

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit."

This time of year I tend my garden several times a week. Several years ago I started using a trellising method called the Florida weave. Most tomato varieties are really more of a vine that will grow almost indefinitely. So I started treating them like vines. This method involves driving in fence posts and spacing two or three plants between the posts and then building a trellis with baling twine as the vine grows, weaving the twin in an alternating pattern which both supports the vine and permits easy pruning and harvesting.

Once the plants start vining, I prune off all branches and leaves within a foot of the ground to help control soil borne diseases. I focus on pruning off all extra foliage and branches that do not produce fruit. Why? Because tomato leaves are not delicious. I want the fruit. I want BLTs, caprese salad, and tomatoes for canning.

The point of the growing vine is fruitfulness. The vine produces many branches that do not bear fruit. And while the plant needs some foliage to fuel growth and fruitfulness through the miracle of photosynthesis, not every branch or leaf is needed. In life and ministry, this metaphor of the vine and goal of fruitfulness that Jesus provides is still relevant and I think of it every time I prune my tomatoes. The goal of ministry, both personal and congregational, is to produce fruit. The point is not to have a gigantic plant, which is what happens when nothing is pruned. I feed the plants with fertilizer, provide water when needed, and give them a space with plenty of sunlight. I simply assist them in what is already an excellent growing environment and pruning helps focus the energy of the plant to producing fruit instead of more foliage.

Life and ministry are not always about numbers or possessions or lots of money. The life of a Christian and a congregation of Christians is about producing fruit. God has provided us with the gifts and call to share the Gospel with the world around us. Fruitfulness is measured by the lives changed by the good news of the gospel. And sometimes our focus on producing more foliage and branches which bear no fruit reduces the fruitfulness of changing lives. What in your life or the life of Zion Lutheran Church needs to be pruned away to help produce more fruit? What extras get in the way of fruit production and sap our time and energy but produce no fruit? These are my thoughts when I prune away the branches of my tomato vines. How does God focus the energy of our lives, gift of the gospel, and gifts given in Holy Baptism into producing the fruit of changing lives through the love of Jesus?

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Willie Rosin



The Contact

faith. family. community.

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VBS UPDATE

Vacation Bible School was a huge success in July! We had a total of 97 kiddos and volunteers! 7 local churches came together to offer "Generation to Generation" Sunday July 10-Thursday July 14 here at Zion and the Family Fun Night at Grace! Thank you to everyone who participated; we could not have done it without you! Your help, donations, and prayers made it a success. The kiddos had a great time and left every night with a huge smile on their face, ready to come back the next night! It was a great time had by all and we look forward to next summer!

MEMORIAL BOOKS

For several years now, Ruth Starkweather, a long-time Zion and Memorial Committee member, has been collecting information and photos of Zion's memorials and gifts that were given by friends and families of Zion members that have passed. Ruth has taken the time to sort and organize all the information and photos as far back as 1968 up through present day. All this material is now in two books for everyone to look at. You can stop by the church office to pick up these books and check them out with Heather.

THANK YOU

Zion would like to thank Reita Driskell and Dick Marr for their many years of service here at Zion. Reita and Dick have shared their time and talents by being Zion's counters, and both have recently retired from this volunteer position. Zion is grateful to you both for your dedication and service.

PRAYERS AROUND ZION

"Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs."

FOR THOSE THAT ARE ILL:

Elaine Van Grievenhof,
Butch Doyle, Patty Lange,
Roger Roskens

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE:

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

* = 90+ yrs., ** = 100+ yrs.
Anniversaries = 50+ yrs.

Sharon Martin	8/1
Mike Carter	8/11
Evie Marr	8/20
Rick & Deb Weiss	7/15
John & Sue Robinson	8/13
Gary & Judy Sebbert	8/31

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

All Comm: 6:30 PM - 8/4
Council: 6:30 PM - 8/11

CONTACT NEWS:

All newsletter articles are
due by Aug 22 @ 12 PM.

COME READ WITH US

In an effort to close or narrow the achievement gap in literacy, the Grace Lutheran Church Ministry of Literacy Program provides free tutoring services to 1st and 2nd grade children from neighboring schools who need support in reading. We are looking for volunteers to read one-on-one with the children from 4-5 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year. Volunteers help as often as they like. We work around your schedule. Your only responsibility is to read with them. Volunteers can be 7th graders through 90+ years. High school students have been able to apply this service to earning a silver cord/volunteer hours. This program will take place at Grace Lutheran. If interested, contact Deb Holliday (563-299-2145) or Karen Woods (563-260-5846) for more details.

BACKPACK BLESSINGS

Sunday, **August 21** during worship, there will be a backpack blessing for any student who would like to bring in their backpack to have it blessed as they will begin the new 2022 school year.

FAITH STEPPING STONES

7th graders will receive their Study Bibles and Faith Stepping Stone: Entry into Confirmation on **August 21**. Three Year Olds will receive their Story Bibles on **August 21**. (Events will take place during worship.) Three Year Olds will begin Sunday School on **September 11**.

AUG USHERS:

Jim & Julie Haage, Bill
Toyne, Mike Batenhorst,
Rosendo Ramos

ALTAR GUILD SUNDAYS:

1st - Richardson's
2nd - Sheryl, Stacey, Sarah
3rd - Pusateri's
4th - Starkweather's
Sub/5th - Hanson's

ACOLYTES:

8/7 Dalton Bozarth
8/14 Naomi Young
& Bailey Othmer
8/21 Hayden Cantrell
& Jackson Evans
8/28 Max Brendel
& Mason Smith

LUNCH BUNCH:

August 11 @ 11:30 AM,
China Garden

Z-BOOK CLUB:

Our next Z-Book Club
meeting will be August 15,
@ 5:30 PM, Diamond
Dave's. We will be reading
"Stolen Dreams" by Karen
Cogan.

GROUP 5:

August 16 @ 11:30 AM,
Pizza Ranch

JOY CIRCLE:

August 25 @ 6:00 PM,
Lighthouse

FINANCIAL UPDATE

	May '22 Actual	5/12 Yr. Budget	Yr.-to-Date Difference
Bdg Inc	\$85,264	114,190	(28,926)
Bdg Exp	108,088	114,190	(6,102)
Net Ord Inc	(22,824)	-	(22,824)

Unbdg Inc	6,455	-	6,455
Unbdg Exp	6,658	-	6,658
Net Income	(23,027)	-	(23,027)

Fund Balances

Unified	\$191,140	Building	\$57,703
Memorial	\$38,351	Fellowship	\$2,640
Youth	\$5,147	Des. Bene.	-
Quilters	\$2,643	Inn. Ministries	\$94,965
Flower Fund	(1,109)	Gateway	\$9,473

	June '22 Actual	6/12 Yr. Budget	Yr.-to-Date Difference
Bdg Inc	\$99,554	137,028	(37,474)
Bdg Exp	126,885	137,028	(10,143)
Net Ord Inc	(27,287)	-	(27,287)

Unbdg Inc	7,448	-	7,448
Unbdg Exp	7,404	-	7,404
Net Income	(27,287)	-	(27,287)

Fund Balances

Unified	\$186,880	Building	\$58,107
Memorial	\$38,275	Fellowship	\$2,524
Youth	\$5,607	Des. Bene.	-
Quilters	\$2,748	Inn. Ministries	\$94,988
Flower Fund	(1,344)	Gateway	\$9,268



AUGUST

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 5pm AA	1 6:30pm AA	2 7pm Scouts	3 6:30pm AA	4 6:30pm All Comm.	5 6:30pm AA	6
7 9am Worship/Bag of Blessings 10:30am Fellowship 5pm AA	8 6:30pm AA	9 1:30pm Memorial Comm. Mtg. 7pm Scouts	10 6:30pm AA	11 11:30am Lunch Bunch @ China Garden 6:30pm Council	12 6:30pm AA	13
14 9am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 5pm AA	15 5:30pm Z-Book Club @ Diamond Dave's 6:30pm AA	16 11:30am Group 5 @ Pizza Ranch 7pm Scouts	17 6:30pm AA	18	19 6:30pm AA	20
21 9am Worship/Quarters for Hunger/Backpack Blessing/Entry into Confirmation/Story Bibles 10:30am Fellowship 5pm AA	22 12pm Contact Info Due 6:30pm AA	23 7pm Scouts	24 6:30pm AA	25 6pm Joy Circle @ Lighthouse	26 6:30pm AA	27
28 9am Worship/Food Pantry 10:30am Fellowship 5pm AA	29 6:30pm AA	30 7pm Scouts	31 6:30pm AA	1 6:30pm All Comm.	2 6:30pm AA	3