

**Report of the Pastor**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**April 2022**

**1) Christian Education:**

- a) **Divine Drama:** I'm very happy with good, consistent attendance. We are entering into the new Testament.
- b) **Confirmation:** Classes ended March 30. I thought it was a very positive learning time for both the students and their parents together.
- c) **First Communion Classes.** Met March 27, April 3, and April 6<sup>th</sup>, covering material and made Communion bread for Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. 9 very excited kids and their families celebrated their First Communion

**2) Worship stuff:**

- a) I meet with our musicians bi-monthly to plan songs and music for our services. We are planned through April.
- b) Midweek Lenten services utilized a "Readers Theater" monologue series called "*The Word Has Come Down*", focusing on the witness of key characters of the events of Jesus' life and Holy Week.
- c) Myself and Sue Gates led services **at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen Sunday, March 20.**

- 3) **Pastoral Care:** Hospital, Shut-in and other visits are happening as I am made aware of them. Please continue to keep Myron and Beth Walth in your prayers and outreach as Beth was admitted into Bethesda nursing home last Friday

- a) **Funeral for Rosemary Job was held on April 15, and Adelina Luong, daughter of Alexsis Gearie was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 17.**

**4) Staff Stuff:**

- a) Sandra and I are continuing to work out our rotation for things like children's chapel and Sunday children's messages, as well as bulletin planning.

- b) **Staff Job Descriptions and Job Manuals needs to commence for updating and re-evaluation of job duties and expectations per the review process. Some are very incomplete, and others haven't been updated since the early 2000's.**
- 5) Save the Date!!! Sunday, April 24, Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, South Dakota Synod-ELCA, will be with us and preach at both services. I think it would be great to have a "Meet-the Bishop" forum between services, and a lunch served by the Council afterwards.
- 6) *Exciting News! Ann Fortin, Lutheran Campus Ministry at NSU, approached me early this month to inquire about LCM-NSU renting office space at Zion. She no longer has an office on campus, and her "office" has been the back seat of her car. She and I met with the Ed committee April 6 and are looking at the SS office or adjoining rooms as possibilities. She will meet with her board end of this month to craft a proposal, with the goal of presentation at the May Council meeting for action. Needless to say, this is a no-brainer for me, not only for a strong ministry connection between Zion and LCM-NSU, but for rental income as well.*
- 7) **Timeline of Phase Two: The Mission Study Small Groups.**
  - a) **March- April 2021:**
    - i. Mission Study Groups: **11 of 12 have met**, including 2 Confirmation groups, and I've been very pleased with the responses I've seen so far.
    - ii. **May 1, 2022:** I will present a PowerPoint presentation summary of the mission study groups either in person or on zoom or both.
- 8) **May-August 2022. The Call Committee needs to be nominated and approved by the Council.**
  - a) **In consultation with Pr. Renee, the will begin work on the MSP. Upon consensus of the summary, this mission study will be used as a resource for your Call Committee to begin work on the MSP.** There are mission questions as part of the MSPF, and candidates are going to want to see that congregations have taken the time to do their talking with God and each other discerning and conversing towards defining exciting compelling mission goals.
- 9) **September 2022-????? 2023. Phase 3 The Interview Process is launched.**
- 10) **Some things to keep in mind:**
  - a) Every interim setting is different, and this process and projected (and I stress *projected*) timeline takes on a life of its own. It may be shorter than we think to our pleasant surprise, or it will take longer than we wish.
    - i. The interview stage is all dependent on the given # of candidates at any given time, and who are a potential match for the Mission Goals of ZLC.
    - ii. Pastors are in mobility year-round, so do not fret about missing the "strike-while-the-iron-is-hot" times (Spring-fall).
    - iii. The Interview Phases lasts typically several-12 months or more, depending on matching candidates available and successful interviews.

- b) Every interim process, no matter the state of health of, and sense of mission in a congregation, is a wonderful gift and opportunity to step back and look at the big picture of strengths to celebrate, challenges and opportunities to embrace, and Mission Goals to name.
- c) Please know that while I am going to proceed expediently on my part, I'm also going to make sure that we take the time necessary for this process to be a success, with the goal to Zion Lutheran Church into the best place of strength possible with clearly defined Mission Goals for the next chapter of ministry, in order to interview qualified, excited, and exciting candidates. *This is the core part of the process that will truly set the table for the interview phase and for your coming chapter of ministry.* Let's make it count, folks! This process will not be rushed.
- d) Please understand that this process is for my benefit as well. As responses come in from the groups, I will gain a deeper understanding of what the pulse of the congregation is in all these matters, towards helping inform what I, for my part, will be recommending. Please note also that I will not attend these Mission Study Groups, as I do not want my presence to influence how participants will respond.
- e) We are a team in this process namely myself, the Council, the congregation and the Synod; not to mention the good Lord. We always need to keep in mind that God has a huge stake in this process too, and is why we as leaders need to be in continued prayer, seeking God's guidance and will through this whole interim process.
- f) Any questions, thoughts, or ideas? Please don't hesitate to contact me

**11) Gone times:**

- a) (Tentative) 07/14/2022—08/01/2022 Summer vacation back home

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P Galbraith

Intentional Interim Pastor