

The Zion Flame July 2022

Zion Lutheran Church

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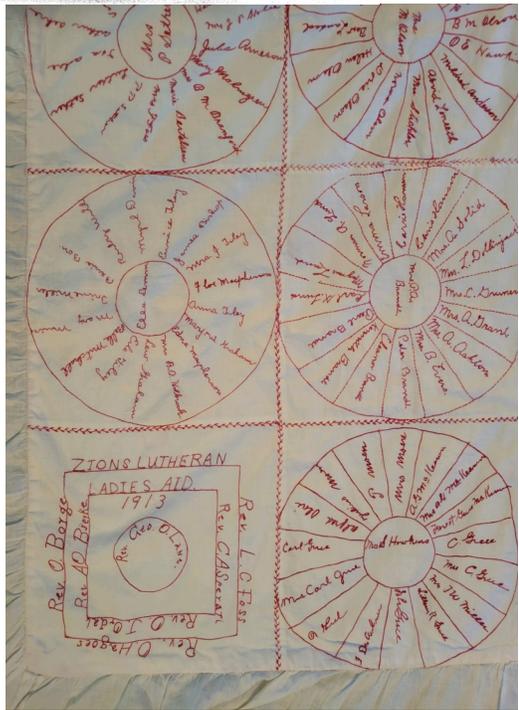
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Pastor Becky Langholz

Dear ones in Christ,

We had a remarkable thing happen here last week. A quilt from our church made in 1913 resurfaced in an antique store 2600 miles away in Huntsville, Alabama. Amazingly, someone saw it in the store and thought that a Lutheran church should have it. They took the time to buy the piece and sent it along to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Huntsville, and a woman from the church tracked it to us. The quilt arrived on June 24th, and we now have it to enjoy and admire. Zion was founded in 1903, and we have an amazing legacy to celebrate. This quilt that miraculously made its way back is going to help us to do just that.



Upon initial inspection, while the quilt belongs here (one square is embroidered with "Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid 1913"), it not just about Zion. The quilt is filled with names—around 700 of them! Each square has a woman's name in the middle and other names going out around it, like spokes on a bicycle wheel. Some squares are identified with "Bellingham, WA", and one reads "Colfax, WA". We wonder if this quilt was a collaborative effort of Ladies Aid groups in various congregations, perhaps

organized by Zion. One square lists our former pastors' names, and that is how the quilt was tracked to us. Around this time many smaller Norwegian congregations (like Zion) in the area were grouped together—with one pastor or a small team sharing duties at a handful of congregations. Lay leaders were crucial in conducting worship when pastors were serving in other locations and in carrying out the operational tasks and mission of the congregations.

God's timing is amazing, and things seem to have come full circle. Currently, five of the eight ELCA congregations in our Whatcom County "cluster" that generally have pastors are in search of one. Some of these congregations question their ability to afford a full-time pastor as they have had in the past. Two others (Clearbrook and Point Roberts) have not had called pastors for years. Could this be a time revisit our collaborative past? It is one thing for ordained clergy to have conversations like this (and trust me, we do, every time we get together!), and it is another for lay people have conversations like this with one another, across congregational lines. Might we come to think of Lutheran ministry in Whatcom County in a broader way? It is all of you as lay people, as congregational stewards, who have the most power in making collaboration happen.

What a blessing it is to do ministry with all of you—119 years of it and counting! May God continue to guide our efforts to share Jesus' love to all people here in Whatcom County and beyond.

In Christ's service,
Pr. Becky Langholz

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

Happy 4th of July! Pr. Becky will not be in the office on Monday July 4th but can be reached on her cell phone: (360) 393-6630.



Thank you, thank you! We have raised \$4,500 for our summer painting project. We will be painting the parsonage, its garage and the chimney of the south-facing church wall. Our bid for the project is \$3,300 for labor. Thrivent Action Team grants will provide funding for the paint. Many thanks to those church members who have applied for grants. This leaves us with \$1,200 for contingencies. Continue to pray that this project might go smoothly.

On Sunday, June 12th, we held a semi-annual congregational meeting immediately after worship. Many thanks to those who participated. We heard an update on our ministries, church finances and details about the upcoming summer painting project. Our church is a non-profit organization stewarded by a volunteer Church Council and by all of you Church members! We are Church together. Thank you for your engagement and leadership.

The Church Council will not meet in the month of July but will meet again on Thursday, August 11th at 4:30pm. Reports or agenda items for the meeting are due by Weds., August 3rd. Continue to hold our church leaders in prayer and thank them for their time and effort.

Financial Information (through May 2022):

General Fund Balance: \$36,177.48

Special Fund Balance: \$8,911.72

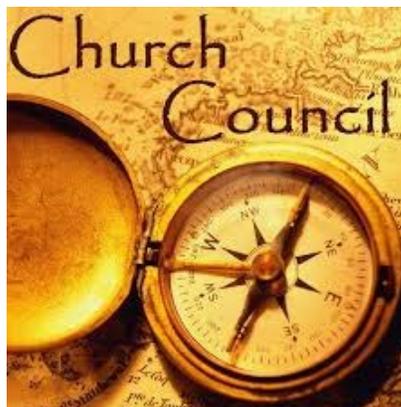
Thrivent Mutual Fund Balance: \$22,045.03

For the year 2022:

Receipts: \$52,177.88

Expenses: \$45,662.90

Net: \$6,454.98



Did you know you can give to our church online? You can even set up automatic withdrawals or give to specific special funds. Check out our church website: www.zionlutheranwhatcom.org and the "Give" tab for more information.

WORSHIP

Pentecost, June 5th, was an exciting day at church. Pictured here are Mina Arazm's baptism and our "heritage dinner" feast!



Zion welcomed new members in June: Mina Arazm, Debi Covert-Bowlds and Sue Flaherty. Welcome, children of God. It is so good to life out our faith in community. May God bless us as we get to know one another and share our lives together.

Connect with Zion online: Resources for worship and reflection are available on our church [YouTube channel](#). We also live-stream the worship service there each Sunday at 10am. You can also find the church on Facebook.

The June Strawberry Social was enjoyed by all!





July Outreach and Missions

Zion's on-going collections:

- Non-perishable food items
- Household items and toiletries
- Bottled water

We partner with local non-profits to get these items to community members in need.
Thank you for your generous contributions!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Zion will collect your aluminum cans for recycling! Proceeds from this have funded many church improvements over the years. Drop off cans in the bin by the basement ramp door. Speak to Brenda Bannerman for more details.



We'll gather to clean the church on Saturday, July 2nd at 9am. Cleaning and maintaining our church are volunteer efforts, and many hands make light work. Come on out for an hour of vacuuming, dusting and generally sprucing up our beloved church building.

Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Since 1903
The beloved, forgiven people of God.
Called to spread the Good News so as to build up the body of Christ.
Gifted to share the healing love of Jesus Christ with our hurting world.
Empowered by the Spirit to be a caring country congregation for ministry to one another and the larger community.



Zion's Relational Covenant

In our life together, we will...
Give thanks to God for the gift of our church and each other. Honor and respect our diverse opinions, perspectives and work-styles. Take responsibility for our own feelings and deal with issues directly. Ask clarifying questions and avoid making assumptions. Speak up honestly in the proper time and place. Make decisions in a transparent manner. Support decisions made by the group. Pray for unity in our congregation.

From the VEEP**July 2022**

As I write this, NWWA Synod Assembly (Abound in Hope) has just wrapped up. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, worship, and action. All three resolutions brought before the assembly passed and the spending plans and budget caps for the next two years were approved. If you would like to see a recording of the event, you can find it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=8s. I would especially commend to you the bishop's sermon from the morning worship. (Find it beginning at minute 31:00.). She was so eloquent on how it is we can abound in hope amidst the many serious challenges we face as individuals, as a nation, and as a church.

I was also elected to a second term, and, as I said in my remarks to the assembly, it is my very great privilege to serve as vice president of the NWWA Synod. I also shared something that I believe is very important in the way synod governance is configured in the ELCA. There are two officer roles which have very specific and distinct qualifications. The bishop, who is also the president, must be a minister of word and sacrament (which makes sense since the bishop is also the pastor of the synod) and the vice president must be a lay person. The two top offices of the synod reflect the partnership between clergy and laity that makes us strong. We don't need to be called to ordained ministry to serve the church. We are all, clergy and lay, called to serve our neighbor, witness to God's grace and power, and love one another as God loves us. Our ministries can take many forms. Some of us serve meals to the hungry, some build homes for the unhoused, some provide a listening ear or a soft shoulder to those in distress, and some cover their cars with uplifting and affirming magnets to spread God's love wherever they go.

We are blessed here in the NWWA Synod with strong, faithful, spirit filled leaders, both rostered and lay, who have answered a call to ministry by serving on synod council. I'd like to take just a moment to introduce you to them.

The following people will be continuing on council:

Imani Austin (youth)
 Bart Brosten (Treasurer)
 Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo
 Pastor Ivar Hillesland
 Pastor Rebecca Langholz
 Sherianne Molzhan Caldwell
 Lauren Ode-Giles (young adult)
 Pastor Sam Sseba
 Elizabeth (Elly) Stitt

Newly elected/appointed council members:

Deacon Luke Allgeyer
 Salvador Cossio
 Pastor Netsie Griffith (Secretary)
 Shane Lambing
 Cindy Shultz

I look forward to working with these servant leaders as we continue to go forward, abounding in hope. Thank you to those council members who concluded their terms this year: Deacon Amy Bingham, James Colver, Beth Lewis, Eric Peoples, and Pastor Deanna Wildermuth – we have been richly blessed by your leadership!

Here are a few things I or the Synod Council have been up to:

June 3 Council Meeting
 June 4 Synod Assembly!
 Executive Committee did not meet in June, having just completed the assembly there was no work for us to tackle. Synod Council meets on July 16.

Kay Edgerton, Vice President veep@lutheransnw.org



From the Bishop

July 2022

It was a joy and delight to gather for the 2022 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, “Abound in Hope!” With over 330 people in attendance, the atmosphere was warm, inviting, celebratory, and festive. We had not gathered in-person since 2019 and it was so good to be together again.

We sang, we clapped, we listened, we learned, we prayed, we worshiped, we spoke, and we did the business of the Church. Through all of it, we trust and know that the Holy Spirit is moving and dancing in the Northwest Washington Synod. I invite you to watch the entire synod assembly here on our YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=6s or the highlights that are hyperlinked below. (You will also find

each of the individual videos on the synod website here: www.lutheransnw.org/synod-assembly.)

During the day, we played four “Stories of Hope” videos from congregations in our synod.

Learn more about these ministries:

- Monroe Congregation Partnership vimeo.com/714332195/0b6b67b19b
- Faith Lutheran, Everett vimeo.com/714332202/ca4c6b5029
- Lutheran Church in the San Juans vimeo.com/714332210/3310c53d2c
- Prince of Peace, SeaTac vimeo.com/714335177/aefc3769a3

We lifted up congregations and rostered ministers who were celebrating milestone anniversaries:

- Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley celebrating 50 years of ministry
- Faith Lutheran, Redmond celebrating 75 years of ministry

Watch the Rostered Minister Celebration Video here: <https://vimeo.com/717125144>

We gave thanks to one congregation and two SAWCs (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities) for their faithful ministry who entered legacy through closure or merger:

- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Issaquah - merged with Our Savior Lutheran Church, Issaquah
- Seattle Taiwanese Lutheran Fellowship, Seattle - closed Reborn Fellowship, Shoreline - closed

We discussed and passed three resolutions which have now been referred to the ELCA Memorials Committee for consideration by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly this August. These resolutions are linked below – you may also find them on our synod assembly webpage.

[Reparations and Land Return Memorial](#)

[Audit of ELCA Constitutions and Bylaws](#)

[Portico Review to Grant Disability Status to Persons Experiencing Mental Illness](#)

In the Bishop’s Report, the synod staff and I lifted up our priorities and values for this next year.

Find details in the videos below and in my written [Report of the Bishop](#).

Established Congregations and New Expressions of Ministry - <https://vimeo.com/716119337>

Transitions - <https://vimeo.com/716116325>

Legacy - <https://vimeo.com/716125835>

The LiVE Project - <https://vimeo.com/716102514>

Synodically Authorized Ministers (www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=8s at 2:27:23)

Justice, Equity, and Belonging (www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PQcXh9IZvY&t=8s at 2:28:45)

The Synod Assembly was a wonderful time together. As I look forward to this next year, I am thankful to God for the Spirit of love and grace that permeates this synod. I am thankful for the synod staff and for synod council. And I am thankful for you - dear Beloveds of Christ in the Northwest Washington Synod.

I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

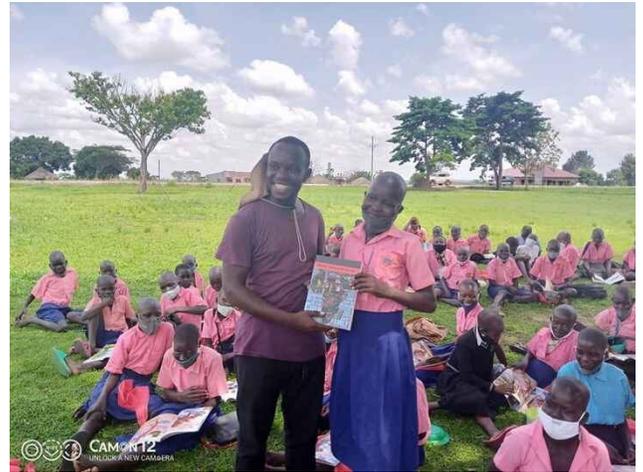
+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org



July Events

Save the date: On Sunday, July 24th at 6:30pm, there will be a piano concert at **United Church of Ferndale (2034 Washington St.)** to raise funds for **Lutino Adunu, a non-profit organization in Gulu, Uganda.** There will also be silent auction items and a pie social and sale. More details coming soon. Questions? Please speak to Dawn-Marie Hanrahan (360) 384-2497.



Save the Date: On Saturday September 17, 2022, Zion will host a “safeTALK” suicide prevention workshop facilitated by ELCA Pastor John Swanson. This workshop is open to all community members 15 and older who would like to be trained to support people experiencing mental and emotional distress. We have room for 10-40 participants. Questions or if you would like to sign up, please speak to Pr. Becky. Please spread the word to any friends or family members that you think might benefit from this workshop.

From NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness):

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month — a time to raise awareness on this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. In addition to shifting public perception, we use this month to spread hope and vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

