	5400.00
5.200.009	Organist Salaries	1,925.00	4,000.00	4000.00
5.200.010	Special Musicians	30.00	100.00	
5.200.011	Pulpit Supply	0.00	0.00	2000.00
5.200.012	Workman's Comp Insurance	1,164.00	1,300.00	1300.00
5.200.013	FICA Employer's Contribution	3,371.45	3,500.00	3500.00
5.200.014	Sr. Pastor - TSA	0.00	0.00	
5.200.015	Sr. Pastor Pension	16,900.00*	15,600.00	15875.00
5.200.016	Sr. Pastor Mileage	1,282.35	2,600.00	2700.00
5.200.017	Staff Continuing Ed	0.00	0.00	
5.200.020	Sr. Pastor Cont. Ed	337.02	1,300.00	1200.00
5.200.021	Visitation Pastor Misc. Expense	406.30*	300.00	500.00
5.200.022	Visitation Pastor Mileage	1,049.98	1,600.00	1600.00
5.200.023	Sr. Pastor Expense Misc.	278.18	1,000.00	600.000
5.200.024	Sr. Pastor-Housing Allowance	0.00	0.00	
5.200.025	Sr. Pastors Health Ins	18,957.37	21,305.00	13020.00
5.200.026	Sr. Pastor Life Ins.	1,105.13	1,185.00	1185.00
5.200.027	Sr. Pastor Dental Ins.	1,173.25*	1,020.00	1020.00
5.200.030	Staff Christmas Gifts	450.00*	400.00	400.00
	Staff	\$165,575.66	\$176,450.00	\$ 168,380.00

Annual Report of the Congregation | 2020

5.300.001	Church Insurance Expense	6,696.75	7,725.00	7101.00
5.300.002	Church Utilities	18,191.82	19,000.00	19000.00
5.300.003	Church Phones-Internet	2,899.02*	2,800.00	3000.00
5.300.004	Sr. Pastor's Phone	0.00	0.00	
5.300.005	Custodial Expenses	1,338.66	2,000.00	2000.00
5.300.006	Property Maintenance	66.30	8,000.00	8000.00
5.300.007	Office Equipment & Maintenance	3,404.83	5,000.00	5000.00
5.300.008	Snow/Lawn Care	3,840.00	4,000.00	4500.00
5.300.009	Elevator Maintenance	759.08*	650.00	650.00
5.300.010	Office Supplies	2,137.89	2,200.00	2200.00
5.300.011	Kitchen Supplies	0.00	100.00	100.00
5.300.012	Postage	1,482.30	1,500.00	1500.00
5.300.013	Boiler Equipment	0.00	900.00	900.00
5.300.014	Loan Interest Exp./ Bank Fee	55.00	500.00	500.00
5.300.017	Equipment Maintenance	2,066.15*	700.00	700.00
	Operations and Maintenance	\$42,937.80	\$55,075.00	\$ 55,151.00
5.400.001	Curriculum for CE	0.00	1,300.00	1300.00
5.400.002	General Supplies for CE	57.14	250.00	250.00
5.400.003	VBS (separate account)	250.00	500.00	500.00
5.400.004	Tuition/Mileage for CE	89.70	300.00	300.00
5.400.005	CE Special Events	50.00*	0.00	
5.400.006	Youth Programming	1,619.75*	0.00	
	Christian Education	\$2,066.59	\$2,350.00	\$ 2350.00
5.500.001	Choir Expense	0.00	200.00	100.00
5.500.002	Bell Choir Expense	0.00	100.00	
5.500.003	Special Events	0.00	0.00	
5.500.004	Communion Expense	42.97	200.00	100.00
5.500.005	Bulletin Expense	122.58	500.00	250.00
5.500.006	Contribution Envelopes	346.16	450.00	400.00
5.500.007	Worship Supplies	41.57	100.00	100.00
5.500.008	Choir Appreciation Expense	0.00	0.00	
5.500.009	Flowers	559.45	900.00	900.00
5.500.010	Delegate Expense	0.00	550.00	550.00
5.500.011	Petty Cash-Postage	380.98*	200.00	400.00
5.500.012	Devotional Books	337.50	400.00	400.00
5.500.013	Fellowship Hour Expense	73.29	250.00	100.00
5.500.014	Stewardship Expenses	159.80	300.00	200.00
5.500.015	Confirmation Expense	431.80	1,200.00	300.00
5.500.016	Fellowship Events Expense	0.00	100.00	100.00
5.500.017	Special Gift Expense	500.00*	200.00	200.00
5.500.018	Special Reimbursement Expense	0.00	550.00	550.00
5.500.019	Reimbursed Phone Expense	0.00	0.00	
5.500.020	Beef Dinner Expense	0.00	2,300.00	2300.00
5.500.023	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	
5.500.024	Historical Expense	0.00	150.00	100.00

Annual Report of the Congregation | 2020

5.500.025	Music License	841.00*	550.00	900.00
5.500.026	Misc. Expense	166.17*	50.00	50.00
5.500.027	Church Supper Expense	54.66	325.00	300.00
5.500.028	Praise Band Expense	0.00	100.00	100.00
5.500.029	Advertising Expense	360.26	500.00	250.00
	Programs	\$4,418.19	\$10,175.00	\$ 8650.00
5.700.001	Building Expense	3,706.10*	2,250.00	2250
5.700.002	Capital Payback	0.00	0.00	
	Building projects	\$3,706.10*	\$2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00
5.800.001	Transfer Out (Debt)	0.00	0.00	
	Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	
5.100.017	Out Reach-Strengthen the Church	504.75		
5.300.015	Vanco Invoice Payment	393.22	500.00	500.00
	Total Expense	\$251,320.11	\$284,700.00	\$ 263,179.00
	Difference	<u>\$18,939.67</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	\$ -

BALANCE OF GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT:

January 1, 2020\$20,606.57

December 31, 2020.....\$39,556.84

BALANCES IN COMBINED CHECKING ACCOUNT

Fund	Beginning Balance	Plus Income	Minus Expenses	Ending Balance
Designated Funds	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,400.00	\$600.00
Funeral	\$5,280.71	\$501.31	\$64.53	\$5,717.49
Memorial	\$12,474.98	\$677.98	\$1,722.53	\$11,430.43
Building Fund/HVAC	\$244.62	\$10.00	\$78.74	\$175.88
Youth Account	\$0.00	\$179.25	\$0.00	\$179.25
Parking Lot	\$12,998.50	\$840.00	\$13,078.50	\$760.00
TOTAL	<u>\$30,998.81</u>	<u>\$8,208.54</u>	<u>\$20,344.30</u>	<u>\$18,863.05</u>

Zion United Church of Christ: Our Purpose

Called... by God

*to worship God, to hear God's Word, to give God
praise, honor, and glory.*

(John 4:23-24)

Committed... to Christ

*to witness by sharing our faith in Christ, God's love,
forgiveness, and grace, and the Good News of the Gospel.*

(John 1:6 & Philemon 6)

Connected... in the Holy Spirit

*to work together using the gifts and fruits of
the Holy Spirit in serving others and in joyful fellowship.*

*(Romans 12:6-8; Galatians 5:22-23;
Ephesians 4:11-13; Psalm 112:5 & 9)*