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Annual Meeting Agenda - February 13, 2022

1. Welcome
2. Opening devotions
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of minutes of the Annual meeting of 2021
 - 4.1 Business arising from the minutes.
5. Appointment of scrutineers
6. Reports
 - 6.1 Council President
 - 6.2 Pastor
 - 6.3 Music Coordinator
 - 6.4 Deacons, Trustees and Committees
 - 6.4.1 Deacons report
 - 6.4.2 Trustees Report
 - 6.4.3 Committees
 - Worship
 - Parish Life
 - Archive
 - Parish Adult Christian Education (PACE)
 - Student Assistance
 - Sunday School
 - Confirmation
 - Youth and Family
 - Social Outreach
 - Naomi Bible Study
 - Refugee
 - Re-Opening Committee
 - 6.5 Parish Report
 - 6.6 Report from Treasurer
 - 6.7 Auditors Report
 - 6.8 Appointment of Auditor
 - 6.9 Approval of reports as presented
7. Nominating committee Report
 - 7.1 Elections to council

nominations from the floor
 - 7.2 Elections to Nominating Committee (*Bylaws: there shall be 5 members, 3 elected at Ann. Mtg. 2 appointed by council from within its membership*)

Further nominations from the floor
8. Announcements

First New Council Meeting: Wednesday February 16, 2022
9. Adjournment and Closing Devotions

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 2021 @ 1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

1. WELCOME

- Margaret Fast welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. with 35 people in attendance.
- Permission was requested to record the meeting.
- No one opposed therefore this meeting was recorded on Zoom for the purpose of minute accuracy. The recording will be deleted once the minutes are complete.

2. OPENING DEVOTIONS

- Opening devotions by Pastor Bestvater.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #1: MSC (M. Voyer/J. Peterson) to adopt the agenda as printed.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 2020

- It was noted that on page 4, item 6.6, the name “Wright” should be corrected to “Write”.

MOTION #2: MSC (K. Larsen/G. Rusu) that the minutes be adopted with the correction to the spelling of Write on page, item 6.6.

Note: upon double checking this while preparing the minutes, it was determined that the correct spelling is in fact

“Wright”, as originally shown in the minutes. This motion will need to be revised to read “...that the minutes be adopted as printed.” at the 2022 AGM.

4.1 Business Arising from the Minutes

- None.

5. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

- Not necessary.

6. REPORTS

All reports are printed and included in the AGM package emailed earlier this month. Thanks to Kaylyn Scrivens for an excellent job in compiling the reports.

6.1 Council President

- Margaret reviewed her report and noted that she had missed mentioning the Lokken's Walker Tracker organ.
- The LTS organ was purchased by James and Olaf Lokken and with Council's approval, was installed in Heritage Hall. It is now installed, tuned, and ready for use.

6.2 Pastor

- Pastor Bestvater reviewed his report with mention that he plans to pay more attention to the children during the services by including a children's chat.
- Dom Hall has been trying to put together dramatic readings and will continue to work on this.

6.3 Music Co-ordinator

- Diane reviewed her report with mention of how virtual services had become a "family affair" for them as they often turn to their kids for technical advice.

6.4 Deacons, Trustees, & Committees

- .1 Deacons' Report
 - Report as printed. Deacons have not met.
- .2 Trustees' Report
 - Report as printed highlighting the need to start planning for eventual replacement of shingles on sanctuary roof.
 - It was questioned if solar panels could be installed on the south side of the roof. The roof would have to be re-surfaced to do this.
 - It was also questioned if metal roofing would be considered. Could investigate further and look at cost.
- .3 Committees
 - Worship - report as printed
 - Walker Tracker organ: James Lokken gave a brief history of the organ and how he and Olaf came to purchase it from the seminary and how it came to be installed in Heritage Hall. A request was made that pictures be taken and made available to the congregation since we are currently closed. We look forward to the time when we will be able to use it.
 - Bibles in Pews: Judy Brown gave a background on the idea of having Bibles in each pew and the possibility off-setting the cost by having families "sponsor" a Bible. To be discussed further by the Worship Committee.
 - Parish Life - report as printed
 - Archive - report as printed
 - Parish Adult Christian Education (PACE) - report as printed
 - Alice added that they made muffins using PACE ingredients.
 - Would like to get PACE going again via Zoom. Alice Olson and Pastor Ron will discuss.
 - Student Assistance - report as printed

- Sunday School - report as printed
 - Special thanks to Alice Barth and Vel Newman for leading Sunday School in music every week.
- CLWR - report as printed
- Social Outreach - report as printed.
 - Discussion centered around the use of gift cards and how best to ensure they are being used as intended. The committee will look into this.
- Youth & Family - report as printed
- Naomi Bible Study - report as printed
 - Could consider trying to meet on Zoom.
- Refugee - report as printed
- Re-Opening Committee - report as printed

6.4 Parish Report - report as printed.

6.5 Treasurer's Report – report as printed.

6.6 Auditor's Report – report as printed.

6.7 Appointment of Auditor

MOTION #3: MSC (J. Smith/ G. Agrey) that we appoint Laskowski & Wright as our auditor for the 2021/22 year.

6.8 Approval of Reports as Presented

MOTION #4: MSC (H. Baumfeld/G. Rusu) that all reports be approved as presented.

7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

.1 Elections to Council

- There are four spots that need to be filled.
- Nominees are Andrea Cameron, James Lokken, Tracy Tucker, Marcel Voyer.
- Nominations from the floor were called for three times.
- No further nominations.
- Andrea Cameron, James Lokken, Tracy Tucker, and Marcel Voyer declared elected.
- Thank you to outgoing Council members David Jahnke and Jackie Smith.

2021 COUNCIL	
NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Alice Barth	2022
Richard Bellamy	2023
Andrea Cameron	2025
Margaret Fast	2022
Dominic Hall	2022

Dean Kindt	2023
James Lokken	2025
Ron Slind	2023
Tracy Tucker	2022 (serving one year of a 4 year term)
Marcel Voyer	2025

.2 Elections to Nominating Committee

- Alice and Gerald and Gary have agreed to serve on the 2021 Nominating Committee.
- Two more members to be appointed from Council.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- First new Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24th via Zoom.
- Margaret expressed thanks to all for everything that has been done at Zion this past year.
- We look forward to a time when we can meet freely without masks.
- Bishop Grundahl commented on the importance of keeping the 50/50 going.
- Marcel expressed thanks for the “vote of confidence” in him.

9. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING DEVOTIONS

- Motion to adjourn by Alice Olson at 2:19 p.m.
- Closing devotions by Pastor Bestvater.

Recorded by,
Andrea Cameron

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT, 2021

Each time we enter Zion, walk up the steps and enter the narthex we are met with, stretched across the wall, the words of **Zion’s Vision** –

**“Moved by the love and grace of God
Welcoming, worshipping and working together”**

Our *welcoming* has been through holding in-person and live-streamed services during the pandemic, in creating the worship environment, and our *welcome* is through passing the peace with a wave of recognition, and by our eyes – smiling above our face masks. Our *welcome* has been through Pastor Ron’s joyous opening words as he invites us and those who are joining us from home, into worship. Our *welcome* is in the words of the liturgies, the praise songs and hymns, the word of God, and homilies and, as we process forward, distanced, masked to receive the gifts of bread and wine.

Our *worship together* is filled with thoughtfully chosen music presented through the voice of organ, piano, band, solo and choir. Word is proclaimed, songs are sung, love is given, felt and accepted.

Working together, Zion’s council and committees have overseen the work and ministry of the people and staff of Zion so that the vision, and mission, may be accomplished. *Working together*, the family

of Zion have been able, through this the second year of pandemic, to be the church, as we always have.

Working together, we were able to re-open Zion to services every Sunday of 2021 from Palm Sunday through to the end of December. *Working together*, we moved from asking people to register week by week their intent to worship in person, to removing those phone-ahead restrictions. Because of the expertise and dedication of volunteer videographers, and sound and screen technicians, the live-streamed component has been successful and welcomed by those unable or still uncomfortable with in-person services. Masking and social distancing have been a requirement at Zion for every service and function including weddings and funerals. *Working together*, we chose not to ask for proof of vaccination.

Our hopes were high as we approached September, that *working together*, we might gather for a festive congregational meal – or at least return to coffee and muffins – but our plans were halted as we recognized the need for an abundance of caution as we entered the fourth wave of the virus.

To my knowledge, not one person connected to, and attending Zion for any service or other event has contracted COVID-19. Guidelines were set out by the Re-Opening Committee and our SK synod office and *working together*, we learned how to be open and *welcoming* in a responsible way. Well done, family! Well done, Staff and Committees!

Within the ministry of Zion's call to mission, and ***working together***

- there is a new committee of people dedicated towards refugee settlement.
- we have successfully adapted to the new models of participating in CLWR.
- we have raised significant funds for the local ministries we support.
- we have provided nourishment and healing words to those who come asking for assistance.
- we have offered opportunities for bible study and for prayer through regular gatherings on Zoom.
- we teach, lesson by lesson, God's love for our children, through Sunday School.
- a short term loan of the ORFF instrument collection to Saskatoon Christian School was approved by Council.
- a Worship Statement from the Task Force and Worship Committee was approved by Church Council.
- Council has begun the process of reviewing Zion's Policies, Constitution and Bylaws.
- we have participated in each of the 5 Town Hall events (Zoom) hosted by Bishop Sid and Pastor Ali Tote (also an epidemiologist) regarding COVID-19 guidelines.

Zion's AGM in February of 2021, for the purpose of reviewing the year 2020, was held on Zoom. It was a successful process, carefully carried out, and will be repeated on February 13, 2022.

Going forward... there are many opportunities to *welcome, worship and work together* – we need a better financial picture, a larger attendance in Sunday School and worship services, more people willing to serve on council, people interested in learning a new skill as a videographer, manager of power point, or sound technician. Perhaps Stephen Ministry is in your future or conversations that make us aware of the life experiences which are engaging each of us whether it is ill health, loss of a family member, change of living accommodation, demands and adjustment to work conditions and

retirement, experiences of our youth in confirmation, looking to graduation, stepping into further education, or work experience.

Thank you to all the Trustees of Zion Council for your dedication this past year regarding the care and upkeep of the building, especially in the absence for a time due to health concerns, of our faithful custodian Terry Afseth. Thank you to the Deacons for your time spent with the concerns of outreach, spiritual growth and parish life. It has been my privilege to lead you in Council again in 2021, and I have been honoured to act as President.

Margaret Fast, President

Zion Church Council meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from January to December with the exception of July and August. We have met on the Zoom platform throughout 2021; it may be that in 2022 councillors will return to face to face meetings in the Cedar Room. The first meeting will be held on February 16 at 7pm.

OUR MISSION

We are called by the Great Commission to baptize and make disciples of all nations. Zion's welcome is a welcome for all to be part of a congregation where we celebrate our differences, worshipping and serving in diverse ways to be transformed by the presence of God and grow in discipleship of Jesus Christ. We recognize, develop and engage our wide variety of talents; acting on opportunities within our church and community as the guidance of the Holy Spirit opens the way.

Pastor's Report 2021

Although I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink; instead, I hope to come to you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. (2nd John 12.)

John the Elder gives voice with uncanny prescience to our deepest pandemic hope: to meet face to face with our church family in worship, prayer, Bible study, ministry. This past year was a story of on-line living: MAiD conference, Study Conference, Synod Convention, Council meetings, Bible Studies, prayer group, confirmation classes, even nursing home and hospital visits. More people participated in worship by YouTube than attended in person. We could retranslate John's words without in any way altering the hope: "Although I have much to say to you, I would rather not use Zoom..."

There were notable exceptions: Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday in the parking lot; care home communions on the front deck; physically-distanced holy communion every Sunday; an open-door policy for homeless, hungry, and cold people; front step and back yard visits; two baptisms; visits to the dying; down-sized funeral, memorial, and wedding services with on-line support, even Stephen Ministry training sessions. Vaccinations (and vaccination reactions, of all kinds), mask-wearing (of all types), and the limits on large gatherings became summer issues as we rejoiced in a reprieve from pandemic anxiety.

But it all just proved the rule when the COVID virus mutated into the fast-spreading Omicron variant and schools, gyms, arenas, conferences, events, Christmas services, spas, restaurants... saw face-to-face interactions fall off quickly. We all began to wonder about the future of our organizations, our

congregations, our businesses, our careers, our jobs, our families; many began to hope for the return of Christ soon. Amen! Maranatha! Come quickly Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20). May this hope also increase our longing to meet face to face, so that our joy may be complete! But do we have to wait for the second coming of Christ? Is it time to risk face-to-face meeting? Either way, let us decide according to the measure of the faith given to us and rely on the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Omicron not only proved the rule of public health measures; it also proved that the rule of faith is still our best guide.

John's hope for the joy of meeting face to face became very urgent for us not only through pandemic restrictions, but also through reconciliation. We were shocked many times by revelations of unmarked graves at yet another residential school. Orange t-shirts, ribbons on park trees, handprints on church doors, flags at half mast, difficult conversations with First Nation neighbours, on-line workshops with Reconciliation Commission justices, church consultations, and our own personal struggles can find a new focus in this hope of talking face to face, so that our joy may be complete. We have become more aware that we meet on the traditional lands of numerous First Nations: Cree, Dene, Nakota, Saultaux, Ojibwe, and the homeland of the Metis Nation; that we are all beneficiaries of the peace and friendship signed into Treaty 6. In the spirit of reconciliation we can face our difficult past and reaffirm the hope of a renewed relationship of honour and respect. We long to meet face to face, that our joy may be complete. How can our congregation demonstrate the spirit of reconciliation John the Elder expresses? Is it time for us to develop a treaty land acknowledgement that expresses our relationship with the First Nations of this place? May our discussions and decisions be guided by John's hope of complete joy in meeting face to face.

Finally, for many of us John's hope of meeting face to face in complete joy speaks into our grief. Grieving personal losses of loved ones, friends, fathers, mothers, sisters, spouses, brothers, children was so difficult this year. Grievs deferred burdened us until we were able to meet even briefly and in small numbers for memorial services at gravesides, in care home hallways, sometimes in the church. We grieved not only deaths, but also lost celebrations of life-baptisms, confirmations, weddings, anniversaries, abilities, relationships, even Christmas. Omicron came just in time to cast a shadow over our Christmas plans; yet in a way wasn't it a relief gift to think those who did travel might be exposed to a much less dangerous variant of the virus? How we rejoiced to meet face to face! How we rejoice that our loved ones meet face to face with Jesus! How we will rejoice to meet face to face with them in that complete joy!

Whatever 2022 brings, our ministry goals have to be simple: to show up for worship wherever and whenever we can; to pursue whatever opportunities the pandemic, reconciliation, and our circumstances provide for us to serve our neighbour; and obedient to the Lord's leading, try to stay as healthy as we can so we are available for the ministries to which Christ calls us together and in our individual lives. It amazes me to imagine how much more we may have to say to each other at this time in 2023! By the grace of God, let us pray that we will meet face to face, that our joy may be complete.

Grateful for the privilege of sharing this ministry with you,
rbb+
Pastor Ron Bestvater

Music Coordinator's Report 2021

While in many ways my position remained the same as in the past, 2021 brought some changes and challenges. I have continued to play for Sunday services weekly, including in the summer this year as it was difficult to find substitutes. As well, there a number of funerals that I played for. I have met with the Worship Committee regularly as we struggle with how best to do worship in as normal a way as possible. Because of Covid, some of our choir members have chosen to stay away, so we have been operating with a small, but very dedicated number of choir members. They lead the hymn singing from the balcony each week, which is very helpful for the live stream of the service. We also had guest musicians for Good Friday, Easter, Reformation and Christmas Eve as is our usual tradition. I have invited singers from the congregation to do solos and lead liturgical parts when they were available. We did manage to learn a new liturgy (Setting Six from the ELW), again with the support of the choir. Rosine Gerhardt, Dennis Temple and Ron Slind have faithfully continued to lead us in contemporary worship once a month. With the many technological learning experiences of past two years, we are prepared to continue offering worship at Zion in whatever format it requires.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Bestvater

Deacon's Report 2021

There are currently 4 Deacons, together with our Chairperson and Pastor who meet at regularly scheduled council meetings. Together we oversee the work of the committees of Zion:

Worship: Margaret Fast
Refugee: James Lokken and Pastor Ron
Parish Life: Alice Barth
Sunday School/Youth: Tracy Tucker and Dom Hall
Pace: Pastor Ron
Library: Margaret Fast

Any questions or concerns can be directed to the deacons who will relay them to the appropriate committee members. Committee activities are included in the individual committee reports.

Respectfully submitted by Alice Barth

Board of Trustees 2021 Report

Zion's trustees for the year 2021- Dean Kindt, Marcel Voyer, Andrea Cameron, Richard Bellamy, Ron Slind Staff members Terry Afseth and Kaylyn Scrivens meet with the trustees at the monthly meetings in regards to operation of the building, finances, and operation of the office.

Treasurer position Vacant until we hired Emily Thomas in November.

Spring water leaks into gym kitchen through foundation. Terry purchased and installed splash blocks on downspouts seems to have relieved this problem.

Questions arose around signing authority for cheques but not for online bill payments. After discussion it was decided that an online bill payments list will be approved and initialed by two members with signing approval.

Parking lot swept and lines painted.

COVID compliance clause added to rental agreements to ensure all rental groups comply with any existing or future COVID restrictions.

New letter "O" to match existing lettering ordered and installed for Zion sign on parking lot side of church.

Replaced drain pipe from weeping holes under stairs with larger as the existing one was plugged with tar.

Gym rental rates increased September 1, 2021 to \$40.00 per hour.

Parking lot monthly rental rates will be increased January 1, 2022. Electric \$150.00 non electric \$125.00

JR Roofing patched blown off shingles on south side of sanctuary sloped roof.

Bolted projector cage back in place.

South library entrance glass broken in door. Boarded up while new glass is ordered and installed.

Replaced bulbs and ballasts.

Replaced defrost timer on gym kitchen fridge.

Fall exterior cleanup. Dean and Ryder replaced broken plug post NW parking lot row. Reset concrete parking curbs. Cleaned, loaded and hauled leaves to compost depot from all church property.

Budget values for re-shingling south side sanctuary sloped roof \$45,000.00 to \$55,000.00 plus taxes.

Respectfully submitted by Dean Kindt

Worship Committee Report 2021

The Worship Committee met six times in 2021: January, March, and April by zoom, and August, September, and November in person.

The biggest challenge for the Worship Committee this year was the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on worship services. We began the year unable to meet in person, while continuing to livestream our services on YouTube throughout the year. However, we resumed in-person worship on Palm Sunday, following government protocols. We continued to combine in-person worship and

live-streaming the rest of the year. This has only been possible thanks to the faithful service of our video technicians: videographer Catlin Hogan, Rosine Gerhardt, and the team running the soundboard and powerpoint. We are especially grateful to Catlin, who for months has faithfully attended and recorded each service, including funerals. We are deeply grateful.

Thanks also to our amazing music director and organist, Diane Bestvater, to Rosine Gerhardt and the band, to the many readers, the choir members, who sing, using microphones, from the balcony, the ushers, and the Altar Guild. Thanks also to the people who decorated our church so beautifully for the festivals and seasons of the church year, with such features as flowers, rivers of cloth, banners, candles, and plants. Special mention to Tracy Tucker and the Sunday School children for their Thanksgiving decorations. A thoughtful Remembrance Day table display of memorabilia in the narthex was appreciated by many. As always, the reliable Lorraine Street looked after changing the paraments and banners, purchased needed supplies for worship, and always knew the location of everything we needed.

Lenten services were live-streamed, but we were able to hold ours in person as well. In addition, we held drive-throughs for communion in the parking lot on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. The Lenten Challenge to raise \$500 for the Food Bank, suggested by Linda Jarock, raised \$710!

Zion hosted the Mother's Day service on May 9 through the Seven Churches. Pastor Michael Diegel was installed as prison chaplain and delivered the sermon. Unfortunately Confirmation, usually held on Reformation Sunday, had to be postponed because of the pandemic, but Advent Vesper services were offered in Heritage Hall, and we were able to hold Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services this year, after the pain of not being able to hold them last year.

A new venture offered the opportunity for anyone to share their nativity scenes through a table display in the sanctuary and was very successful.

Our loose offering at the Christmas Eve service this year went to CUMFI, Central Urban Metis Federation Incorporated, for their work in Saskatoon.

The Walker-Tracker organ from the seminary, installed in Heritage Hall, is waiting to be tuned. We look forward to hearing it.

Quilts were given to Grade Twelve graduates Josh Fluter, Matthew Hahn, Carson and Cora Kindt, and Stephen Kelly. A Bible was presented to Grade Three student Brayden Street and Grade Four students Nola McKenzie and Luke Peters.

A Worship Statement for Zion has been completed and accepted by Council. Thanks to Pastor Ron and the Worship Task Force: Pat Kelly, Velma Neumann, Karen Tehse, and Pastor Alan Grundahl, for their hard work.

Finally, we loaned our Orff instruments to the Saskatoon Christian School for the coming school year. At the end of the year, they can choose to buy the instruments at a price we agree on together. The instruments include 3 xylophones, 3 metallophones, 2 glockenspiels, 6 ukuleles, a set of Suzuki tone bells, and 3 drums, plus assorted mallets. They are covered by the school's insurance policy while

they are there. Many thanks to Pat Kelly for appraising the instruments for us. He bought a wooden recorder we found in the storage closet and wanted to buy a vintage record player, found there also, but Council gifted it to him in thanks for doing the appraisal.

—respectfully submitted by Jan Peterson, chairperson, on behalf of the Worship Committee:
Margaret Fast, secretary, Bonnie Sather-Kinloch, Diane Bestvater, and Pastor Ron

Parish Life Committee Report 2021

The Parish Life Committee consists of Judy Brown- Chair, Norma Rivard- Secretary, Elaine Wilkinson, Mildred Kerber, Michele Tatlow and Alice Barth- Council Representative.

Due to Covid-19, very little has been accomplished by our Parish Life Committee. A Soup and Bun lunch after the Sunday service was proposed for September or October 2021 and the Committee met at Mano's on Eighth to discuss dates and menu. We followed all guidelines in place at the time and met on the patio for further safety. Alice took our proposal to Council for approval during the Council Zoom meeting in September. It was determined by Council that a luncheon was premature because of Covid-19 concerns and likely few would attend. The Parrish Life Committee agreed with the Council's concerns and tabled the luncheon to a later date.

Mildred Kerber resigned her long-term position on the Parish Life Committee. We accepted her resignation with regrets and thanks for her hard work over the years. She said she would still help out as she had time and energy. Thank you Mildred for your good ideas and energetic work in the past.

Parrish Life used none of its budget in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Brown, Chair

Archive Committee Report 2021

The Archive Committee met in the Archive room the morning of August 25th. The morning was spent sorting and filing material that had accumulated over the past year. Thank you to all who have saved and given material to be preserved in our church history.

Karen Hopkins
Marlene Wichert

P.A.C.E. Report 2021

Then Jesus began to speak, and taught them... (Matthew 5:2)

The Programme for Adult Christian Education (PACE) was suspended in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions on church gatherings. When the Public Health Orders were modified in 2021 to allow gatherings in churches for purposes other than worship, we began discussing how to safely conduct

our Programme for Adult Christian Education. Several speakers were contacted, but our group felt uncomfortable with in-person sessions. We discussed using our internet-ready video camera but decided instead to try an inter-church Bible Study. Several people had requested looking at how the Book of Revelation speaks to the situation the pandemic has put us in, so we scheduled a series of ten Zoom sessions and sent out the invitation to the seven ELCIC congregations in Saskatoon. Pastor Ron is teaching, using a new commentary by Dr. Sigve K. Tonstad, *Revelation*. A copy of the book is available in our church library. Dr. Tonstad has a unique perspective because he is both a theologian and a professor of medicine at Loma Linda University. Fifteen participants from four churches meet Tuesday evenings from 6:30 until about 8:00 by Zoom. We have ventured into chapter 14 (“The Song of the 144,000”) and hope to complete the book in two more sessions (January 25 and February 1). There is room on the screen for a few more people to join, so don’t feel you have to “catch up” if you are interested in discussing the book of Revelation for our times. You can join by contacting Kaylyn Scrivens in the office at Zion (306-653-2442) or Pastor Ron (306-229-5982) to request the Zoom invitation and link.

We also participated in the Bible Book-of-the-month Club initiated by Bishop Susan Johnson (ELCIC National Bishop) during 2021 by Zoom. Our group decided to meet by Zoom and we worked through Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers (yes, even Numbers, though quickly), Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges, 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings. Over the summer participants referred to the Bible Book-of-the-month Club reading guides available on the ELCIC national website. Though the programme ended, we decided to continue meeting in the fall, studying the book of Daniel. Our group joined with the other seven ELCIC churches to study Revelation together during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

We would like to thank Don Schenk and Alice Olson for faithfully organizing PACE until the pandemic shut down the programme, recruiting speakers, setting up sound equipment, introducing sessions, and all the other details involved in sustaining this programme. At this point in the pandemic, PACE is organized ad hoc by those who participate. We tried hybrid in-person/Zoom sessions but found sound and video issues created significant barriers and had to settle for session on-screen only. We hope to find a way to use our video equipment to make interactive in-person/on-screen session more accessible. Suggestions for topics, speakers, and times are always appreciated.

Ron Bestvater, ex officio

Student Assistance Committee Report 2021

2021 has become another year in which we could not carry out the usual functions of Zion’s ministry in support of students because of the COVID-19 virus restrictions.

However, the Student Assistance Committee continued to keep in our prayers the last three students we had been supporting from the fall of 2019.

For your information, the Student Assistance Committee was established by Zion Lutheran Congregation in 1985 with the mandate to raise funds to financially assist students attending ELCIC-affiliated schools and/or seminaries. We also pray for our supported students and contact/visit with them during the year.

Funds are raised by soliciting annual "Student Aid" donations from Zion members and friends. Interest is also used from three "Endowments" established by three individuals: Evelyn Olson Hundebly, Irene Seierstad, and Ruth Watson, which also can support students studying music or education in Norway. Others have added to the endowment-base.

Over the years since this ministry began, a total of \$88,719.00 has been donated and given to assist 47 students, several for multiple years. About half of them have become pastors.

The posting of pertinent documents relating to Student Assistance on Zion's website, including application and agreement forms, have made it easy for students to apply for assistance when we were able to function in pre-pandemic times. Click on the tabs: Young People/Youth

Committee Members in 2021 have continued to be: Gerald Agrey, Allan Grundahl, Karen Hopkins and Linda Jarock – even though we have not been able to function this year!

The Committee gives thanks to God for both the vibrant students supported as well as the generosity of Zion members and friends whenever the need has been made known.

Submitted by Bishop (Ret.) Allan Grundahl, Chair

Sunday School Annual Report 2021

Sunday School resumed in September. Even with the ongoing challenges due to Covid, we have been getting together on Sundays for 45 minutes. We usually are having between 1 to 8 children depending on the Sunday. Tracy Tucker will continue to lead the Sunday School group and bring them together on Sunday morning. Teaching of Sunday School has been done through the rotation of parents. Please reach out to Tracy if you are interested in teaching Sunday School one morning.

Respectfully prepared on behalf of Zion's Sunday School by Tracy Tucker

Confirmation Ministry Report 2021

The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart, that is, the word of faith that we proclaim.
(Romans 10:8)

Confirmation ministry was significantly altered by pandemic protocols during 2021. RAGS+ (Redeemer, Resurrection, Augustana, Good Shepherd, Trinity, King of Glory, and Zion) large group gatherings were suspended for most of 2021 due to school closures. When schools re-opened, we were advised not to gather across school and class cohorts. Two outdoor events were successfully organized at Meewasin Park. We gathered around campfires, sharing our faith and supporting one another during these trying times. We tried several large-group sessions by Zoom, discovering (no surprise!) that teens much prefer in-person learning. Our small group at Zion decided to continue by Zoom alone, completing the Confirmation Preparation course on our own with Pastor Ron and Dom Hall supporting the learning. Cami Cameron and Rachel Tucker were prepared to confirm their faith

when the Delta variant wave began; we postponed the Service of Affirmation of Faith scheduled for Reformation Sunday and took aim for Epiphany Sunday instead. This allowed Josh Fluter to join the Confirmation group as a mature student based on his Christian Ethics instruction. However, the Omicron wave interfered with those plans.... Currently two possible dates for Confirmation Sunday are being considered by the three families. Zoom sessions are adjusted to the three participants' homework and class schedules as we work through the Small Catechism together, study confirmation verses, and prepare faith statements.

Three first-year confirmands joined the class at the fall Meewasin event: Julie McKenzie, Owen Peters, and Kade Wintermute. We plan to present their Guidebook Bibles in the near future, if possible during in-person Sunday worship. Two classes have been held by Zoom for the first year group; mentors have not been chosen yet. If you would like to serve as confirmation mentor for any of the first year class members, please contact Kaylyn (306-653-2442 or zion.office@sasktel.net) or Pastor Ron (306-229-5982 or zion.pastor@sasktel.net).

Please pray for Cami, Rachel, Josh, Julie, Kade, and Owen and the many others in our sister Lutheran churches and our own congregation as they prepare to confirm the gift of their baptismal faith. The classes are always open to new beginners who desire to confirm their faith in public confession, as Romans 10:9 says, "because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Confirmation ministry supports this important step in maturing faith.

With thanks to the Cameron and Tucker families, Zion Council of Deacons and Dominic Hall for supporting my role as instructor,
Pastor Ron Bestvater

Zion Youth and Family Report 2021

Due to the current situation with Covid, the Youth and Family Committee has not met or had any events. Hoping that September 2022 will bring a fresh start and we will be able to begin to meet and bring our Zion families together again.

Respectfully prepared on behalf of Zion's Youth and Family Committee by Tracy Tucker

Social Outreach 2021

The Social Outreach Committee encompasses the Christmas Hamper Committee, CLWR, the Food Bank, and the Mitten Tree. It serves folks in our community year-round, not just at Christmas. Many hygiene kits have been given out through the office when folks who are in need come into the church and they have been greatly appreciated. We have donated some baby bundles and baby quilts to Sanctum 1.5. Other quilts have been distributed throughout the community to White Buffalo Youth Lodge and Egadz. Mitten Tree items were given to St. Michael's Community School and our Christmas focus was once again Interval House.

We also collected \$80 in cash donations.

Thank you to everyone who contributed any way during the past year.

Naomi Bible Study Report 2021

Because of COVID-19 restraints, our Bible Study group was unable to meet this past year.

Submitted by Karen Hopkins

Refugee Resettlement Committee 2021

“And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you...” (Matthew 25:38)

Refugee Resettlement has been a regular part of the life of Zion for many years, thanks to Saba Kaleta and Ghere Tewelde. Most recently we were blessed to support the sponsorship for the Weldejesus family as they came to join relatives in Saskatoon and we are glad they are settled into their new home. Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) adapted to changes in resettlement application procedures by notifying all partner congregations that Isolation Support would be necessary in addition to regular sponsorship procedures. We partnered with Lutheran Theological Seminary and Augustana Lutheran Church to support the Isolation Plan for a seminary student and family who came to Saskatoon in last year. As we are all new members of this committee, this gave us important experience for filing our own Isolation Plan in November. Then in late December we were notified that a position had come up suddenly and we needed to file ASAP! We successfully filed the supporting documents for Ghere and Saba’s application to sponsor their relative by the deadline. Please pray the application will be successful and they will be greeting their relative at the Airport soon!

Many thanks to Senait B, Refugee Resettlement Coordinator at CLWR Vancouver office, for alerting us that a placement had opened up unexpectedly, and for making things work for us on a very short timeline! Please pray for Senait and her family too, that God blesses her work as the war continues to affect the people of Tirgray and Eritrea. Let us all pray for peace that the looming humanitarian disaster can be averted by God’s grace. We give thanks for CLWR as they celebrate their 75th anniversary in refugee resettlement and peace and development ministry and pray for many more blessings in the years to come.

Thanks also to Zion Church Council and the members of the committee, Saba Kaleta, Ghere Tewelde, Lori Farmer, Kendra Farmer, Linda Shen, and Diane Bestvater. Anyone who would like to join this committee and share in this ministry is welcome at any time. You can call Kaylyn at the office (306-653-2442) or Pastor Ron (306-229-5982) to learn more about being part of the Refugee Resettlement Committee.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Bestvater, ex officio

Re-Opening Committee Report 2021

The Re-Opening Committee continued to meet in the beginning of 2021 to re-asses the situation as it changed. Most of the communication was done via email and a few Zoom calls with the Synod.

The committee decided to re-open for Easter services and remained open for the continuation of the year. We assessed the protocols that we put in place for opening in 2020 and continued on in the same fashion. Our risk assessment for worship in this space was quite low.

We continued to monitor the situation and discuss rentals. As of summer, we opened our space up to any previous rental that had been in place prior to March 2020. We put a COVID clause in place to ensure each group is following current guidelines and restrictions as applicable to their group.

Council decided in June that the committee could be dissolved and any further actions could be handled by Council. Council will continue to monitor the situation and use the input and insight from the committee in making decisions going forward.

Each member of this committee brough unique wisdom and insight. Thank you to each member of this team.

Submitted by Kaylyn Scrivens on behalf of the Re-Opening Committee

Stephen Ministry Report 2021

Zion has a very rich history of Stephen Ministry and has been active since 1997. We have trained dozens of Stephen Ministers over the years and cared for countless congregants (care receivers). In 2021 we trained a class of 8 made of mainly of Resurrection members and one from Good Shepherd.

My goals for 2022 are:

- **Train a minimum of 5 Stephen Ministers from Zion**
- **Pastor Ron to participate in the Bridge Training (an abridged online Stephen Leader Course)**
- **Care for at least 5 care receivers from Zion**

We are now living in a challenging and uncertain world. Care of our members is required now more than ever and Stephen Ministers are able to offset Pastor Ron's workload – not replace, but complement and ease his workload. Please talk with Pastor Ron or myself if you know of someone or you yourself would be interested in being a Stephen Minister of if you know of someone that could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister.

Respectfully Submitted,
Fran Seidler, Stephen Leader (since 1996)

Parish Report 2021

1. Worship Services in person and online – March 21-December 19 for a total of 40 services.
2. Worship Services held online only – January 3 – March 21 for a total of 12 services.
3. Special Sunday Gatherings
 - February 14 Annual Congregational Meeting (Zoom)
 - March 21 Installation of New Council
 - April 4 Easter Sunday
 - May 9 Zion hosted 7 ELCIC Churches
 - September 12 Sunday School Kick-Off
 - October 31 Reformation Sunday
 - November 7 All Saints Sunday
 - December 24 Christmas Eve Service
 - December 25 Christmas Day Service
4. Midweek Services and Meetings of the Congregation
 - Feb & March Mid-Week Lenten Services shared with the 7 ELCIC (Zoom)
 - April Maundy Thursday Drive-Thru Communion
 - April 2 Good Friday Service
 - March & April Next STEP Discussions (Zoom)
 - Jan-Nov Mid-Week Bible Book of the Month Study (Hybrid)
 - Jan-Nov Prayer Meeting (Hybrid)
 - May & June PACE (Zoom)
 - Nov & Dec Revelation Bible Study (Zoom)
 - Nov & Dec Mid-Week Advent Vespers
5. Holy Communion was served 52 times during Sunday worship
6. Presentation of Grade 12 Graduation Quilts to: Josh Fluter, Matthew Hahn, Stephen Kelly, Carsyn Kindt, and Cora Kindt
7. Received through Holy Baptism: Soren Lokken, Shay Bestvater, Declan King
8. Received through Transfer: Ivan Finstad and Jennifer Chubak
9. Received through Confirmation:
10. Received through Affirmation of Faith:
11. Removed through Transfer:
12. Removed through Death: Wally Cubbon, Margaret Baun, Gary Hanson, Charles Hedlin, Dorothy Magnell, Roger Nostbakken, Muriel Tastad
13. Marriage – couples married through Zion: Ivan Finstad and Jennifer Chubak, Courtney Peterson and Andrew Burnyeat, Brandon Pelletier and Lauren Sarich, Lynn Mihichuk and Randi Nostbakken, Shayla Hertz and Nicholas Wourms
14. Funeral & Memorial Service held through Zion: Lora Chapple, Margaret Baun, Charles Hedlin, Darren Grandberg, Mark Grandberg, Dale Littlecrow, Yvonne Littlecrow, Dorothy Magnell, Elsie Johnson, Terri Fisher, Roger Nostbakken
15. Zion Membership (2021)
 - Baptized Members 506 Confirmed Members 332 Active Non-Members 21

50/50 Goals

	ZION'S SHARE	ELCIC	OTHER OUTREACH	TOTAL
GOAL	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%	100.00%
2010	78.86%	11.24%	9.9%	308839
2011	79.74%	11.33%	8.93%	306338
2012	74.29%	9.15%	16.56%	356018
2013	69.66%	14.87%	15.46%	303245
2014	75.36%	5.98%	18.66%	398859
2015	76.83%	5.98%	17.19%	369680
2016	75.84%	5.98%	18.18%	341282
2017	76.57%	5.98%	17.45%	346971
2018	80.18%	5.35%	14.47%	338467
2019	79.38%	5.5%	15.12%	329749
2020	88.70%	3.70%	7.60%	348278
2021	84.03%	4.08%	11.88%	247041

Zion Attendance

Year	Lit@9 a.m.	Info@11 a.m.	Summer	Other	AVG per Sun.
2009	59	124	79	189*	141
2010	55	94	93	87*	128
2011	54	106	86	66	128
2012	54	100	95	80	134
2013	54	91	83	89	128
2014	56	84	86	55	123
2015	57	76	96	59	117
2016	57	80	93	64	120
2017	58	79	77	50	114
2018	49	60	74	84	98
2019	49	60	81 (1 service)		109
2020**	73 (In Person)	145 (Online)	186 (Hybrid)	99	135
2021***	81 (Online)	29 (In Person)			110

* includes Chinese worship service attendance totals + evening, 10 a.m., 9:45 a.m. worship

** in person includes January 5-March 15, online includes March 22-September 6 and December 6-December 27 and hybrid includes September 22-November 29

***in person and online are listed separately even though most services were hybrid. Online attendance is not restricted to Sunday Morning live-stream as the service can be accessed at any point after the live-stream.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the Year Ending August 31st, 2021

The Zion Evangelical Lutheran Congregation Financial Statement dated August 31st, 2021 was audited by Laskowski & Wright LLP.

The General Fund had total revenue of \$265,197 and expenses were \$302,212 for a DEFICIT of \$37,015. The total income & expenses in the General Fund were under budget due to the pandemic.

The Investment Portfolio at National Bank Financial had an opening balance of \$82,309 as of September 1, 2020. Donations of securities added \$6,687 and transfers of cash to the Credit Union chequing account reduced the investment by \$7,249. Earnings and positive market value changes added \$2,266. The Investment Portfolio had a closing balance of \$84,013 as of August 31, 2021. The Portfolio yielded about 2.75%; considerably more than the present GICs held within it yielding from 0.95% to 2.31%.

The balance owing at Mennonite Trust as of August 2021 is \$8,858.

The Special Funds had total revenue of \$26,882 and expenses were \$17,635 for a SURPLUS of \$9,247.

2021 Memorials

<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Ruthe Olson	Gordon & Illa Knudsen
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Dorothy Magnell	Elaine Bazansky
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Dorothy Magnell	Faye, Chad and Ray Munchinsky
	and Ross, Melissa, Lucas and Avery McVicar	
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Dorothy Magnell	Sandra & Harold Hoffman
<u>Camp Kinasao</u>	In memory of Ruthe Olson	Richard Bellamy
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Edith Johnson	CUPE
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Darren Grandberg	Wendy Karstad
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Mark Grandberg	Wendy Karstad
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Joyce Opseth	Deborah Labrie
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Charles Hedlin	Mildred Kerber
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Charles Hedlin	Gordon & Illa Knudsen
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Kelly Kobie	Christopher Kobie
<u>Debt Retirement</u>	In memory of Marg Baun	Mildred Kerber
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Terri Fisher	Clarence & Eunice Fisher
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Roger Nostbakken	William & Rita Harrison
<u>Organ Fund</u>	In memory of Oscar Fenner	Bill & Gloria Steckler
<u>Zion Kitchen Fund</u>	In memory of Elsie Fenner	Bill & Gloria Steckler
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Muriel Tastad	John Brandt
<u>Memorial Fund</u>	In memory of Cara Parker	Rick & Vi Stalwick
<u>Organ Fund</u>	In memory of Oscar Fenner	Ron & Sandra MacKay
<u>Zion Kitchen Fund</u>	In memory of Elsie Fenner	Ron & Sandra MacKay

<u>Walker-Tracker Organ Fund</u>	In memory of Pastor John Lokken	James Lokken & JoAnn Nilson
<u>Walker-Tracker Organ Fund</u>	In memory of Randi Farden Nilson	James Lokken & JoAnn Nilson
<u>Organ Fund</u>	In honor of Borgny Sylte Lokken	James Lokken & JoAnn Nilson
<u>Student Aid Fund</u>	In honor of Pastor Thomas Nilson	James Lokken & JoAnn Nilson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

The Committee thanks, on behalf of Zion, Richard Bellamy and Tracy Tucker for their terms of service on Zion Church Council.

<u>2021 Zion Church Council</u>	<u>Terms completed at Annual Meeting, February 13, 2022</u>
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Alice Barth	2022
Margaret Fast	2022
Dominic Hall	2022
Tracy Tucker	2022 (one year term)
Richard Bellamy	2023 (resigned in October, 2021)
Dean Kindt	2023
Ron Slind	2023
Andrea Cameron	2024
James Lokken	2024
Marcel Voyer	2024
<u>Nominees:</u>	
Alice Barth	2025
Alice Olson	2025
Ivan Finstad	2025

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Gary Rusu, Alice Barth, Andrea Cameron, Gerald Langner, Marcel Voyer