**ZION’S MESSENGER**

**February 2024 + Zion Lutheran Church + 269-367-4817**

**President, Paul Meade, Emergency Phone: 616-340-7305**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Thank you all who attended and helped with our annual meeting. Without your participation, many important tasks are now going to be taken care of. Below are the results of the each ballot.

Thank you again,

Paul

Ballot #1: Church Signage: Passed

The existing church sign is dated and in disrepair. It is proposed to replace

the existing sign with a new sign that is lit and possibly with the ability to

have a message displayed. This is a major project due to the cost of the

sign, electrical work necessary and the installation costs.

It was voted to replace the existing sign in front of the church with a new sign

that is lit and possibly with the ability to display a message at a cost not to

exceed $22,000 to be paid by a combination of designated gifts, memorial

funds and/or endowment fund.

Ballot #2: Full Time Pastor: Passed

The Synod reviewed Zion’s congregational profile and determined that our

congregation is positioned well to support a full-time pastor and grow in

the community. Therefore, Zion has been asked if our congregation would

consider moving from a part-time pastor to a full-time pastor.

It was voted to transition from a part-time pastor to a full-time pastor at Zion.

Ballot #3: Adoption of Current Synod Model Constitution: Passed

Zion’s current constitution adopted the Synod’s 2014 Model Constitution.

This ballot, if approved, would adopt the Synod’s 2022 Model Constitution,

and replace the existing constitution. This adoption would also remove

Zion’s By-Laws from the constitution and place them in a policy. This will

make it easier to amend policies and boards as needed. This is the first of

two votes required to change the constitution. A second vote will be held

at the semi-annual meeting on July 21, 2024.

It was voted to adopt the Synod’s 2022 Model Constitution to replace Zion’s

existing constitution. I understand that a second vote on this will be held

at the Semi-Annual Meeting on July 21, 2024.

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Ballot #4: Updates and Repairs to the Parsonage: Passed

The trustees are recommending several updates and repairs to the

parsonage including flooring in the den/office, electrical updates to outlets,

replacing light fixtures, painting, bathroom updates, installing a gate to

close the opening to the basement and many other small items. These

updates will make the parsonage a more desirable place for the new pastor

to reside. It is recommended $20,000 be approved to use for these

updates.

It was voted to update the parsonage at a cost not to exceed $20,000 to be

paid by a combination of designated gifts, memorial funds and/or

endowment funds.

Ballot #5: Addition of Garage at Parsonage

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Approval of this ballot would allow a new garage to be built at the

parsonage. The garage would be detached but located behind the house

close to the back door. This will be a two-stall garage with an automatic

garage door opener, a service door, windows, a concrete floor with 5’

approach and installation of a drive-way on the south side of the house.

It is anticipated that this project will cost between $60-70,000. It is

recommended this project be paid primarily from funds left from proceeds

received for hail damage and any excess from designated gifts, memorial

funds and/or endowment funds.

Ballot #6: Addition of Storage Building at the Church: Passed

The current storage building located at the parsonage is rotting and in

disrepair. It is also too small to house existing lawn equipment. This ballot

proposes adding a storage building at the church for the lawn equipment

and to store the playground equipment during the winter. It is anticipated

the cost of this building to be approximately $15,000. This amount can be

covered by insurance funds received to repair the existing garage and

storage building ($17,123.50).

It was voted to add a storage building at the church at a cost not to exceed

$15,000 using insurance funds received for hailstorm damage.

**“SOUP” R BOWL COLLECTION FOR FEED THE NEED**

We are holding our “Soup” R Bowl collection for Feed the Need for four Sundays, ending on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th. New this year is that other churches in the Lakewood Ministerial Association are also collecting to see if together we can collect enough food to fill the bags for the rest of the school year. This year, we again collecting cans of soup (no cream soups) and individual packs of crackers. New this year is canned pasta (like ravioli, spaghetti and meat balls, etc.), mac and cheese mixes and individual packages of snacks (pretzels, cookies). Feed the Need is currently serving 110 kids. That means our collective goal is to collect 770 of each item! There is already a good start to the collection on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far.  When you go grocery shopping, please consider picking up a few items each week and help us Feed the Need of our local kids.

**“THANK YOU”**

Thank you very much for the kind card and generous gift you gave me when I retired as a volunteer accompanist at the end of the year. It is hard to believe I have been playing at Zion for nearly 8-1/2 years. It has been quite a journey together! Thank you again for thinking of me and for your generosity.

~ Martha Yoder

**VALENTINE’S DAY GIFT BAGS**

Valentine’s Day is fast approaching, and we are in need of donations for our yearly Valentine’s gift bags which are in the Fellowship Hall. There are 11 total. Volunteers are also needed to deliver the bags on February 11. Please see Dawn Brodbeck with any questions.

**SERVING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

**FOR FEBRUARY**

Jill Plummer

Jill Avery

**SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY**

**February 4- In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Jim Morgan

Acolyte: Kole Hokanson

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard

**February 11-In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Jim Morgan

Acolyte: Lexie Griffin

Elder: Buffy Meyers

Trustee: Martha Yoder

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle

& Carlotta Willard

**February 18- In Sanctuary, No Communion**

Pastor Jim Morgan

Acolyte: Levi Griffin

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Tom Krikke

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson

**February 25 In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Frank Rothfuss

Acolyte: Kole Hokanson

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Offering Counters: Mary Makley & Martha Yoder