



# The Iva Chimes

Newsletter for Zion Lutheran Church

Spring 2023

Faithfulness  
springs up from the ground, and  
righteousness  
looks down from the sky.

Psalm 85:11 ESV



Zion Lutheran Church  
17927 Dice Road  
Hemlock, Michigan 48626



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**1st Sunday Door Offering**

We thank all who have contributed to God's Helping Hands as we continue to provide food for the food pantry. Though the cost of food through the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is a greatly reduced cost to us, there is still a cost. These donations will help us to continue this much needed ministry as food and other costs continue to rise. Your donations on the first Sunday of each month will be greatly appreciated. If you know of people wanting to donate to God's Helping Hands they can make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church and please note God's Helping Hands in the memo column.



**Return Service Requested**

**The Iva Chimes  
is available online at  
[www.zionhemlock.org](http://www.zionhemlock.org)**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

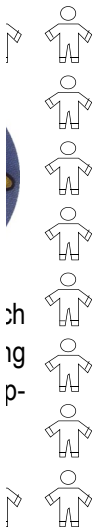
**Intentional Interim Pastor:**  
**Rev. Larry Warsinski**  
Church Office 989-642-5909  
Zion's E-mail [admin@zionhemlock.org](mailto:admin@zionhemlock.org)  
Zion's Website [www.zionhemlock.org](http://www.zionhemlock.org)

**Sunday Worship 9:30 am**

God's Helping Hands  
2nd and 4th Saturday of each month.

The mission  
and vision of  
Zion Lutheran  
Church is to  
share Jesus  
with all people  
as we

**J~oyfully worship**  
**E~ducate all people**  
**S~hare God's Word**  
**U~tilize all gifts**  
**S~erve all souls**





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As your Intentional Interim Minister, it's my job to help prepare Zion to receive their new, permanent, full-time Pastor. I am not eligible for this full time position, and we are going to be looking for someone better suited to the needs of the congregation.

To this end, we have formed a Transition Committee. The Committee will be looking at how we got where we are as a congregation, and considering what changes (if any) we need to make in the process, and will help us aim the congregation in the direction it probably should be going.

This is needed, because often, after a long term pastorate, such as Pastor Hauser's time at Zion, a congregation isn't ready to move on with someone new. It has been the general experience in Synod that the next pastor is likely to be in a congregation for only a short time before leaving. Since this is not usually in the best interest of the congregations or pastors, the Intentional Interim Ministry has been developed, with the idea that the Intentional Interim Pastor can be this "short term" person, and work with the congregation, so that the next full-time pastor can be a long term shepherd for this portion of God's flock.

The process of this Committee will be to look at congregational (and individual) history, to see "what happened" and "why". Then they will examine our current congregational identity, especially anything that is new and different. The third part of the process examines congregational leadership, especially with regard to our identity. Part 4 will be looking at our links to the District and Synod, and examining our connections to our family of faith. The last part of the work will be to try to get everyone onboard and committed to a future direction in our ministry here.

It's important to go through this process so we know what we need to look for in our next pastor, what skills and talents he might need, and who among our choices best fits our plan for the congregation's future.

While I am helping to direct the process, I will not be directing the outcome – the committee will be making the decisions and recommendations, and these will come before the congregation, since in our tradition, the Congregation has the final say. Our goal is to be above board and transparent, with ears open to concerns and potential problems, so the whole congregation will be involved.

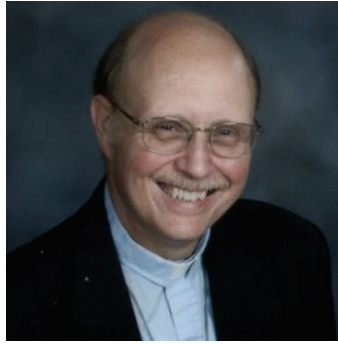
This is not a process that can be rushed, but it should not get bogged down, either. We want to move on to calling the next pastor as soon as we can, but not before we know what we are likely to need in a pastor, so that the pastor and congregation can both prosper as they work together in God's Kingdom.

While my hours here at Zion are limited, I expect to serve on Sunday mornings (and other worship services as needed), to visit the sick and shut-ins, and do other work for the good of the congregation, as God grants me time.

Please pray for this whole process here at Zion, pray for (and talk to) the Committee, and pray also for me – that God would bless our time together, and soon send His choice for the next Under-shepherd of the flock here at Zion.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Larry A. Warsinski, *Intentional Interim Minister*



Pastor Larry Warsinski





## Retirement Celebration



## Trustees Update May 8, 2023

### Church roofs replacement.

We have been working on finding a contractor to give us a quote on new roof on the Narthex. Hardwood Hills (the contractor for the Fellowship Hall) brought an architect to determine what needs be done.

The scope of replacing the roof over the Narthex and the porch has been changed. Upon inspection of all the roofs we have decided to get bids on replacement of the Narthex and Porch, the Sanctuary and the Old Office roofs. We have received bids from Kawkawlin Roofing, Bri-Car Roofing and Beyer Roofing. We are reviewing those bids and will try to select a bid by 5/19. We will also determine if we need to do them all at once or can spread them over 2-3 years.

The ages of the roofs are: Narthex/Porch (21 yrs), Sanctuary (29 yrs), Old Office (???)

We also had these contractors look at the condition of the Fellowship Hall roof (14 years old). It was decided that it did not need to be replaced. There was however, some curling of the membrane along the west edge of the roof. As this roof is still under warranty, we will contact the installer to get this repaired. The installer has inspected and will contact the warranty company and get back with us.

### Moisture problem in east wall of Sanctuary

There is a white power material (efflorescence) on the east wall which indicates that moisture is coming through the bricks from the outside. We are looking into the cost of sealing the entire exterior brick to address this problem and prevent similar problems with our brick. We looked at doing this in 2008 but it was not done.

### Replacing the Carillon (installed in 1957)

The existing carillon has failed so we are looking at what systems are available and their costs. We have one supplier, of carillon systems, scheduled to visit the church and give us a estimate. We will also be getting estimates from two additional suppliers.

### Leaking Boiler Water

We had another leak show up in the school hot water heating system. The radiator in the old Teacher's bathroom, for those of you remember that, began to leak. Piper HVAC repaired it on 5/2. They also repaired two leaking faucets in the kitchen

### Noise in pastor's wireless microphone

We have been experiencing noisy interference, during the worship service, in the wireless microphone system. This is due to the frequency range used by the system was sold to T-Mobile and at times their use this range can interfere with pastor's wireless microphone. To solve this problem, we need to replace our wireless systems, so we have ordered new units which operate in a different frequency range. Unfortunately, they will not be delivered until October!

### Bell Tower roof leak

Some mold was noticed on the drywall in the bell tower room next to organ. This was traced to a leak from the Bell Tower roof. The trustees will be working on fixing this.





Cemetery Upgrades/Maintenance



St. Peter trustees have had work done at the Richland Lutheran Cemetery. Trees have been cut down. We share half of the cost of maintenance and upgrades of the cemetery. Our share of the cost of the recent tree cutting done by Monk was \$



**OFFERING COUNTERS**

Volunteer opportunity! Would you like to help out in counting the weekly offerings? You can count when ever convenient for you. It will only take an hour or so of your time. See Laura Hollingsworth if interested. Volunteers are also needed for Altar Guild. Duties are for one month of Sundays and include putting things away following communion , filling the altar oil candles, changing the altar paraments to the color of the season, and seeing that flowers are placed on the altar. If you are already committed to a month, maybe you would consider taking on one more month. A team of two works well. See Irene Kruth if interested.



**Altar Guild**

Offerings Received for the Lord's Work	
As of April 30, 2023	
Income received from:	
General/Mission/Maint Fund Offerings	\$ 75,211
Misc. Other Income, Rent	\$ 5,650
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 80,861</b>
Offerings 1/1/23 thru 4/30/23	\$ 75,211
Expenses 1/1/23thru 4/30/23	\$ 48,068
<b>Income minus Expense</b>	<b>\$ 27,143</b>
<b>Amount needed weekly \$3,888 per budget</b>	
Total <b>offerings</b> received thru 4/30/23	\$ 75,211
Offerings needed thru 4/30/23 - 18 weeks	\$ 68,984
<b>Offerings over per budget</b>	<b>\$ 6,227</b>



*To the Dearest of Congregations, Zion, with each of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, all of whom my wife and I so love: My wife and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the years of walking together with our Lord, in worshipping Him and serving His people around us. We will forever treasure memories of goodness and mercy from God disguised through each of you, too many to mention here, but which we will walk through in our minds, time and again, the rest of our lives in thanks for you and God.*

*Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> was a bit of heaven on earth for me. The kind and generous and loving service given to make this day so special, began with God shining His love so greatly through your planning, service, and love that made the day burst in wonderful celebration we will never forget. You invited in our family and many of church families from our past, to worship God that day with us, and then, to celebrate with wonderful food, gifts, and kindnesses so visibly shown. Thank you for the special ornament for our Christmas tree that will carry a message to our hearts as we sing Christmas Carols with thoughts of you who are so precious to us both. Thank you for the gift of money that will bless my wife and I to enjoy a special place we have grown fond of staying at in Ludington, Michigan.*

*We received so many well wishes, and cards and gifts which we thank each of you for as well. We will always be praying for you daily/nightly, and hope to see you from time to time in worship, and other times God provides for us to make future memories of love and thanks, until the final celebration in heaven that will never end!*

*Always and forever in my heart...I love you, and so does He!*

*Retired Pastor Paul and Debbie Hauser*

*To God be the all the glory!*

