

Zion United Church of Christ
240 S, Elmwood Avenue
Le Sueur, Minnesota 56058



The Zion Herald

January 2024

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

January 2024

Friends in Christ,

It's always tempting in a very public document like the annual report to highlight the "big events"—especially the ones that will make us look good! Many of us sent and received Christmas letters to and from family and friends. On New Year's Eve, birthdays, and even on our taxes: we do some social, financial, and spiritual reflection on the newsworthy occasions and leave the details to the recesses of our memory.

We also do that by telling the stories of our lives. Births, confirmation, prom, graduation, weddings are the major milestone events we use to measure the passage of time. But have you ever noticed when looking at photo albums that it's the so-called ordinary and "not-so-perfect" moments that often tug at our heartstrings most of all? Vacations, home improvement projects, kids playing in a sandbox, birthday parties, the "bunny ears" that show up. These are the telling moments of our lives as much as the milestones. In fact, the "ordinary" happenings are like the mortar that holds together the big bricks of major events.



So, it is with our life together as a community of faith.

You'll see in the pages of the annual report and in this newsletter the dates, statistics, names that reveal important information about our life here at Zion. Our baptisms, new members, funerals, committee information as well as reports about our beautiful facility and our commitment to mission in the world. These are important.

But what holds all these events together? Being present "with" one another as God is with us in Jesus Christ. That's the meaning of Emmanuel—God *with* us.

And God *has* been with us: In the Christmas program, in the fun of Wednesday education night, extra-mile giving, the words of a hymn, the second-mile of devotion. A quiet prayer, the word of praise and encouragement. The sense of vision we shared in our face-to-face meetings. Singing. The bread and cup of communion prepared and received in gratitude. Children sitting on the chancel steps during worship. The patience, forgiveness, hospitality and laughter and tears that we share throughout the year. All the "big" headlines of our work and worship are held together by these invisible moments of grace and love that define us as the people of God.

These "ordinary" events are evidence of the Word that *continues* to become flesh and dwell among us. I'm truly blessed to have shared some of 2023 with you, Zion and look forward to the year ahead.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jan

Annual Meeting Notice



Sunday, January 28, 2024 Following the Worship Service

The Annual Meeting of the Zion congregation will be held on Sunday, January 28th. This is a time for reviewing our ministry in 2023, and looking ahead for our work together for God in this New Year.

All adult members and confirmed youth have voice and vote in this meeting. We believe that the Spirit speaks through the gathering of the faithful. Let the Spirit speak through you and be at the meeting on January 28th.

Annual Reports Due January 5th

All committee chairs, board chairs, and organization presidents – we want the congregation to know what your ministry has been like in 2023. Please email your 2023 year-end activity and financial reports to Diane at zion@zionlesueur.com by Friday, January 5th. Contact Diane at (507) 665-6441 with any questions.

MEMORY SCREENINGS

Wednesday, January 3

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Zion UCC, Le Sueur

Are you concerned about your memory? VINE's Caregiver Coach, Glenda, is offering free 15-minute individual memory screening appointments. These appointments are a great tool for anyone worried about memory loss or for those who want to establish a baseline. Call VINE at (507) 387-1666 to schedule an appointment.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

All of VINE's services, including these caregiver support groups and individual coaching sessions, are open to people of any ethnicity, race, gender or sexual orientation. Without support, caregiving can be difficult and isolating. Gain insight and encouragement from others. Registration is required.

Le Sueur Support Group

Wednesday, January 3, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Zion UCC, Le Sueur

Call (507) 386-5583 to register.

Christmas Letter Offering

To date, \$2,481 was collected through the Christmas Offering. This will be split between the "Christmas Fund" (formerly "Veterans of the Cross") and the staff at Le Sueur - Henderson schools to help families who will benefit from our generous gifts. Thank you to all who gave to the Christmas Letter Offering.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The Zion Fellowship Board is seeking three new members to join us on the Board for the new year beginning January 1. All confirmed members of Zion UCC are Zion Fellowship members. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested, please contact a Board member or notify the church office. (Board Members: Elaine Cronk, Cindy Braun, John Pioske, Alexandra Braun, Sue Fellee, and Delores Loewe.)



February
Save
the Date(s)...

On **February 11th** during our morning worship, Pastor Bob and Sandy Broeder will be honored in a special way for their faithful service to the community, with Pr. Bob receiving the title of Pastor Emeritus of Zion UCC.

Pastor Bob and Sandy served this congregation from 1984 until 2008.

Join us for worship and table fellowship as we celebrate their life-giving relationship with our congregation.

Also...remember Ash Wednesday
is **February 14th**.



Fist Bumps and Air Hugs

We are in the middle of cold and flu season, and with new COVID cases on the rise again, it's time for us to review our personal safety practices.

We're committed to encouraging in-person worship and invite you to use the hand sanitizer provided in the entry to the sanctuary. If you've had a recent exposure to someone who is ill, use your own good judgment about masking. In addition, during Sharing of the Peace, please feel free to use the "fist-bump" or "elbow bump" as a greeting.

These renewed efforts reflect the value we place on both the well-being of our congregation and our personal freedom.

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:31

Radio Broadcasts for 2024.

Do you have someone special you would like to honor or someone who you would like to remember? You can sponsor a radio broadcast in their memory. The cost to sponsor a broadcast is \$140, if you are unable to sponsor the full cost of a week, partial sponsorships are available. This sponsorship helps keep our services on the radio for those who are unable to leave their homes on Sunday mornings.

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast, please contact the church office at 507-665-6441, or sign up on the sheet in the narthex. The cost is \$140. This is a valuable ministry for our homebound members and our community.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will NOT meet in January and February. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council will meet in the Conference Room at 7:00 on Tuesday, January 9th, for the January meeting.

BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Breakfast will meet on Wednesday, January 10, at 8:00 a.m. at Luke's Diner, Le Sueur.

The Women's Breakfast will also meet on Wednesday, January 10, at 8:00 a.m. at Luke's Diner, Le Sueur.

ZION FELLOWSHIP

The Zion Fellowship will meet on Sunday, January 21, following the morning worship service. All members of Zion are members of the Zion Fellowship and are invited to attend.



JANUARY SCHEDULE

- January 3—Vine Caregiver Support Group
- January 7—Worship Service/ Communion/Pastor Robert Broeder/Sunday School
- January 9—Church Council
- January 10—Breakfast Fellowships Wednesday Night Meal & Church School
- January 14—Worship Service Sunday School
- January 17—Wednesday Night Meal & Church School
- January 21—Worship Service/ Fellowship Meeting
- January 24—Wednesday Night Meal & Church School
- January 28—Worship Service/ Annual Meeting

Prayer Requests

Submit prayer requests to Jane at 612-203-5383, or Judy at 507-665-6761, or the church office at 507-665-6441.

Zion United Church of Christ

240 S. Elmwood Ave.
Le Sueur, MN 56058
Phone: 507 665-6441
Fax: 507 665-6442

Email: zion@zionlesueur.com
Website: zionlesueur.com

How Are We Showing God's Love?

Be Part of the Worship Team!

Please sign up at the volunteer table or call the church office at 507-665-6441.

Worship Assistants

Thank you to the members who are serving in our worship services. We invite you to participate also.

January	Scripture Readers	Greeters	Acolytes
January 7	Andie Brinkman	Andie Brinkman	
January 14	Susan Felmlee		
January 21	Delores Loewe		
January 28	Cindy Braun		

Funeral Callers: The Funeral Committee is looking for volunteers to do calling as needed for funerals. Please contact Sylvia Denzer at 507-665-3759, for more information.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have any announcements for the February Zion Herald into the office by
Monday, January 15

December Designated Gifts

The following members have designated gifts for the radio broadcast, bulletins, and Zion Herald:

Norman Pioske, Don & Bonita Boehne,
Rodger & Mavis Grimmelman, Mary Jane Voss,
Clarice Ziebarth, Carol Haas, Joan Reinhardt,
Delores Loewe (2), Leanne Jacobson, Keith Lam-
mers, Larry & Cindy Lehman, Amy Franta,
Allen Prahl, Robert Mediger

Thank you for your loving support of the ministry at Zion United Church of Christ.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND DONATIONS: December

ATTENDANCE (4 Sunday & Christmas Eve)	441
Offering.....	\$27,664.40
Funeral	\$600.00
Initial	\$3.00
Parking Lot.....	\$0.00
Radio	\$550.00
Coffee Hour/Wednesday Supper	\$106.00
Bulletins	\$215.00
Herald	\$25.00
Poinsettia.....	\$15.00
Building	\$0.00
Youth.....	\$77.00
Christmas Offering	\$2,481.00
Repairs.....	\$0.00
Feed My Starving Children.....	\$113.00
Misc.....	\$15.00

You "CAN" help our Youth!

Please save your aluminum cans and bring them to the can trailer in the west parking lot. Thank you for supporting our youth ministry. **Please, no plastic bags or plastic bottles when you dispose of the cans.**

Pop-Up Healthy Meal Event sponsored by Lutheran Social Services

January 11th and January 25th, at 1:30 p.m.

Located at the parking lot of Zion UCC.

There is no cost – Donations are accepted

Need to be a senior at least 60 years old

Each senior will need to complete a form and will receive a bundle of 10 individually wrapped meals.

Treasurer's Report— Year to date summary 11/30/2023

Cash Balance on 1/1/2023	\$31,889.59
Revenue:	\$229,844.52
Expenses:	<u>\$254,188.44</u>
Revenue over Expenses:	<u>-\$24,343.92</u>
Cash Balance on 11/30/2023	\$7,545.67



2023 Giving Statements

Year-end giving statements for 2023 will be run in January. If you need your statement earlier for your taxes, please contact the church office.

Name Zion In Your Will...Have you considered leaving a gift to your church in your Will? Such a gift can have a huge impact on the life of your congregation. Many of us give regularly to the church each week or month from our income; why not from our estates too? It's also a way to give thanks to God for the gifts of your life and lifetime.

Weekly Email Updates: If you are not receiving the e-newsletter and would like to, please contact the office at zion@zionlesueur.com or call (507) 665-6441.

Sponsor Bulletin or Radio Broadcast

Our members and the general public have the opportunity to worship via radio. Our morning service is recorded and then broadcast on radio station KCHK 1350 AM & 95.5 FM at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. This is a wonderful ministry to share

The bulletins are \$35 per Sunday. The radio broadcast can be sponsored for \$140 per Sunday. This is a great way to honor or remember a loved one.

ZION CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES November 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Pastor Jan, Larry Lehman, Lynn Reinhardt, David Braun, Gail Fitzpatrick, Eileen Wells, Bill Sinner, Lauralie Axtell, Bob Braun, Dustin Kahle, Mark Pinney. Members absent: Jeff Reddemann, Tanya Dvorak.

Meeting was called to order by President David Braun at 7:00 p.m. Pastoral prayers and Elders prayer for 1/12 of congregation.

Pastor Jan's Meditation/Reflection: Pastor Jan read an excerpt from the book *Pigeon Prayers and Praises* by Mary Ahlstrom Palmquist.

The Minutes of the October 10, 2023, meeting were reviewed and discussed. Eileen made a motion to approve

2024 Envelopes Are Available

Please pick up your 2024 Giving Envelope. They are in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not have envelopes for the new year, please contact the church office.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Pastor	Reverend Janet Crissinger
.....	pastorjan@zionlesueur.com
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper	Diane Frauendienst
.....	zion@zionlesueur.com
Custodian	Dustin & Tonya Kahle
Choir Director
Musical Director.....	Brian Braun
.....	bwb223ls@gmail.com
Kitchen Supervisor	Sylvia Denzer
.....	sylviadenzer@gmail.com
Musicians:	Mary Trimbo
.....	Betty Jo Braun
.....	Art & Barb Straub

Phone:507 665-6441
 Email: zion@zionlesueur.com
 Website:zionlesueur.com

Monday	8:30 - 5:00
Tuesday	8:30 - 5:00
Wednesday	8:30 - 5:00

ADDRESS UPDATES

Please notify the church office of any address and phone number changes. Email updates to zion@zionlesueur.com

the October 10, 2023, minutes. Mark seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The October Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Bob made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's Report. Eileen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- On October 30, 2023, the 9-month CD matured and \$22,879.47 was reinvested in a 7-month CD that will mature on May 31, 2024. The interest rate is 4.770%.
- Dustin and Diane will set the amount to be held on the First Farmers and Merchants Bank church debit card. Limited funds will be available in the account to be used for church items.
- Received \$12,500 in contributions to date for the building repair fund.

Council Minutes continued.

Correspondence:

- Pastor Jan read an email from Kirby Hurd, Grant Director at CADA House, thanking Zion UCC for their support.
- Ruth Circle is raising funds in November to donate to CADA.

Pastor Jan's Report:

- The Confirmation Class had a field trip to Feed My Starving Children on November 8, 2023.
- The Adult Choir will meet on November 15, 2023.
- The Worship/Altar Guild Committee met the prior week.
- VINE's caregiver coach Glenda is offering free 15-minute individual memory screening appointments on January 3, 2024 @1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Pastor Jan requested pulpit supply on December 3, 2023. Bob made a motion to approve pulpit supply on December 3, 2023. Eileen seconded, and it was unanimously approved. Reverend Broeder will provide pulpit supply.
- Council held discussion regarding a proposal to bestow upon Pastor Bob Broeder the Honorary Designation of Pastor Emeritus.

Continuing Business:

- Council is still looking for a replacement for a choir director. The job description was revised and forwarded to Gustavus Music Department to pass to the music education department.
- Bob will speak to the congregation regarding the Neighbor's in Need promotion.
- An ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held on November 21, 2023 at Zion UCC.

New Business:

- The property insurance report was received. The initial proposed premium for 2024 is \$13,473.11. The accepted premium with policy revisions for 2024 will be \$12,363.94.
- Discussion was held regarding a leadership mini-retreat in February, 2024, to develop a plan to find strengths and needs to be met in the church. Dates will be discussed at future meetings.
- Council discussed staff reviews and salary negotiations as they have not been done since COVID. The Executive Committee will meet and discuss.

Deacons:

- Discussion was held regarding the budget development process for 2024. Pledge cards and letters will be mailed out. Encouraged the development of the budget before the Christmas season.

Elders:

- Two council positions are up for election in 2024. David and Gail will both have completed six years.

- Discussion was held regarding electing versus appointing Christian Education committee members.

Trustees:

- Trustees are still trying to detect the source of the roof water leak.
- Need a replacement for a licensed boiler operator.. HVAC has been shut down and the boiler has been started.
- Trustees to inquire with other churches regarding chemicals for the boiler.

Committee Reports: The Altar Committee met and have dates scheduled for setting up Christmas decorations.

Other Business:

- Discussion was held regarding Christmas Eve services in 2023 as it is on a Sunday. Bob made a motion to have only two services on Christmas Eve. The Fourth Advent Service will be held Christmas Eve morning at 9:00 a.m. The second service will be held on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. Bill seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Discussion was held regarding the Christmas offering designation. One-half of the amount will go to the Christmas Fund "Veterans of Cross." David will speak with Molly Thelemann who facilitated our donation offering to children in the local school district. Council will discuss the matter further at the December council meeting.

Major calendar dates:

First Choir Rehearsal: November 15, 2023

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service: November 21, 2023
@ Zion

Stewardship Sunday: November 19, 2023

SCS Christmas Program: December 17, 2023 @9:00 a.m.

Due date for annual reports: January 5, 2024

Annual Meeting: January 28, 2024

TBD: Installation service for Pastor Jan

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dustin seconded, and the meeting was adjourned. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Reinhardt, Secretary

Email Action November 21, 2023: On November 21, 2023, David sent an email to all council members regarding the Christmas offering designation. David spoke with Molly Thelemann who facilitated our donation offering last year to children in the local district. David questioned all council members whether they would prefer the donation to one family or more than one family.

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 Worship 10:00 Radio Broadcast 10:00 Social Hour	1	2	3 3:00 Vine Caregiver Support Group	4	5	6
7 9:00 Worship/Communion Sunday School 10:00 Radio Broadcast 10:00 Social Hour	8	9 7:00 Church Council Meeting	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Women's Breakfast 6:00 Wednesday Night Meal, Church School & Confirmation	11 1:30 Meal Distribution	12	13
14 9:00 Worship Sunday School 10:00 Radio Broadcast 10:00 Social Hour	15	16	17 6:00 Wednesday Night Meal, Church School & Confirmation	18	19	20
21 9:00 Worship Service Sunday School 10:00 Radio Broadcast 10:00 Social Hour	22	23	24 6:00 Wednesday Night Activities	25 1:30 Meal Distribution	26	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Annual Meeting 10:00 Social Hour 10:00 Radio Broadcast	29	30	31 6:00 Wednesday Night Activities	1 1:30 Meal Distribution	2	3

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
240 South Elmwood Avenue
Le Sueur, Minnesota 56058

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #10
Le Sueur, MN 56058

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.
Church School: Wednesday, September-May
6:00 —7:00 p.m.
Recorded Worship Broadcast Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
KCHK—1350 AM & 95.5 FM
Www.kchkradio.net
Or anytime at www.zionlesueur.com



ZION HERALD
January 2024

Zion's Mission Statement

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)