

September-October 2021

Newsletter



Zion

Lutheran Church

808 W. Porter Ave. Stockton, CA 95207

Worship:

September 1-30th Sunday 8:30 am

Starting October 3 Sunday 9:00am

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8-1pm

**Phone 209-477-0259 or
office@zlcstockton.org**

www.zlcstockton.org

Weekly Activities:

Sunday

8:30am
9:00am
3:00pm

Sunday Worship (Until Oct 3)
Sunday Worship (Starts Oct 3)
Christian Education Forum (resumes Oct 3)

Monday

6:00pm

Council Meeting (2nd Monday)

Tuesday

7:00pm

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday

7:00am

Men's Breakfast

Upcoming Events:

09/14		Election Polling Place
10/03	9:00am	Worship Service Time Change
10/3	3:00pm	Christian Education Forum Resumes
10/06	6-7:30pm	Hymn Sing Night
10/8-10/12		Women's Retreat
10/17	9:00am	Alide Popuch Memorial in Service
10/27	6-7:30pm	Hymn Sing Night @ St. Annes
11/24	7:00pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service @ St. Annes

Council Members

President	Dianne Hooton (209) 601-9022
Vice President	Lauren Ahtye (209) 986-3018
Treasurer	Chris DeRoos (209) 915-3208
Secretary	Connie Eastwood (209) 3925
At-Large	Sharon Carr (209) 478-6032
At-Large	Deborah Griffin (773-882-0592
At-Large	Ana Landa (209) 993-9272

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Zion Lutheran community,

A year ago, Zion Lutheran Church and the Episcopal Church of St. Anne embarked on a partnership and began to share me as the minister of both congregations. With that change came the new challenges of the congregations now having a part-time minister and new Sunday schedules. Part of the agreement stipulated that the leadership of the congregations would reexamine the partnership and schedule after one year.

This month the council and vestry leaders met and discussed the service times. It was unanimously agreed that the complicated time arrangement we had made with a moving service time did not work effectively for several reasons. The result of this was that vestry and council put together a committee tasked with negotiating a new Sunday schedule. The committee met on August 23 and their schedule was subsequently approved by the vestry and council.

Beginning Sunday, October 3 the following will be the new schedule for the two congregations:

Sunday Worship

9:00am Zion Lutheran Church

10:30am Episcopal Church of St. Anne

****St. Anne's will continue 1st Sunday of the month Eucharist service at 5:00pm.***

Christian Education Forum

3:00pm joint congregational Christian Education Forum held at Zion

The committee members of both congregations felt Zion was the best place to hold the Christian Education because the space of their church allows for the necessary social distancing. This does not make this Zion's Christian education to which St. Anne's is invited, this is a shared venture and is the Christian education of both congregations. The tradeoff of this decision is that most of the joint worship services (Thanksgiving Eve, Epiphany, Holy Week, etc..) will be held at the Episcopal Church of St. Anne. This is a partnership between two congregations and we hope folks from both congregations will attend these events as such.

Jesus said: "The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him." This partnership is living into that vision. The Church is not a building, it is the people of God meeting to worship and be fed to better serve God and our neighbor. I look forward to bravely living with you into this new and unknown world we find ourselves in.

The vestry and council will meet again next August to discuss how this new schedule is working out for the congregations.

I want to thank the committee, vestry, and council for all their hard and honest work on reflecting what is best and possible as both congregations continue to seek out how to be the people of God here in Stockton.

Peace be with you all,
Pastor Ryan

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

What a difference nine months makes. Last winter, Pastor Ryan and I had a difficult conversation about the future of our church. With 35-45 parishioners typically attending weekly during non-COVID times and only 1/3 of our congregation making pledges, we worried about how Zion Lutheran Church was going to survive financially. A year ago, Pastor Ryan became a half time minister at Zion Lutheran Church to help which obviously saves us 50% of his salary. Yet, there were almost no other ways we could cut expenses.

Thankfully, we received two grants from the federal government totaling over \$50,000 which gave us the funds needed to survive through 2020 and 2021. And as I wrote you in June, even greater gifts were requests from three churches and Family Promise to use our facilities, thus giving us permanent sources of income for the future. True, along with these organizations comes the realization that Grace Hall is no longer available on Sundays or on Wednesday evenings, and the entire educational wing will become the headquarters and day center for Family Promise.

Yet, with the money we receive from these four sources, our financial status has become less precarious. We do need to find more ways to stay afloat financially for there will be no more federal grants. Yet, for right now we can take a deep sigh of relief. Oh, and thank God.

Lastly, included in this newsletter are plans for two new ministries, ones that I hope all of us will embrace. The continuous clothing drive for HUB and Soldiers' Angels will be wonderful ways to help both our community and our armed forces. Please consider how you will be able to contribute to either or both.

Love,

Dianne

Treasurer Report

Taking on the job of Treasurer has been an experience. On behalf of the Zion congregation, I have to thank Elaine Werner for her stewardship of the post over the last three years. She left some big shoes to fill, and I am determined to do my best to fill them.

We as a congregation always strive to do our best when it comes to tithing, and factors like the ever-changing situation with COVID have been a challenge for all of us.

The Budget for Zion Lutheran Church is in decent standing as I write this, but could be a lot better.

The government Payroll Protect Plan (PPP) loan was a big help to our overall budget earlier this year, however General Offerings are down 9% compared to this time last year, though we do still have four months left in the year.

Zion's Council is striving to keep the budget in line, and with the leasing of the Education Wing and Grace Hall, we hope to stay within our projected budget for the remainder of the year.

Christopher DeRoos

Fellowship Committee Report

This past year, COVID has prevented us from doing our normal activities, and it is still keeping us guessing. However, we are continuing to keep in touch with the Congregation with special handmade cards which we have been sending almost monthly.

As we start to come back from COVID, the Fellowship Committee is providing cookies for our coffee hour. (We thank Ron Spohn for his great coffee every week.) As we get into fall, we will be keeping you informed as to special events, such as Reformation Sunday.

We would also especially like to thank everyone who helped in providing food, set up and clean up for Vaness's reception. It was greatly appreciated by her family.

God bless you all,

Judi Renberg

Buildings and Grounds Report

If you stopped by the church during the week in July or August, you may have noticed two men on ladders high above the ground. The exterior of our church has had a makeover with fresh paint covering everything except the brick, and then, even some of it! Repairs have been made to the interior of the church as well as a fresh coat of paint in the narthex. The landscaping throughout the grounds has been cleaned up, too, a necessity for much of the painting to take place.

Regretfully, after contacting companies in Stockton, German Glassworks in Manteca that Vaness had recommended, and Sacramento, it was impossible to locate a 3' x 4' pane of textured green glass to replace one that had broken in the east window of the sanctuary. Thankfully some of the panes are wood, so replacing the broken glass with wood was not noticeable.

Please let me know about other projects we should consider.

Dianne Spear Hooton

An emergency? Need help immediately?

Last month we had an incidence where emergency pastoral care was needed "after hours". It made me think in a way I have never before. What happens when someone needs pastoral care when our pastor has a personal emergency? It is impossible for him to be available 24/7 and unfair to "assume" he can be.

The council has come up with a backup plan that will hopefully cover all the bases. Lauren AhTye, who will be heading the Social Concerns ministry, has graciously agreed to be the first person to call if our pastor is not available. She will have a list of available pastors to contact for your emergency pastoral needs. Dianne Hooton will be the second person to contact if Lauren cannot be reached, and I will be the third. Our numbers are listed below and in the directory. We also plan to make laminated cards for you to have for quick reference.

Hopefully this will work for all of us and can be modified anytime as needed. If you have ideas to help make this program work even better, please contact me as I would love to hear your ideas. They are always welcome!

Connie Eastwood-Crawford, Council Secretary

Emergency Contacts:

Lauren Ahtye 986-3018(cell) 478-3018 (home)

Dianne Hooton 601-9022 (cell) 476-9022 (home)

Connie Eastwood-Crawford 542-0403 (cell) 956-6883 (home)

Family Promise

As announced in a temple talk a while back, Zion Lutheran Church has entered into a relationship with Family Promise, San Joaquin County, for the use of the entire educational wing for their main office and Day Program. This relationship will help us both immensely. Our property will be put to use to help a much-needed service to our community, and the building will not sit empty. It will once again see activity! Our church will also be paid for the use of the property which will help us financially.

In our contacts, FP and Zion realize that the process of developing a lease agreement and eventually building repairs and changes take time. We are both anxious and excited about these prospects and are looking at a lengthy lease agreement.

I requested a comment from my partner liaison at Family Promise. It is as follows:

“The Day Center Project for Family Promise of San Joaquin County is moving forward and both parties are very excited. The lease is being worked on and once that is approved and signed, some reparations to the central hallway floor will be the first project. This will be followed by short term plans for the opening in the first quarter of 2022 and longer term plans with an architect to add some additions to the building i.e.: shower/tub and laundry access. FPSJC is excited to partner with Zion Lutheran on this project that will help homeless families with children regain their livelihood and their dignity.”

If anyone in the congregation has any further questions for me, please do not hesitate to stop me after church or call me at (209) 986-3018.

Peace,
Lauren AhTye

Friends of the Armed Forces – Military Ministry

The Friends of the Armed Forces Ministry at Zion has been sending care packages to known servicemen and women stationed and deployed overseas for several years. Your contributions of requested items and monetary donations have been greatly appreciated.

Friends of the Armed Forces currently has no known persons overseas to whom we can send those packages so contributions have been stockpiling. However, we are excited to announce that we hope to expand this ministry in the near future.

One avenue the Friends of the Armed Forces has been looking into is participating with Soldiers' Angels. For those unfamiliar, Soldiers' Angels is an already established organization with multiple programs that reaches out to all branches of the military. Some of these programs include letter writing, sending greeting cards, sending baked goods, supporting chaplains, collecting Halloween candy, and even virtual baby showers.

We hope to have more information out to the congregation within the next few months. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to speak with Jodi or Ana Landa.

Socks and Clothing Ministry

We have a wonderful opportunity to help others! It is a new program beginning at the HUB, Helping Urban Bicyclists, located at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church on El Dorado and Miner Streets in downtown Stockton. For the past few years, Deacon Stephen Bentley and a team have been rebuilding bikes to give to underemployed and unhoused people for transportation. The new program is an outdoor ministry which furnishes free showers and restrooms on weekdays and laundry facilities on Wednesdays.

There is an important need to help provide socks, underwear and clothing for these men and women. Please become a part of this ministry by bringing your gently used clothing you no longer wear along with socks you can even pick up at the market while buying your groceries! JoEllen Fortenberry-Ford has offered to pick up our donations at church on Tuesdays and help deliver them to those in need.

Please contact her at (209) 607-8424 if you have any questions

SHARING OUR CHURCH

We are currently sharing Grace Hall: with All Love International and Puna Ole Ola. We are also sharing our Courtyard/Sanctuary with Latina Lutheran Mission. They also use additional grounds and parking lot for different occasions.

This has changed a few things: **Grace Hall is no longer available on Sunday's.** It is available the rest of the week when reserved in advance with our Administrative Assistant, Roberta Barajas. She keeps a calendar of which rooms are busy and free! We try to keep an updated printed schedule in the Sanctuary Narthex. If you have any requests or questions, call the church office.

