



# **ZION VISITOR March 2025**

E-mail address: [zionlc.midway@gmail.com](mailto:zionlc.midway@gmail.com)

website: [www.zlcmidway.org](http://www.zlcmidway.org)

Facebook page: Zion Lutheran

Phone number: 651-645-0851

**“Called by God’s grace to celebrate and share  
the love of God in our neighborhood.”**

**—Zion’s Mission Statement**



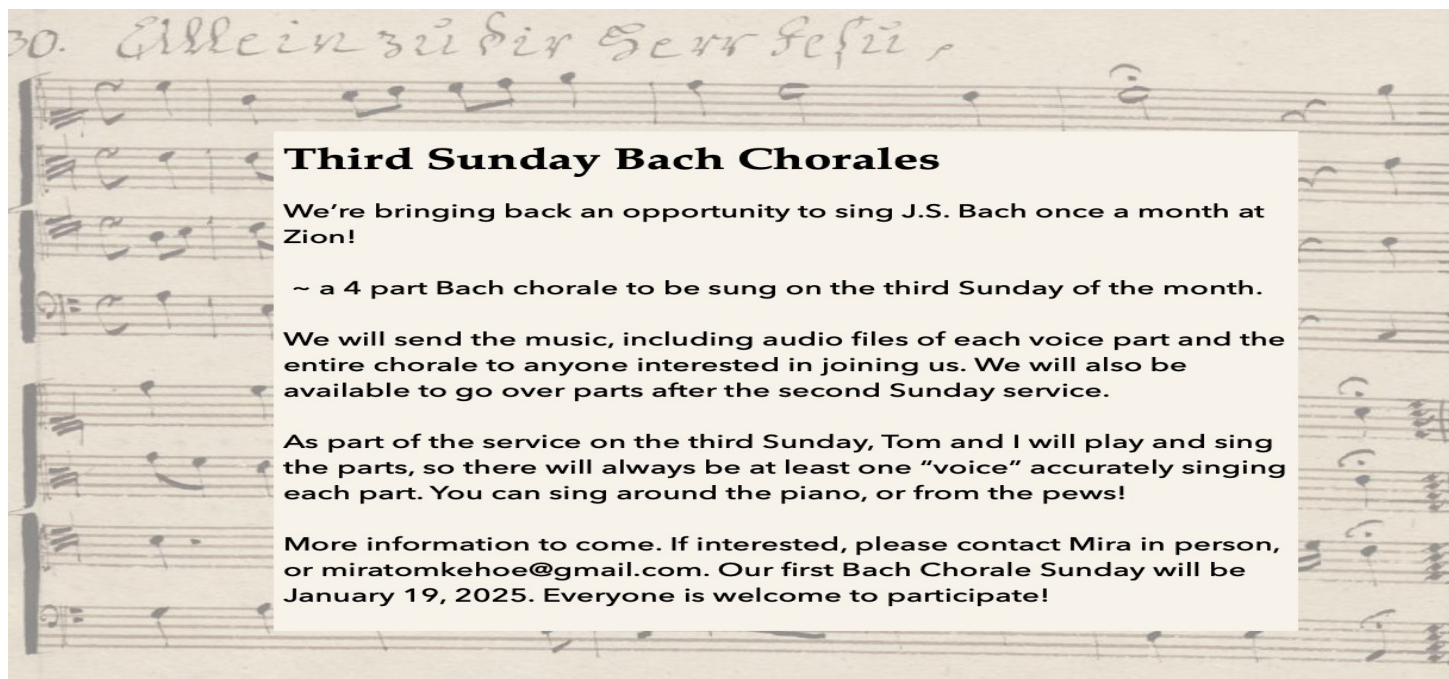
**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1697 LAFOND AVE**

**ST PAUL MN 55104**

# WORSHIP

**Sunday services will continue in-person and via Zoom: 10:00 a.m.  
Any with health concerns please stay home and join us on Zoom.**



**Third Sunday Bach Chorales**

We're bringing back an opportunity to sing J.S. Bach once a month at Zion!

~ a 4 part Bach chorale to be sung on the third Sunday of the month.

We will send the music, including audio files of each voice part and the entire chorale to anyone interested in joining us. We will also be available to go over parts after the second Sunday service.

As part of the service on the third Sunday, Tom and I will play and sing the parts, so there will always be at least one "voice" accurately singing each part. You can sing around the piano, or from the pews!

More information to come. If interested, please contact Mira in person, or [miratomkehoe@gmail.com](mailto:miratomkehoe@gmail.com). Our first Bach Chorale Sunday will be January 19, 2025. Everyone is welcome to participate!



(First Sunday of each month: March 2nd).

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE IS MARCH 5TH, 6 P.M.

*Recordings of our Sunday worship services are available on-line.*

**Zion's website: [www.zlcmidway.org](http://www.zlcmidway.org)**

### Donation Options:

- Mail-in to church: (Zion Lutheran Church, 1697 Lafond Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104)
- In person: during worship; or through the courtyard door mailslot
- Automatic bill pay from your bank using Zion's mailing address
- Donate button on Zion's webpage (3% fee for service)

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Dear Friends,

This month I am including my Letter to the Editor of the Pioneer Press that was printed Sunday, 2/23/25. Many of you saw it, but I know many did not. I include both the text and the link to the article below. As you know, we suffered a big financial blow when the federal government froze aid funding from the U.S.D.A. I wanted you to have the details in this newsletter. In response, we are hosting a special event at Zion--Thursday, March 6th, 6-7.30--for our neighbors who have also been directly impacted by recent federal cuts to programming and employment. It will be a time to share and hear each other's stories. To find strength, comfort, and creativity by connecting. Calling the gathering: Shelter in the Storm.



There is, however, so much more than this going on at Zion this month. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter, as an extended meditation on the ongoing process and practice of dying and rising to new life. Arts on Lafond offers an abundance of musical and meditative offerings in March. Our food programs continue via community support and solidarity despite the termination of the grant. Our community is rooted in relationships, and together we live abundantly.

In Peace, Pastor John

Online link to letter to the editor:

<https://www.twincities.com/2025/02/25/john-marboe-a-grant-for-good-food-for-good-people-gone/>

Text of Letter:

### **John Marboe: A grant for good food for good people ... gone**

It was a sobering moment.

In summer of 2024 our small Lutheran Church in St. Paul, together with (non-church) community volunteers and programs housed here in what we now call a "community commons," applied for a grant funded by the USDA.

Zion Lutheran has sustained a weekly food giveaway program for over 15 years with volunteers and very little money. In partnership with the community around us, the Church (or Commons) now hosts three weekly food programs -- all through small donations and wide participation.

Under the 501(c)(3), Prevail News, we together applied for a federally funded grant called the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA). The year-long grant was designed to promote local growers, producers, and economies in food production, by linking them with organizations like ours that distribute food to people who are food-insecure.

We were stunned to be one of 50 organizations in Minnesota to be awarded the grant. The amount (\$122,000 over 12 months) is roughly equal to the church's annual budget. As a reimbursable grant, Zion Lutheran would have to front a loan to Prevail of \$20,000 in order to purchase food while awaiting reimbursement.

Continued on next page . . .

We worried. Could we ramp up to responsibly distribute this higher volume of food to our neighbors? Could we organize responsibly to comply with the strict requirements of the grant for reporting and distribution? We took a collective deep breath. And said, "Yes."

In September, we signed the legal contract to promise these things on our end. Then, in October, we began to purchase food from The Good Acre in St. Paul, which sources food from local producers. And we began to give it away. Local eggs, local honey, local milk, local produce -- top quality -- the kind of food that made our neighbors coming to receive it feel shy. Those accustomed to "rescued food" at or beyond expiration dates truly wondered if they could actually have it. It was Co-op level stuff. Food many of us can't, or choose not to, afford.

It was a beautiful program. A way that our tax dollars could foster and grow local food production and economies, toward sustainability, while nourishing our neighbors in need. One we viewed as a "bridge grant" toward a community-solidarity vs. charity model. An innovative way to address food insecurity with better than left-overs. In Minnesota, one in four households with children is food-insecure. Which should be unacceptable to all of us. But here we are. Government aid is not enough to solve this problem, but wise investment in local communities can help.

On Friday, Feb. 7th, we were informed that all funds for this program had been frozen by the federal government. We cannot expect any more reimbursement. We were over four months into this program and doing exactly what was intended. People with little money were pressing coins, dollars, and checks into my hands in gratitude (unsolicited) for the bounty they were receiving. All going toward sustainability beyond the grant. Here we are. Since grant funds were frozen -- we believe illegally -- we are holding the bag for \$15,220 that we have already spent expecting reimbursement. We do not expect to receive it. It is nearly 15% of our church budget, spent in good faith. Met with bad faith. We share our story to encourage others to share theirs. To make the headlines real, personal, and local. Individuals, agencies, and communities have been harmed far more than we. Yet:

We prevail together. We will. Because people are more valuable than money. Because community is better than gold. Because food belongs to everyone. Because love does find a way. And love never stops loving. That's not a sentiment. It is down to earth and practical. Edible even.

*The Rev. John Marboe is pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in the Midway of St. Paul (ELCA). His email address is [johncharles2@gmail.com](mailto:johncharles2@gmail.com). You can sign up for a weekly meditation there, or see his once in a while blog at [revdrgarbage.com](http://revdrgarbage.com)*



# EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT

## ZION'S FOOD AND WELLNESS PROGRAM



On Thursdays, Zion distributes food for our neighbors and friends.

Please come between 1 and 3 p.m. to get your free bag of groceries and a lunch to take home or dine in with us.



Thank you to all who volunteer their time and talents to this program.

***.Zion needs volunteers between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.***

***We Believe Good Food Brings Us Together.***

### Enneagram

Each week Zion offers a small group experience to explore the transformative possibilities of the Enneagram. The Enneagram is a method to explore one's own unique personality in relationship to others and to life itself. The basic idea is to reflect on our lives in light of nine ("ennea" in Greek) personality types (with infinite variations of course), as a lens to understand ourselves better and to grow. We meet via Zoom using the same meeting ID as our Sunday gatherings. Feel free to ask Pastor John, Janet Quarn, Phoebe Waugh, or Marlin Osthus for more details.

**Thursdays 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**



### Bible Study



### March Session Three:

**Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10-11)**

**We do not always see eye-to-eye with our neighbor. And yet, we are called to love our neighbor.**

**March 24th 1 p.m. in Annex**

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Meeting will be via Zoom

6 pm on Tuesday,

**March 18th**

# Scripture Readings

March 2nd — Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99 (9)

2 Corinthians 3:12 — 4:2

Luke 9:28-36[37-43a]

March 9th — First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16 (11)

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16th — Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27 (5)

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 23 — Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8 (1)

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 30th — Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32 (11)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



March 5th — Charlotte Marboe

March 6th — Adam Luchsinger

March 8th — Emma Luchsinger

March 11 — Jim Nieszner

March 14th — Eric Brandt

March 18th — Chuck Pelton

March 26th — Sara Hunter

March 26th — Tom Nieszner

March 29th — Tom Mathison

***Zion's Anniversary: 135 years***



**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 9TH**

SET YOUR CLOCK  
ONE HOUR FORWARD  
BEFORE GOING TO  
BED SATURDAY  
NIGHT

## February Financials

Income - \$7,717.87

Bills paid - \$9,928.58

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

Bills paid reflects the cold of recent weeks as well as increased building use.

Income reflects the generosity of our community as well as neighbors and friends and other worshipping groups here and across the country.

Thanks you to all.

Janet Quarn, Treasurer



*"Pay what you want/can"  
All are welcome!*

## **Zion Community Commons**

1697 Lafond Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104

*Contributions support Zion Community Commons Food Justice Initiatives.*

**Every Tuesday**  
**Weekly Community Dinners**  
**11 a.m. — 8 p.m.**

Vegan, gluten-free, nut-free, corn-free

***Dine in or take out!***  
*Bringing your own containers is  
always encouraged.*

**WEEKLY EACH  
THURSDAY:**  
Open Market/Vegan  
Meal from 5 — 8 p.m.  
Meals and groceries  
offered in goodwill to all.

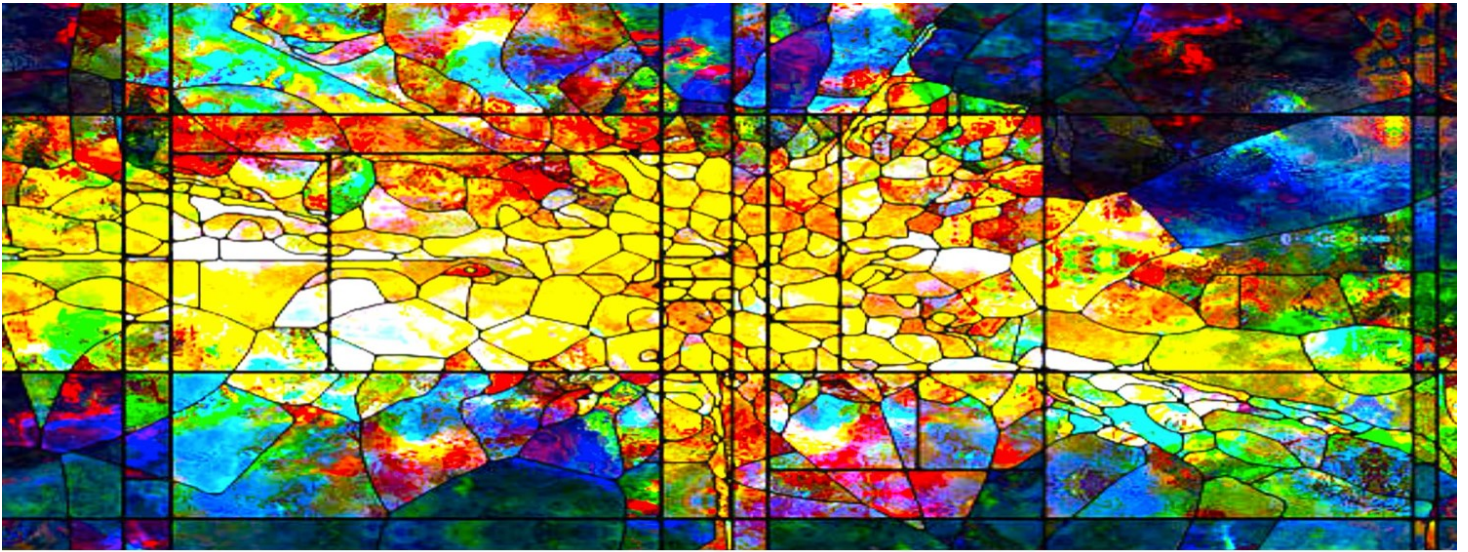
### **Preorder instructions:**

- Send an email to [eurekacompassveganfood@gmail.com](mailto:eurekacompassveganfood@gmail.com)
- Include a window of time for pick up and number of meals.
- Cash contributions accepted at time of pick up.
- Credit card? Just let us know the amount of your contribution; we'll email you an invoice prior to the date. Pay electronically through a prompt in the email.
- Walk-ins welcomed! (It's always best to preorder.)



<https://eurekacompassveganfood.com/community-dinner>

**Community Meal each Fridays.**  
**4—8 p.m.**



## arts on lafond & Zion Lutheran Church

### Darkness into light light into many colors

Gather in silence, beautiful visuals and gentle sound for a mid-week pause.

We offer a quiet space for reflection, meditation and contemplation. Music and stained glass visuals in a darkened space. This is not a performance, but rather a space where you can be in stillness; guided by silence and gentle sound.

Feel free to come and leave as you wish.

**Thursday 6 - 8pm**

**March 27, 2025**

**Zion Lutheran Church  
1697 Lafond Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104**

Contributions welcomed to support the work of artists in our neighborhood.

To donate online: [www.zlcmidway.org](http://www.zlcmidway.org)

Would you like to receive periodic emails from Arts on Lafond? Send your email to [artsonlafond@gmail.com](mailto:artsonlafond@gmail.com) to get on our list!

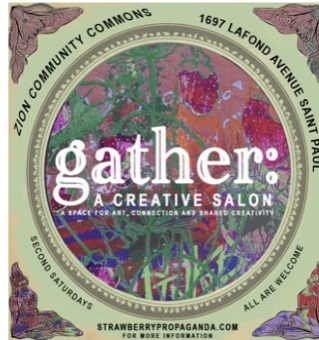
**Arts on Lafond**  
1697 Lafond Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
[artsonlafond@gmail.com](mailto:artsonlafond@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/artsonlafond](https://facebook.com/artsonlafond)



# arts on lafond

## March Events 2025

Zion Community Commons  
1697 Lafond Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104



**gather:** A CREATIVE SALON  
10:30am - 1pm Saturday, March 8

~ creativity, connection, discussion  
and making magic

[https://www.strawberrypropaganda.com/  
events/gather](https://www.strawberrypropaganda.com/events/gather)

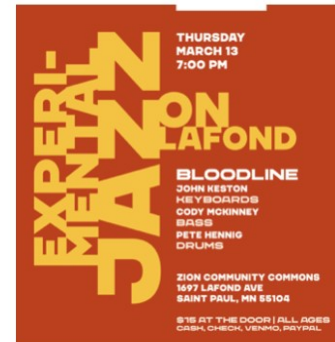
**Vanguard New Music Series**

ZION COMMUNITY COMMONS  
1697 LAFOND AVE  
SAINT PAUL, MN

ZEITGEIST  
SOUNDING GROUND  
THURS, MAR 20, 2025 | 7 PM

**The Sonoglyph Collective**  
*poetry & music*

7pm Friday, March 28  
No cover \$15 suggested donation



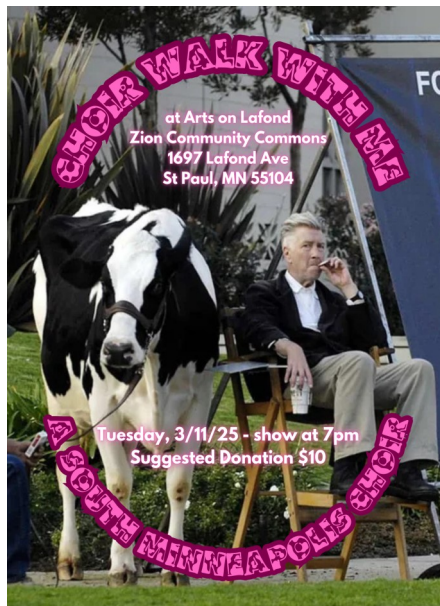
**Experimental Jazz on Lafond**

**Bloodline** 7pm Thursday, March 13  
All Ages \$15 at the door



**What Are You Reading?**

~ a weekly discussion group  
Every Tuesday, 6 - 7pm in the Zion Library



**sound bath meditation**  
with Marc Anderson

a powerful sound immersion experience  
7 - 8pm Tuesday, March 25

Suggested donation: \$15 cash or  
Paypal @urbanmonkproject





<https://www.facebook.com/artsonlafond/>

Interested in hosting community meetings, gatherings, events, etc. in our space? Contact John Marboe or Mira Kehoe at [artsonlafond@gmail.com](mailto:artsonlafond@gmail.com)

Thank you for your generous support!  
Donations to **Arts on Lafond:** [https://  
secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8XC/home](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8XC/home)

# MARCH

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 am Zion's Worship and on Zoom Fellowship time after Worship 11:30 am -2 pm— Unique 7000 Worship	3	4 9:30 a.m. —Quilting 11 am—8pm— Vegan Community Meal 6—7 pm What Are You Reading?	5  ASH WEDNESDAY 6 pm Service	6 11:15 a.m. Enneagram via Zoom 1-3 p.m. — Food and Wellness Program 5-8 pm — Open Market & Vegan Meal 6-7:30 pm — Shelter in the Storm	7 4-8 p.m. — Community Meal	8 10:30 am-1 pm— gather
9 10:00 am Zion's Worship and on Zoom 11:30 am -2 pm— Unique 7000 Worship 	10	11 9:30 a.m. —Quilting 11 am—8pm— Vegan Community Meal 6—7 pm What Are You Reading? 7 pm — Choir walk with me: A South Minneapolis Choir	12	13 11:15 a.m. Enneagram via Zoom 1-3 p.m. — Food and Wellness Program 5-8 pm — Open Market & Vegan Meal 7 pm— Experimental Jazz on Lafond	14 4-8 p.m. — Community Meal	15
16 10:00 am Zion's Worship and on Zoom 11:30 am -2 pm— Unique 7000 Worship	17 	18 9:30 a.m. —Quilting 11 am—8pm— Vegan Community Meal 6 pm — Church council meeting 6—7 pm What Are You Reading?	19	20 11:15 a.m. Enneagram via Zoom 1-3 p.m. — Food and Wellness Program 5-8 pm — Open Market & Vegan Meal 	21 4-8 p.m. — Community Meal	22
23 10:00 am Zion's Worship and on Zoom 11:30 am -2 pm— Unique 7000 Worship	24 1 pm — Bible Study	25 9:30 a.m. —Quilting 11 am—8pm— Vegan Community Meal 6—7 pm What Are You Reading? 7-8 pm — sound bath meditation	26	27 11:15 a.m. Enneagram via Zoom 1-3 p.m. — Food and Wellness Program 5-8 pm — Open Market & Vegan Meal 6-8 pm— Darkness into Light	28 4-8 p.m. — Community Meal  7 pm—The Sonoglyph Collective: poetry & music	29
30 10:00 am Zion's Worship and on Zoom 11:30 am -2 pm— Unique 7000 Worship	31					