



## Zion Reformed Church – Floodlight - 2024



Dear Zion,



### **“God is nowhere?” OR “God is now here.”**

Sometimes we hear people say: “God is nowhere”. Maybe this is how you are feeling. Asaph, the author of Psalm 73 also felt like that. At first, he was very upset. He almost throws in the towel as far as his faith is concerned (verses 1-2). The reason? Asaph saw how well the wicked are doing and that they are enjoying life. They slander and insult without worrying or getting in trouble. They step on everyone. They only get richer and more prosperous (verses 3-11).

However, Asaph is doing very badly. He was struggling. He felt that his faith was a waste of time because his life was a struggle (verses 13-14). But then Asaph does a very good thing. He chooses to think carefully about everything so that he does not lose his faith. Perhaps he was rolling a stone in the way of other believers (verses 13-16). He chooses to follow God’s handiwork and end up with all those prosperous wicked. Eventually things turn out badly for them (verses 17-20).

Asaph discovers something else about God. He discovered that God never left him alone. God still takes Asaph by the hand and He leads him (verse 23). Therefore, Asaph confesses that there is nothing in heaven or on earth that means more to him now than the Lord. God is his strength (verses 25-26). The result: Asaph moved from “God is nowhere” to “God is now

here”. “Nowhere” then turns into two new words in his life: “now here”. Learn from Asaph that it is a wise choice to move from “God is nowhere” to “God is now here”.

In Faith,  
Pastor Petri



## Consistory Highlights

\*Zion's Consistory will meet on Thursday, July 18, 7pm.  
(Closing prayer: Michael./Coffee: Mark)



May you have a blessed and safe Independence Day!



When I think of this month, the 4th of July comes to mind. Families get together and celebrate. Lots of good food is consumed. Many people will head to their favorite camping spot. People celebrate this day by watching fireworks. This date in 1776 our nation declared us to be an independent nation and no longer a colony of England and the Declaration of Independence was signed. Our forefathers established a free and democratic system of government, which gave us the privilege of worshipping freely.

On July 4th we should remember to give thanks for their wisdom, faith, and courage. It is a time for us to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Words from the Bible were stamped on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and read: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10 (KJV). May we also look in faith to the future and commit our lives to doing his will. Psalm 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord".

We had a great turn out for our June WOZ meeting. Thanks to all that attended. Thanks to those that served the Over 60's dinner in Latimer on June 18. Enjoy time with family and friends on the 4th of July.

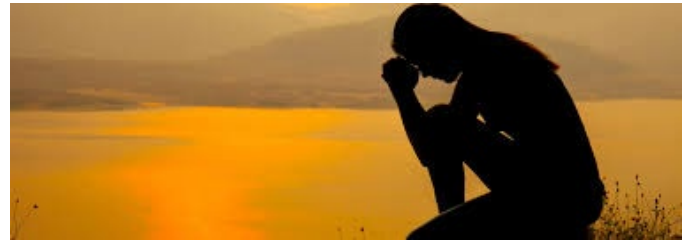
Yours in Christ,  
Judy Crom, WOZ President

#### *A PRAYER FOR JULY 4*

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live. We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and mothers, and for their foresight, special wisdom, and steadfast courage in establishing freedom and a lasting document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good stewards of all the blessings of the land we love.  
Amen. -Anonymous

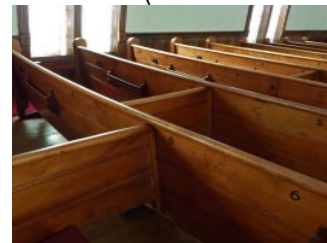


## **WOZ SPIRITUAL LIFE**



This is a picture of the church in Adeline, Illinois, where I attended Vacation Bible School in the mid-1970's. For one week of the summer in the 1970's, I would stay at my grandma's house in the country and we would attend VBS together at her church — she as a helper in the kitchen and me, a timid elementary student. It was a little scary at first to go, as I did not know any of the other kids or how to look up Bible verses. The concept of "church" was somewhat foreign to me — my family didn't go to church.

Being at Grandma's for the week of VBS consisted of a daily Bible story in my class of 4 other students with my teacher — a grandmotherly, kind lady, Miss Newcomer, whom I adored. Our "classroom" was a section in the sanctuary — each class had an "area" of one or two dark-stained, oak pews in which to call their "classroom". Down the middle of these pews there was a wooden partition — a reminder of the once traditional practice that men sit on one side and women on the other while attending church services (this church was built in 1898).



"Craft" time involved making something out of construction paper using scissors and old-fashioned paste. "Recreation" time were simple, outdoor group games that didn't involve any props. At "Snack" time, we all were lead across the quiet street to the white, wood-

sided building that was the location of the church kitchen, which was in the basement, reminiscent of the “Walton family’s” style kitchen. We went through the line and were served ice-cold Kool-Aid poured from stocky, metal pitchers beaded with condensation, and homemade cookies. We sat with our classes on rustic, but sturdy, white painted tables and benches that were covered with thick, clear plastic tacked in place so as to be easily wiped clean by Grandma, and the other kitchen helpers, of snack-time crumbs and craft-time paste. I memorized my bible verses, sang children’s church songs together with the other classes (accompanied by Miss Newcomer at the piano at the front of church), made new friends, then collapsed into bed each night at Grandma’s house, said a prayer of thankfulness for Jesus being in my heart, and would fall asleep to the sound of chirping crickets, anxious to get to go back to the church the next day and do it all over again! I remember the feeling of being loved, cared for and nurtured in the love of Jesus by all those who were associated with VBS!

I think of this past month of June — Zion’s VBS 2024 — and I know there are kids that attended that week that are feeling the same way I did, too, as a young child. Some may have come from unchurched families that were as timid as I was about being introduced to the Bible, learning bible verses and singing fun songs about trusting Jesus. There’s not a doubt in my mind that they felt loved, cared for and nurtured in the love of Jesus while collapsing into bed each night, excited for the next day of VBS! And for all of that, I say THANK YOU, Pastor, Wendy, Bev, teachers, craft leaders, recreation director Nick, kitchen helpers and everyone who played a part of any kind at Zion’s VBS! WELL DONE leading these children to Christ Jesus, their Savior! (And thank you, Grandma Pair ♥ )

*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*  
Matthew 9:14

Blessings,  
Shelly Buseman, Spiritual Life



**Food  
Pantry  
Needs**

**Please  
Bring  
Items  
Every first  
Sunday**



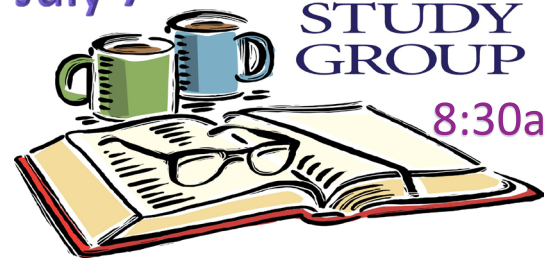
Franklin County Fair, July 9: 5pm parade; Zion will have a parade entry!! Watch for details!

July 10-14– Fair dates; Fair Church Service, July 14.

Zion will hold regular church service on July 14-9:15am outside. Bring a chair!

**July 7**

**MEN'S  
STUDY  
GROUP**



**8:30am**



**July 14**



**Family  
Ministry  
Wed,  
July 17**

**@ 6:30pm**



See the bulletin board or ask Jen Koenen if you have questions. Thank you!

## CORN FESTIVAL



Corn Festival : Zion Ambassadors are planning to host a Corn Festival on Sunday, July 21 from 11:30 - 1:30. The festival will highlight corn grown in Iowa and how it feeds the world. Iowa Sweetcorn and South African corn dishes, along with Boerewors, will be served. Activities for the day include: Food, drinks, Bouncy House, Cornhole, Crafts and Face Painting, along with Hayrides. Please check the bulletin board for ways to get involved: Volunteers to set up and take down, make corn dishes (recipe will be provided) , donate drinks (water and pop), supply a pop-up tailgate tent.

Q: See Ann, Zion Ambassador's



OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE



Ann Lupkes\*, Jen Koenen,  
Megan Suntken, Tonya Halsne



July 7	Klinks/Busemans
July 14	Outside Service
July 21	Circle Group
July 28	Jeff/Shelly



DATE	AUDIO	VIDEO
July 7	Dave	Kendal
July 14	Outside Service	-----
July 21	Jesse	Carma
July 28	Nick	Tonya



## Children's Time during church service

DATE	LEADER
July 7	Shelly B.
July 14	Outside
July 21	Dave
July 28	Shelly



## DAYCARE PROVIDERS!

*After Children's Time*

DATE	LEADER/HELPER
July 7	Steph C/Barrett
July 14	NA – Outside Service
July 21	Kirsten/Morgan A.
July 28	Shelly/Marli



Please pray for our summer church campers:  
Marli, Tenley, Morgan, Tyler, Kinnick, Edrich, Hayden,  
Tatum

## BAZAAR – Oct. 5



Sign up sheets will be posted soon!!!

# Thank you

VanHorn: Thank you, Pastor Petri, for your visits and prayers. Thank you to our church family for your prayers, cards, visits and phone calls during and after my surgery at the end of April and my accident in May. All of your prayers have truly been felt. God bless you all for your caring concern.  
-Vernon

Thank you to our VBS directors, Wendy and Bev! Such a fantastic week at Zion for the children, helpers and all involved!

RCYF: Thank you to everyone that stayed and enjoyed the beefburgers and ice cream after VBS Sunday. Your support means so much!



## Please keep the following in prayer:

Dave Harms, Brian Lupkes, Angie DeVries, Diane Hughes  
Nick Formanek, cousin of Mariah Miller, healing  
from an incident.

Christian condolences to the family and friends of  
Royce Harms. (Dave's dad) Royce passed away  
on June 22.

Christian condolences to Brian Lupkes and family  
on the passing of his mom, Beverly. Beverly  
passed away on June 25.



## Flowers:

- \*Darlene Meints
- \*Harper Smith's baptism
- \* Shirley Ludens



Congratulations to Nate and Lauren Stevens on their wedding, June 8.

Congratulations to Blake and McKayla Miller on their wedding, June 22.



**HOPE CIRCLE – JULY 3 @ 7PM**

*DEVOTIONS/LESSON: TERESA B    HOST: ANN*

**VESPER CIRCLE - July 8@ 1:30pm (Fellowship Hall)**

*Devotions/Lesson: Marge    Host: Elaine*

**SUNRISE CIRCLE - Jul 10 @ 9:00am**

*Devotions/Lesson/Host: Mardel*

**Faith Circle – July 25 @ 7pm**

**Journey Circle – July 25 @ 7pm**

**WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE CHILDHOOD VACATION?**



**\*Daily Devotionals:** If you would like to receive daily devotionals in your mailbox, please let Marsha know by July 14. Zion subscribes to the following: Our Daily Bread, Words of Hope and Upper Room. NOTE: The extras are placed on the small table outside of Pastor's door. Help yourself.



Holy Communion: July 21

## PASTOR'S SCHEDULE




Kindly remember that Pastor's day off is every Friday. If you should have an emergency, please contact Elder, Jon Suntken. Thank you.

# Zion Reformed Church

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Sheffield, IA 50475 (zionchurch2029@gmail.com)  
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Pastor Petri van Rooyen; 641-231-2361



JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Office Hours:</b> M, W, TH: 8am - Noon	1	2	3 7pm Hope Circle	4 	5	6 
7 *Food Pantry* 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:15am Worship	8 1:30pm Vesper Circle	9 5pm Fair Parade	10 9:00am Sunrise Circle	11	12 	13
<div>Franklin County Fair Week (10-14)</div>						
14 9:15am outside Worship	15	16	17 6:30pm Family Ministry	18 Consistory	19	20 
21 *Holy Communion 9:15am Worship Zion's Corn Festival: 11:30am-1:30pm	22	23	24	25 7pm Faith & Journey Circles	26 	27
28 9:15am Worship  *ARC Assessments*	29  31	30	31			