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 ZION Lutheran Church

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## June Newsletter | Vol. 26, Issue 6



On Sunday, May 31 at our congregational meeting, Zion voted to make the volunteer church treasurer position a paid position.

This removes the position as a part of the council and makes the treasurer a part of the paid staff. Our current volunteer treasurer, Karla Southworth, has agreed to stay on as treasurer under the new structure. Karla will finish serving her three year term as a council member until February 2028 whilst serving as treasurer. At that time, the treasurer will not be filled by a council member. The treasurer will continue to attend council meetings and finance committee and work closely with the staff.

At our June 23 council meeting, council will discuss and approve wage amounts and discuss final details before Karla officially begins on staff.

Please join me in welcoming Karla to Zion's staff and thanking her for the tireless work she has put in as a volunteer treasurer.

In peace,  
Pastor Christina

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### **EcoFaith Action! June 2026**

*Practical ideas and inspiration for how you and your faith community can take action for Creation! Prepared by members of the NEMN EcoFaith Network. This EcoFaith Action is by Deacon Alex Theship-Rosales*

Did you know one load of laundry can release hundreds of thousands of microplastics into the water? Fabrics such as nylon and polyester are made of plastic. Especially early-on in their life cycle as articles of clothing, they release many tiny plastic particles into the water we wash them in. Plastic is a pollutant, causing harm in small and large ways to 'creation'—people, water, fish, birds—all God has designed and called 'good.' As a spiritual practice, we can say no to plastic fabrics: let's not buy any

new clothes that contain nylon, acrylic, or polyester. With the plastic clothing we do have or choose to buy occasionally second-hand, we might also consider lightly washing them, washing only in cold water (releases fewer microplastics), or even hand-washing.

As we take these unusual steps, let's ask one another for support, and let's pray together: "Holy Artist, we honor Earth—we honor all you have made. Help us use less plastic and keep microplastics out of the water for the sake of future generations. Amen."

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Pollinator Sunday  
Blessing of the Gardens  
Sunday, June 7th  
10:45 am

Garden Open House  
Tours 11 am - 12 pm

You are welcome to take a self-guided  
tour of the gardens any time.



## Plastic Waste Reduction at Zion 2026

Plastics are everywhere. They contaminate our soil and water. Healthy issues associated with this contamination are just beginning to be understood. We cannot live plastic free, but we can reduce that amounts that enter are waste streams.

Please help Zion reduce plastic waste by observing the following:

1. Consider using real dishes and silverware for your meetings and parties not disposables.
2. Use a spoon to stir your coffee not a plastic straw
3. Don't throw plastic forks, water bottles, plastic cups, plastic plates and non-recyclable plastics into food paper, plastic, cardboard recycling waste cans. They need to be placed in trash.
4. Use Zion's coffee mugs or bring your own mug for coffee instead of disposable cups. (Mugs are in the kitchen in a cupboard labeled "Mugs" on the East Wall.
5. Dont buy plastic lined paper plates and cups.
6. Don't buy bottled water in plastic. Bring your own water bottle or use our water dispensers and pitchers located in the kitchen on the West wall.
7. Familiarize yourself with plastic recycling labels to avoid contaminating plastic that are recyclable.

Thank you,

Property Committee

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Food is not trash!

Perhaps you have noticed the pale green recycling bags in the kitchen at Zion and the sign asking you to scrape your dishes.

What's it all about?

For several years, Zion has recycled cans, plastic, cardboard and paper. Zion's property committee is hoping to expand our environmental stewardship by adding food waste to our recycling.

Over 200,000 Tons of food gets dumped each year into landfills. This food could be composted and returned to soils providing valuable nutrients.

Please help by scrapping your dishes into the pale green compostable bags located at the dishwasher window. Do not put plastic forks, paper plates and cups in these bags. The bags will be taken to Carlton County food waste dumpster located on the east end of the Human services center parking lot or recycled on site in our compost bin if they don't contain animal products.

The green bags are in a drawer labeled "recycling bags" on the West wall of the kitchen. There are large ones to use when meals are service and small ones for everyday use.

The compost bin is located at the South West corner of the church building.

Questions: Ask Vicki (218-451-0278) or Ken Jorgenson

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# Financially Supporting those Affected by ICE

Our synod's [Neighbor to Neighbor Fund](#) is a great way to share your financial resources with those who are negatively impacted by the presence of ICE in our state. The Neighbor to Neighbor Fund is shared with the other 5 synods in the state of Minnesota. As needed, funds stay within our synod to support people closer to home.

<https://www.standwithminnesota.com/> has an extensive list of funds that support various efforts throughout the state including rent relief, mutual aid funds and food sourcing.

Please give generously as you are able.

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## Book Club

ON SUMMER BREAK!

# BOOK CLUB

SUMMER READ!



BEFORE THE  
COFFEE  
GETS COLD

BY TOSHIKAZU  
KAWAGUCHI

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**Ongoing Help Needed!**



HELP NEEDED:

**Daily Stockers of the Little Free Pantry**

Stop by 1 (or more) scheduled days per week to load the Pantry. Training & Building Key provided.

HELP NEEDED:

**Counters**

Pairs of counters needed to help record & deposit monetary tithes and offerings. One Sunday every 2-3 months. Training Provided.

**Contact the office with questions or to volunteer.**

Daily stockers of the Little Free Pantry are needed to help keep our pantry a consistent source of food for our community. Commit to one (or more) scheduled days per week to load the Pantry. Training and Building Key provided.

Pairs of counters are needed to help record & deposit monetary tithes and offerings. One Sunday every 2-3 months. Training provided.

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**Zion Choir Practice | 1st Wednesdays**



Regular Choir practices have resumed!  
Join a fun group of singers and lend  
your voice to our (typically) once a  
month musical offering during liturgy!  
All are welcome! 🎵🎹

**Practice is held at the Presbyterian  
Church of Cloquet [47 4th Street] at  
6:30p, on the 1st Wednesdays.**

Practices will be scheduled once  
monthly with potential extra times for  
Advent & Lent/Easter. Contact Jim  
Sheetz for more information!

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God's work. Our hands.



Join us for a day of service!

Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 8,300 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." day of service. Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! Contact us for more information:

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**September 20, 2026**  
**1000 Washington Avenue**  
**Cloquet, MN 55720**

[www.zioncloquet.org](http://www.zioncloquet.org)



**God's work, Our hands will be September 20th. Each month until then we will be collecting items for the kits we put together that day.**

**Items for June:**

- **Hand towels - darker colors**
  - **70 sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled)**
  - **Sturdy nail clippers**
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### **OUTDOOR CLEAN UP AT ZION SPRING 2026:**

Help needed for spring clean up. The following jobs have made the property committee list.

1. Trash pick up around the property. (ongoing all season)
2. Thinning Spruce that are shading the orchard.
3. Cut back stems in wild flower beds.
4. Remove weed suppressing mats, fence posts and rocks in flower border North end of West parking.
5. Back up lawn mowing.

If you would like to help with any of these tasks, talk to Vicki: (218)451-0278.





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**Zion Lutheran Church**

1000 Washington Ave.  
Cloquet, MN 55720

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**Rev. Christina Johnson**

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**James Sheetz**

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Graphic Design:

**Elise Ames**

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## Notes from the Pastor's Office

A more detailed monthly schedule is posted on Pastor's Office door.

*As always, the best way to get in touch with Pastor Christina is via email. Please call and text for pastoral emergencies, such as imminent deaths, death, funeral scheduling, etc.*

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## Notes from the Office

Kristy's spring schedule is Monday-Thursday, 8am-2pm.

Kristy can be contacted at [office@zioncloquet.org](mailto:office@zioncloquet.org) about prepping worship materials, printing, scheduling, announcements and general questions.



Elise continues to support Zion's worship life through liturgy preparation and offsite graphic design support.

Contact Elise at [media@zioncloquet.org](mailto:media@zioncloquet.org) for support with bulletins, website, posters and social media.

ELISE AMES

LITURGICAL ASSISTANT  
& OFFSITE GRAPHIC DESIGN SUPPORT

IF YOU NEED  
HELP WITH THE:

- Bulletin
- Website
- eNewsletter
- Posters
- Social Media

EMAIL ELISE:  
[media@zioncloquet.org](mailto:media@zioncloquet.org)

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