

# The Zion Flame

## June 2021



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
7215 Valley View Rd. Ferndale, WA

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 434 Custer, WA 98240

Email: [office@zionlutheranwhatcom.org](mailto:office@zionlutheranwhatcom.org)

On the web: [www.zionlutheranwhatcom.org](http://www.zionlutheranwhatcom.org)



**Pastor Becky Langholz**

Dear ones in Christ,

We will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, directly after worship. This is a chance for us all to catch up and check-in about our ministry in thus far in 2021. The last time we met for a congregational meeting in person was January 2020, close to 18 months ago! We managed to meet over Zoom this past January 2021 and take care of necessary business, but it does not replace talking about our shared ministry face-to-face. I am looking forward to our time and expect we will speak to these highlights:

**Phasing out COVID restrictions.** On Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, we will switch from online worship via Zoom to online worship via YouTube Live. My preference is to continue masking and distancing on Sunday mornings until the protocols are lifted for all; I have no interest in forming “vaccinated” and “unvaccinated” sections of our church. We anxiously await news from the State about when we can share food again—a crucial part of worship and our lives together.

**Vandalism and security.** We suffered two broken windows during these past 14 months. Cordoning off the parking lot has reduced unauthorized traffic and loitering, but it is still an issue. New security cameras allow us to check for overnight activity.

**Financial update.** We received two PPP loans during the course of the pandemic, totaling close to \$25K. We are on solid financial footing: meeting our commitments, tending to necessary upkeep, cash reserves close to \$40K and longer-term invested reserves close to \$23K. God continues to provide and sustain us in ministry.

**Church programs and events.** There will be increasing opportunities for outreach, education and fellowship events as we ease out of the pandemic, but these offerings will not be the same as they were before. Ask yourselves: how might the Spirit be calling you to serve your church and community these days?

We are headed into my favorite time of the church year: the Sundays after Pentecost or “ordinary time.” Our festival days have passed; there will not be another until Reformation Sunday at the end of October! We now roll up our sleeves and tend to the everyday ministry to which God has called. Martin Luther’s “priesthood of all believers” reminds us that it is not just the ordained clergy who engage in “ministry”, but all of God’s children. How would you describe your ministry? You make a difference, and we can do anything (even wash the dishes!) to the glory of God.

Holy Spirit power and peace to you all,

*Pr. Becky Langholz*

Pr. Becky is regularly in the office on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9am-12pm.  
**She can also be reached by cell phone: (360) 393-6630 or by email: [pastor@zionlutheranwhatcom.org](mailto:pastor@zionlutheranwhatcom.org)**

**Church financial report (through April 2021)**

General Congregational Funds: \$39,226.26

Special Funds: \$8,054.23

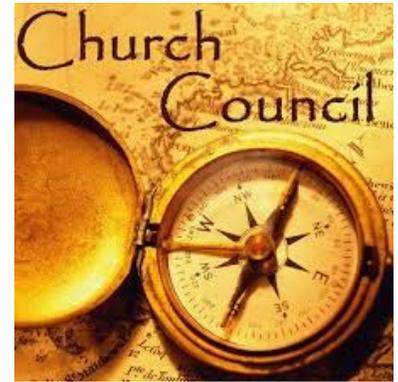
Thrivent Limited Maturity Bond: \$22,867.99

For the year 2021:

Receipts: \$36,611.00

Expenses: \$21,274.38

Net: \$15,336.62

**Treasurer Ken Quinn's hard work helped Zion to obtain a second PPP loan in January 2021 in the amount of \$12,185.**

It was used in February, March and April for designated expenses (staff salary, benefits and utilities), and there is no remaining balance. PPP funds and the expenses they were used for are not included in receipts and expenses above. We will be applying for loan forgiveness.

**The Church Council will meet on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.** If you have reports or agenda items for the meeting, please get them into Pr. Becky by Monday, May 31st. Council members, information for the meeting will be in your boxes for review by Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**Save the date: Zion will hold a semi-annual congregational meeting on Sunday, June 6 immediately following 10am worship.** This will be a chance to touch base about stewardship, our ongoing pandemic response and more. Thank you for making time for us to meet.

**You can now give to the ministry of our congregation on our church website:** [www.zionlutheranwhatcom.org](http://www.zionlutheranwhatcom.org). Click on the "Give" tab, and you will be directed to an online giving page managed by Vanco online giving. Vanco services thousands of other congregations across the country. Each donation is charged a small processing fee, and the donor can choose to cover this cost for the church. You can give to our general budget and to our special ministries. If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Becky.



**Pr. Becky is in the church office Mondays & Thursdays from 9am-12pm.** She is also working from home and can be reached on her cell phone: (360) 393-6630 or via email at [pastor@zionlutheranwhatcom.org](mailto:pastor@zionlutheranwhatcom.org) Fridays are her day off; only emergency or prayer chain calls/texts on Fridays, please.

**June 2021**

**From the Bishop**

I began my Bishop's Report for the 2021 Synod Assembly on May 15, 2021 by quoting Paul in his letter to the Romans, "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world."

I am so glad to be the Northwest Washington Synod with you – as we walk, journey, travel together. We are connected as the body of Christ – as siblings in Christ – together. We are the Northwest Washington Synod in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully. As people forgiven and redeemed, beloved and welcomed, we are called to embody God's grace in speech, action, and relationships. I am reminded daily that it is Jesus Christ who loves, welcomes, and forgives. As baptized children of God, we are called to participate in this love, hospitality, and forgiveness. I am thankful for all of you for your love, your welcome, and your forgiveness.

We on the synod staff have agreed to embrace the following statement as we work together with the congregations and ministry sites of this synod: *"Trusting in the Spirit, we are journeying together with God's people so that all may discover and participate in what God is doing among us through Jesus."*

Further, there are five focus areas interwoven in the work that we are doing as we journey together in Christ:

1. Faithful Innovation
2. Youth and Young Adults
3. Leadership
4. Connection
5. Racial Justice

I'd like to lift up a few of the actions from the 2021 NW WA Synod Assembly:

- ◆ We had our first online assembly with 332 voting members in attendance on Zoom and over 200 following along on our Facebook Livestream.
- ◆ We approved the Recommended Changes to the Constitution that were forwarded from the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- ◆ We approved the changes to the Constitution proposed by the Synod Council (with a minor amendment to have the Nominating Committee changed to 5 persons).
- ◆ We elected persons to the following:
  - ◆ Synod Council
  - ◆ Committee on Discipline
  - ◆ Consultation Committee
  - ◆ Voting Members to the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Approved budget
  - ◆ We shared videos from our ministry partners and synod committees/teams
  - ◆ Announced Grace Grants recipients

As we do the work of this synod, I am reminded that it is not us but the Spirit that leads and guides. Trusting God's promises and participating in the Holy Spirit, we have reached places beyond what I thought possible. We have exceeded priorities and we are moving forward towards God's preferred future. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee





**Your prayers make a difference!** If you have a person or situation that needs prayer, please call Pr. Becky and let her know. She can alert Zion's prayer chain and/or add the item to our congregational list.

## Our prayers as a congregation continue:

- ◆ For all experiencing sickness, difficulty or grief, especially Bethany, Sophia, Donna, Mark, Nina, Carol, Barbara, Kristi, Lorna and Donna.
- ◆ For all experiencing cancer especially Tammy, Brayden, Maye, Kelly and Kinsley.
- ◆ For these ministries: Lutino Adunu in Gulu, Uganda, Sol de Justicia church in Grecia, Costa Rica, Hogar Irekani in Michoacán, México, African S.M.I.L.E in Tanzania and Family Promise of Whatcom County.
- ◆ For health, endurance and wisdom for all as the pandemic continues.

## June Birthdays

10 Ken Quinn

20 Esther Irvine

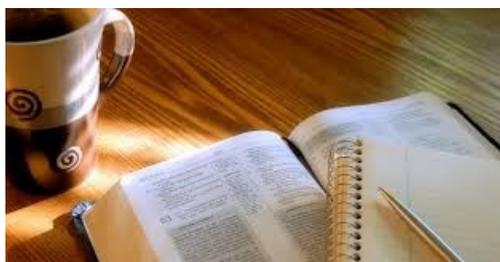
23 Tom Jensen



“May the Lord bless and keep you another year through!”



**Zion has a “prayer chain”—a faithful group of people committed to pray for special needs in our congregation and beyond. If you would like prayer for someone or something, call Pr. Becky, and she will get the chain going. We give thanks for the power of prayer and this important ministry.**



**Monday Bible Study will meet June 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> this month and then take a break for the summer.** We meet at 12pm in the church basement. Please wear your mask and bring your Bible.



**Worship is available both in-person and simultaneously over Zoom each Sunday at 10am.** If you choose to come to the sanctuary, please be reminded that all WA State protocols will be in place. Please screen yourself for COVID symptoms and stay home if you feel unwell. If you have questions or concerns, please speak to Pr. Becky or to President Norman Meyers.

Here is the information to join worship over Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/755630216?pwd=MVJvMktGRFTFYaIVIZGNHWnFVaDRxQT09>

Meeting ID: 755 630 216

Password: 202352

[By phone: 1 \(253\) 215 8782](tel:12532158782)

Resources for worship and reflection are also available on our [YouTube channel](#).



**At its May meeting, the Church Council determined that we would shift our online worship option starting on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.** Instead of offering online access to worship via Zoom, **we will be using YouTube Live.** You will be able to see and hear worship in real time or watch a recording later. This option to access worship online will continue beyond the pandemic. **Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> will be our last using Zoom.**



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

**The Northwest WA Synod Assembly took place on May 15<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.** Even with the challenges of the pandemic and new technology, we were able to faithfully tend to the business of the Synod. We heard reports from the Bishop and others, made updates to the Synod constitution, approved a Synod budget for the coming year 2022 and elected representatives to various committees. **Pr. Becky was elected to serve on the Synod Council for a three-year term.**

*Blessed*



### Events in June

**Graduate Sunday will be June 13<sup>th</sup>.** In recent years and thanks to the leadership of Janel Black, Zion has cultivated relationships with some young people in our area. Six of them are graduating from high school in 2021 (including Hope Jose-Day and Caleb Irvine). **We are inviting them to church on the 13<sup>th</sup> to honor them and to bless them on their future endeavors.** Plan to come and enjoy the celebration!



**Pr. Bobbi Virta of United Church of Ferndale is retiring on June 13<sup>th</sup>.** There is a drive-in send-off event for her on **Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the UCF parking lot.** Zion has been blessed to be in partnership with Pr. Bobbi and with United Church of Ferndale for many years; we pray God's peace and blessings be with her in her future endeavors.

### From the Archives



**May 1954:** Pastor Theol Hoiland holds a shovel as digging begins on the basement under the new sanctuary.

### The children of Zion's Vacation Bible School in the summer of 1946.

Pastor Halvorson is standing in the back row on the left.

