4/1/2020

Zion Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool

Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025



4550 MT. RUSHMORE RD RAPID CITY, SD 57701 Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is the pleasure of the Zion Strategic Planning Committee to submit, joyfully and prayerfully, their months-long efforts for your consideration in this 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. This committee was comprised of both new and longtime members, including high school students, retirees, and all ages in between. The work is the result of multiple surveys; input from the Church, School, and Preschool community; hours of meeting and discussion; writing and rewriting; and above all else, love and prayers.

The Committee was tasked to examine strengths and weaknesses of current ministries and to consider future needs. This called for both broad thinking and specific, realistic focus on details to formulate plans and make these ministry plans work. The Committee came through with a mix of practicality and creativity that ensures the strength of existing ministries and builds excitement for the possibilities of new opportunities.

But, above all, we share excitement for Zion's Mission – **Knowing Jesus, Growing in Faith, Serving with Love.** Excitement in the focus and the clarity that this Mission and the strategic plan give. Excitement in seeing this mission applied to all that we are and all that we do as Zion. Excitement in seeing how this Mission and the activities of this plan coincide with THE MISSION of THE GREAT COMMISSION that as the Church of Christ, as we go about our business, we make disciples, baptize, and teach the Gospel with comfort that our Savior Jesus is with us always to the end of days.

At the beginning of Psalm 127, we are reminded, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." It is Christ's church and it is Christ's plan. We humbly place this plan and ourselves into His Hands and pray that we be faithful to Him and that we commit our work and all that we have and all that we are to His forgiveness, mercy, grace, and love.

The Lord Be with You	,
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Pastor Paul Winckler

CONTENTS

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)	3
Mission Statement of Zion Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool	3
Vision Statement of Zion Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool	3
Areas of Ministry	3
Board Responsibilities	4
SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats	4
Survey Results	7
Relationships	7
Bible Studies	13
Worship – Building – Money	14
Goals/Action Plans	18
Building Expansion	18
Music Quality	19
Fellowship/Relationship Building	19
Short-term Bible Studies	20
Stewardship Culture	21
Technology in Worship	22
Website	23
Sustainability	24
Review Procedure	25
Future Aspirations	26

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (SPC)

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) was formed in March of 2019 and began meeting in April of that year. The current members (April 2020) of the committee are:

Kevin AkerLorien PetersenKen AndersonKirk RauschHanne BurkeAnn SolinskyLynette EppSylvia StoltzHope GenzlingerJim WestermanPastor Bryan MeadowsPastor Paul Winckler

MISSION STATEMENT OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND PRESCHOOL

Knowing Jesus, Growing in Faith, Serving with Love

Knowing Jesus – Having a personal relationship with Jesus as Savior through Worship, God's Word, and the Sacraments

Growing in Faith - Connecting with God and each other through the study of His Word, fellowship, and prayer

Serving with Love – Showing Christ's love through giving of our time and talents in our church and school, the community, and the world

VISION STATEMENT OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND PRESCHOOL

By the Holy Spirit, Zion will encourage all people to grow from who they are to who God created them to be.

What does this mean?

Because of sin, people are not who God created them to be. Zion, by the power of the Holy Spirit, aspires to reach members of our community, both within and beyond Zion, to help them grow in their knowledge of Jesus, grow in their faith in the Triune God, and grow in their willingness to serve others with love.

- ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... (Romans 3:23 ESV)
- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)
- 37 And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39)
- 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23-25)
- 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)
- "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

AREAS OF MINISTRY

The SPC developed a list of ministries at Zion and aligned those ministries to the mission statement.

Knowing Jesus	Growing in Faith	Serving with Love
Worship (for all ages)	Children's Ministry Sunday School J.A.M 4th and 5th grade youth Cradle Roll Vacation Bible School Youth Ministry Jr. & Sr. Youth Confirmation High School Sunday School High School Girls' Bible study Adult Ministry Devotions and weekly readings Sunday morning Bible study Home Bible study/small groups LifeLight - Tuesday morning Bible Study LWML Dorcas Circle New Member Class Loss Support Group Care Circle Cancer Support Group Softball Prayer Chain Prayer Groups Zion School Religion class/memory work Community Rate Classes	Worship

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

During a review of the responsibilities assigned to different boards at Zion, the SPC felt it was necessary to update the handbook of duties. The handbook was last reviewed in 2010. During this process, each board updated its duties and aligned them to the mission statement. The new handbook will be approved by the congregation prior to implementation.

SWOT - STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS

In order to build the best strategic plan for Zion, SPC conducted a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis, beginning with SPC members. Each SPC member was encouraged to visit with members of the congregation for additional insight before completing the exercise individually. Then a member of SPC led the SWOT exercise with each board at Zion. After sorting through all the information gathered, the SPC condensed the results into the main themes. These themes were used as a starting point for the congregational surveys. The themes are listed below as they appeared in the SWOT.

Building

- Strengths
 - o Beautiful location/view
 - o A/C
 - Handicap accessibility
 - School/church combination
 - Building is clean and presentable
- Weaknesses
 - o Limited space for Bible Study, meeting, etc.
 - Not keeping up with technology, i.e. projector quality
 - No traditional sanctuary
 - Limited space for school
 - Location for outreach people can't wander in
- Opportunities
 - School expansion
 - Early childhood center
 - Build a sanctuary
 - Update building/fresh look
 - Use gym for community events
 - Community garden
 - o Cost-conscious expansion
- Threats
 - Not building a sanctuary
 - Lack of space threatening program growth
 - Security

Relationships

- Outside the church
 - Strengths
 - Christian education School/preschool/daycare/VBS/youth
 - Bible study
 - Community connections
 - Friendliness with visitors
 - Billboards at holidays
 - Weaknesses
 - Lack of congregational community involvement
 - Website/communication
 - Consistency
 - Music
 - Length of service varies
 - Members not always welcoming

- Opportunities
 - Mission/servant events for all ages
 - Comfort dog ministry
 - Expansion of craft fair for more visitors
 - School expansion/early childhood program
 - Social media
 - Use gym for community events
 - Servant events at community events
 - Community garden
 - Summer reading camp
 - Military family support groups
- Threats
 - Not volunteering/complacency in our attitude toward needs
 - Lack of involvement attitude that staff or "someone else" will do it
 - Good economy and low unemployment "Life is good I don't need God."
 - Cultural attitudes about church/religion
 - Identity and gender issues
 - Negative opinion of Zion for not being involved in community events contrary to LCMS beliefs
- Inside the church
 - o Strengths
 - Multi-generational congregation
 - School/preschool/ministry staff
 - Pastoral relationships with members
 - School staff present at church
 - Positive class dynamics
 - Good connection with school families
 - United church-school relationship
 - Summer daycare
 - Fellowship opportunities
 - Warm, welcoming presence
 - Exceptional volunteers for Youth Ministry and Sunday School
 - Weaknesses
 - Involvement
 - Struggle to find congregational participation for boards, volunteers, etc.
 - Lack of follow through
 - Retaining students/families as members beyond fifth grade
 - Retaining members
 - Communication
 - Relationship-building not many opportunities to have fun together, fellowship
 - Participation in Bible study, small group
 - New member class is vague
 - Strong personality conflicts
 - Focus on delinquent members instead of caring for current members
 - Opportunities
 - More Bible study groups
 - Developing a stewardship culture
 - Comfort dog ministry
 - Shut-in ministry
 - Develop a worker support team
 - New member program
 - Develop a Covenant for Zion members an agreement of how we treat each other
 - Threats
 - Burnout of volunteers/staff/parents
 - Focus on selves, getting own way
 - Becoming too politically correct/partisan

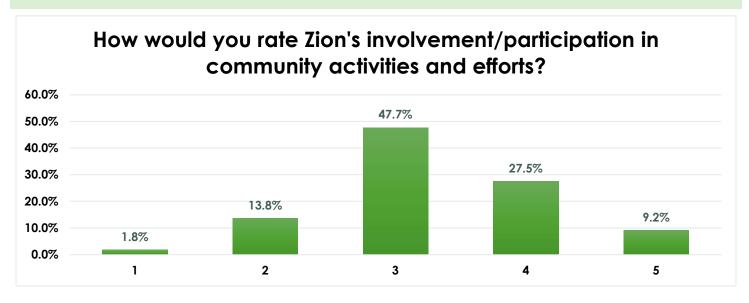
Worship

- Strengths
 - Multiple styles/opportunities
 - Good pastors
 - Doctrine
 - o Children's sermons
- Weaknesses
 - Music quality and consistency at all services
 - o Time change in schedule, summer Bible study
 - o Technology
 - Projection consistency
 - Website
 - o Making worship services accessible to shut-ins
- Opportunities
 - o What does it mean to be Lutheran? sermons/Bible study
 - o More congregational/laity participation in services
 - o Recognizing milestones in faith development (baptism, first Bible, etc.)
 - Open to new things
 - o Run announcements on the screen before services and on the TV in narthex
- Threats
 - o Attending worship/church not a priority
 - o Worship being entertainment

SURVEY RESULTS

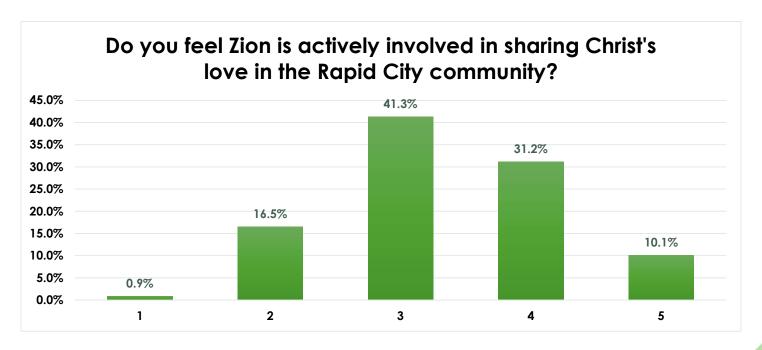
The SPC conducted three surveys regarding trends discovered in the SWOT process. These surveys were completed by Zion members, both electronically and on paper. The results are listed below.

RELATIONSHIPS



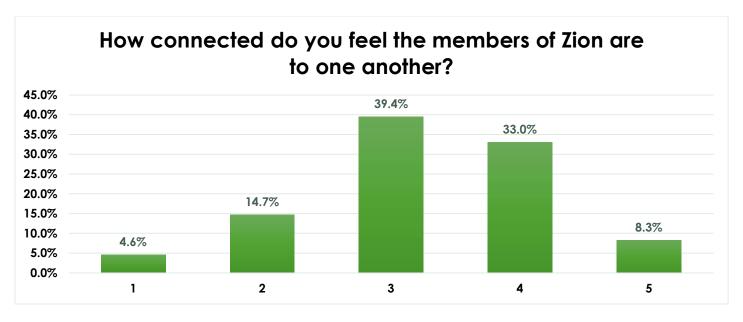
Not at all involved

Actively engaged in community activities

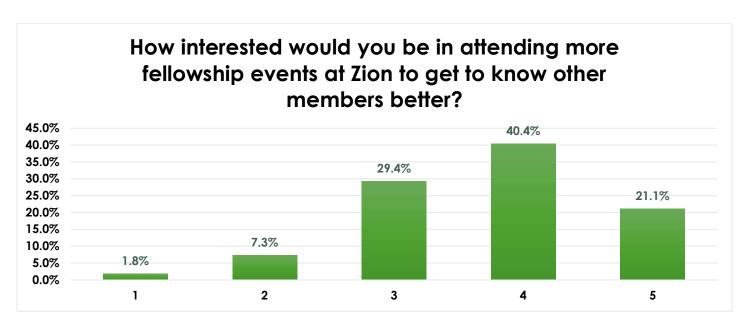


Not at all involved

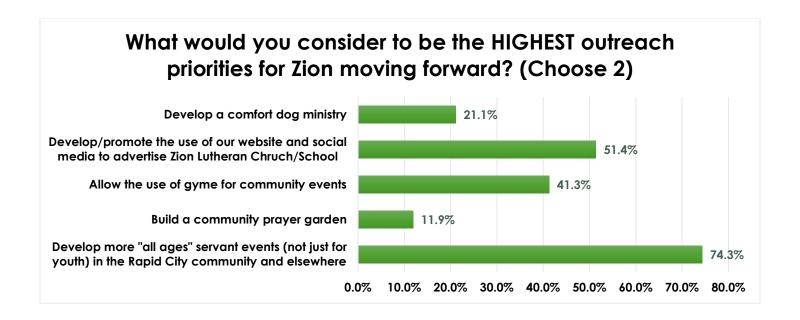
Actively engaged the community

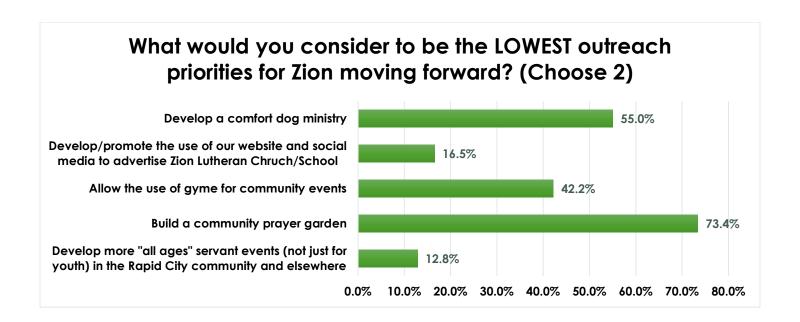


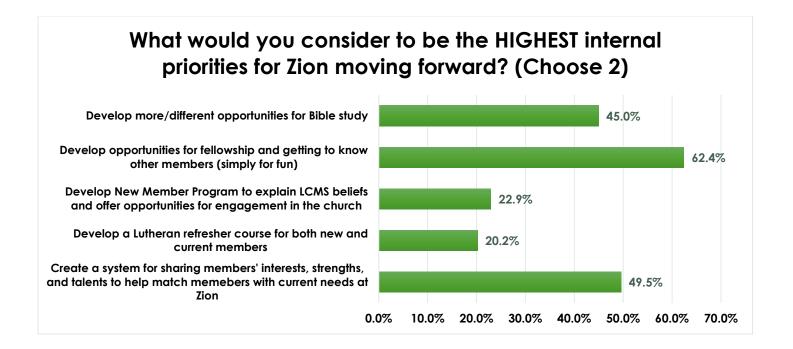
Not at all connected We are a family

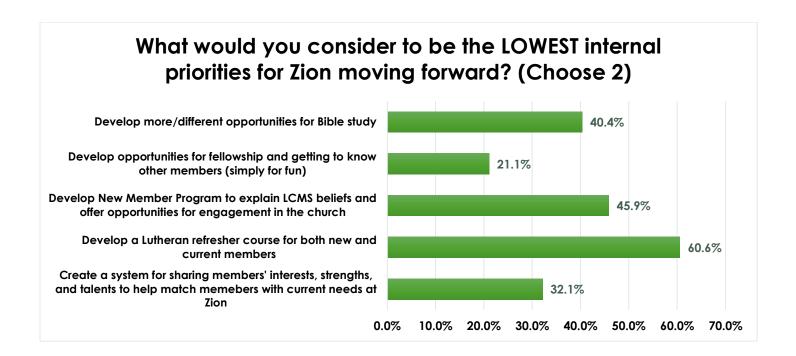


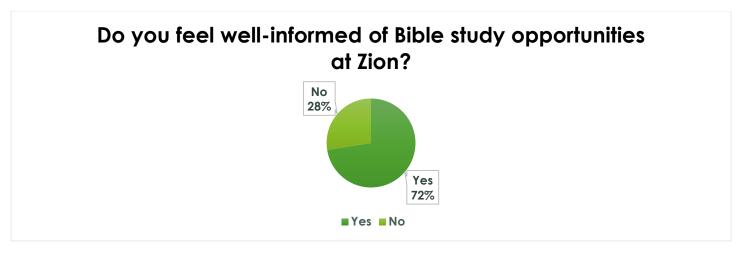
Not at all interested Very interested

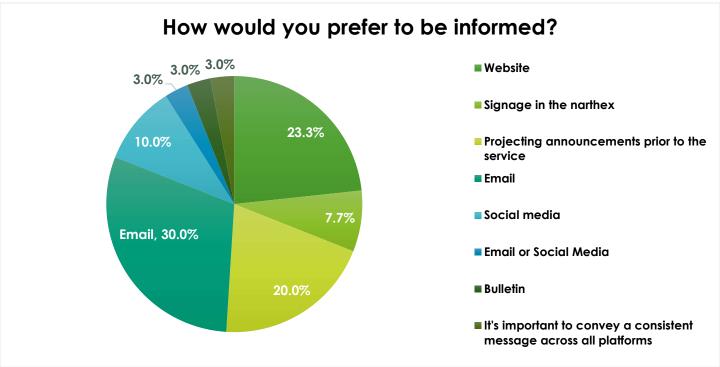


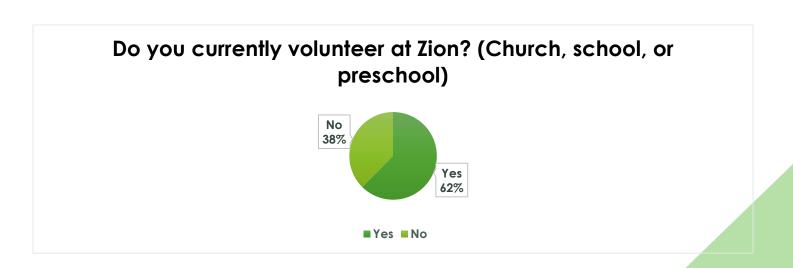


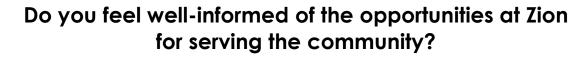


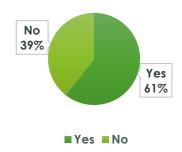




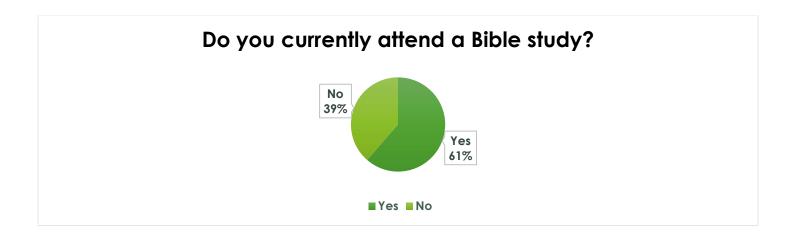


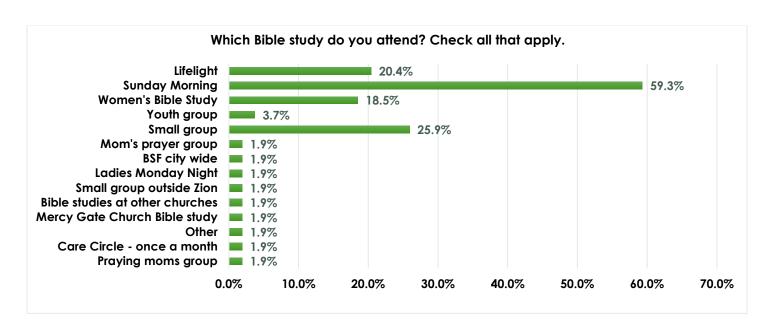


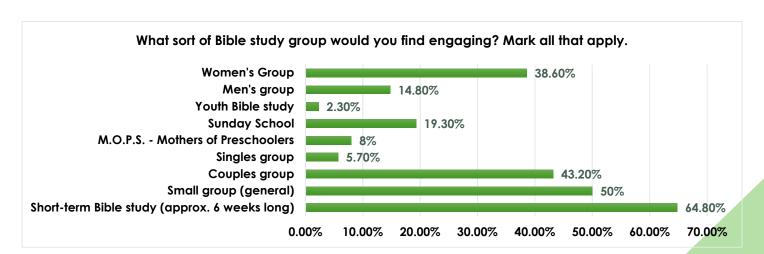


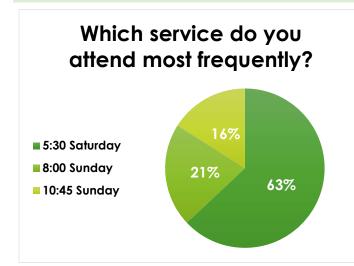


How would you prefer to be informed of opportunities at Zion? **■** Website 3.0% ■ Signage in the narthex 6.0% 7.1% ■ Projecting announcements prior to the services 11.9% **■** Email 14.3% Social Media Bulletin Email, 35.7% ■ As a school family emails by the teachers ■ Other

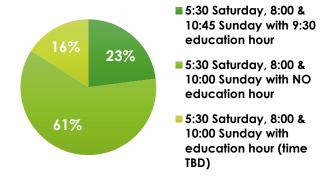


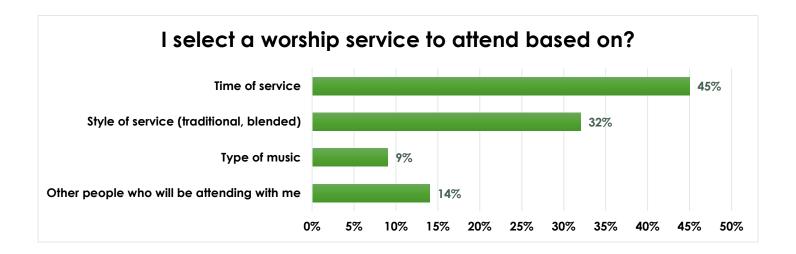


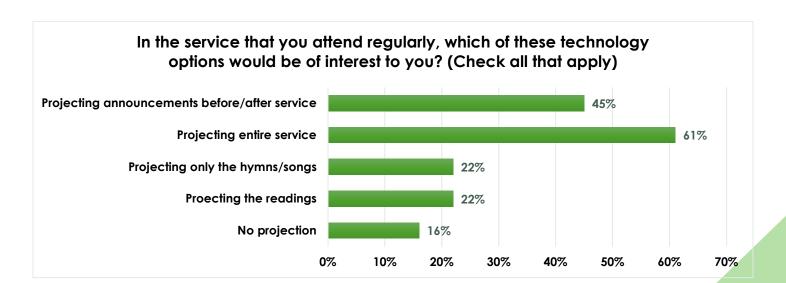


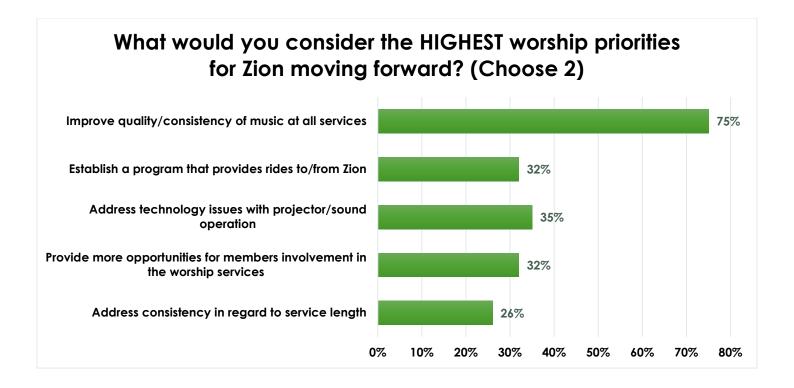


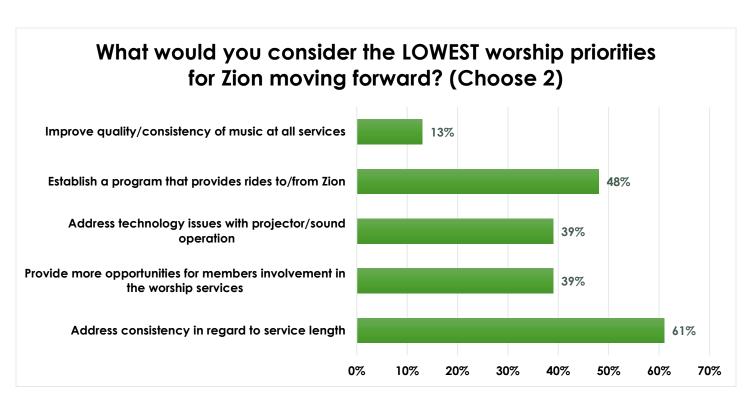
What summer worship schedule would you perfer?

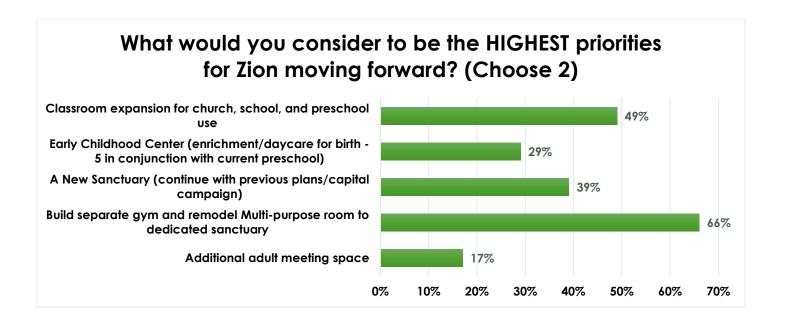


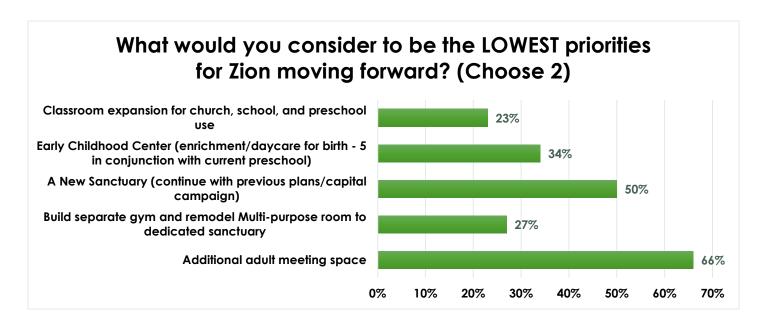






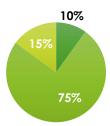






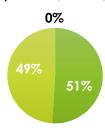
Do you feel the church and school ministries...

- Ask for money for special needs/projects too often
- Ask for money for special needs/projects a reasonable amount
- Should ask for money for special needs/projects more often



Do you feel the church and school ministries...

- Promote stewardship (sharing your time, talents, treasures) too often
- Promote stewardship (sharing your time, talents, treasures) a reasonable amount
- Promote stewardship (sharing your time, talents, treasures) more often



Do you feel that Zion's financial situation is...

- Under-communicated I am unaware of Zion's finances.
- Communicated reasonably I am aware of the current state of the budget.
- Over-communicated I feel we focus too much on budget.



GOALS/ACTION PLANS

Based on the information gathered throughout the SPC process, including the congregational surveys, the SPC has developed seven SMART goals and corresponding action plans. SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

Identified Area of Need: BUILDING EXPANSION				
SMART Goal		Мес	asures of Success	
Zion will expand its current facility to mission: Knowing Jesus, Growing in Love.				
Action Steps		Who is Responsible?	Resources Needed	Deadline
Board of directors will reestablish the committee and establish a capital committee.	•	BOD		June 2020 meeting
The capital campaign committee was state of Zion's Together We Grow (Toontinue/revive ongoing fundraising research additional capital campain Information will be presented to the	WG) fund and g options. They will lign options.	Capital campaign committee	Financial statements of TWG	Summer 2020
The building committee will evaluate plans and then present building op congregation (cost for sanctuary, comulti-purpose room, etc.).	te past architectural tions to the	Building committee	Past plans, access to previous committee members	September 2020
Capital campaign committee will purchasising campaign to the congr		Capital campaign committee		September 2020

Identified Area of Need: MUSIC QUALITY				
SMART	Goal	Ме	asures of Success	
A music committee will be a music for all worship service the quality of music at all se be supervised by the Board. The committee will consist of a member of Lay Miles of the 5:30, 8:00, and 1 of Ministry Staff of An organist of A member of Bell choos a member of Chance of A member from each	s and to work to enhance rvices. The committee will of Lay Ministry. of: nistry - one each who attends 0:45 services	1. Music enhances worship – Music is of high quality regardless of musical group or service attended. 2. New music is introduced according to the procedure 3. Participation in music groups increases 4. A consistent schedule for participation of		oup or service ding to the creases
Action Steps		Who is Responsible?	Resources Needed	Deadline
Develop expectations for participation in music groups at Zion.		Music Committee		September 2020
Develop a process for practicing and introducing new music during services.		Music Committee		September 2020
Develop a consistent scheo the music groups.	lule for the participation of	Music Committee		September 2020

Identified Area of Need:	FELLOWSHIP/RELATIONSHIP BUILDING			
SMAR	「Goal	Ме	asures of Success	
Zion will establish regular fellowship opportunities to strengthen member relationships.		 Offer at least one fellowship event per quarte Events are communicated through the bulletin, announcement projection, and website/social media. Zion members feel more connected to one another as a faith family. 		gh the on, and
Action Steps		Who is Responsible?	Resources Needed	Deadline
Coordinate at least 4 fellow	ship events annually.	Stewardship		Quarterly
Encourage and help promo fellowship opportunities. (i.e motorcycling, cribbage, etc	. camping, bowling,	Stewardship		Ongoing
Maintain a fellowship sectio	n in the weekly bulletin.	Stewardship		Ongoing
Report on previous quarter's provide an update on upco opportunities at each service	oming quarter's fellowship	Stewardship		Quarterly
Conduct a congregational congregation operates as c		Board of Directors	Access to past surveys	Annually

Identified Area of Need:	eed: SHORT-TERM BIBLE STUDIES			
SMART	Goal	Measures of Success		
Zion will develop short-term Bible studies that help members Grow in Faith. Bible studies will have a defined beginning and end, up to 8 weeks in length.		per year 2. Conducting e	ast four short-term Bi xit survey after eacl dies to be reviewed	n of the four
Action Steps		Who is Responsible?	Resources Needed	Deadline
Zion will help promote and conduct at least four short- term Bible study cycles per year.		Ministry staff/Stewardship		Beginning June 2020
New short-term Bible studies will be promoted at least 3 weeks in advance (bulletin, projected announcements, website/social media).		Ministry staff		Ongoing
Stewardship Committee will coordinate recruiting members interested in leading short-term studies. Ministry staff will provide support as needed for Bible study leaders.		Stewardship/Ministry staff		Beginning June 2020
Stewardship will develop a standard exit survey for the short-term studies to be administered by the group leader.		Stewardship		June 2020

Identified Area of Need:	STEWARDSHIP CUL	TURE	
SMART Goal	Me	asures of Success	
The congregation will develop a culture of stewardshi that focuses on why we give, how we have been blessed, and how God is calling us to respond.	1. Offer at least one servant event per quarter 2. Stewardship helps connect members throug annual stewardship fair, monthly newsletter focus, and Serving Group display 3. Stewardship develops operational church directory 4. Financial updates are provided through the monthly newsletter 5. Church ministry and/or financial updates are provided to the congregation at least twice per year		
Action Steps	Who is Responsible?	Resources Needed	Deadline
The Outreach Committee will coordinate at least one all-ages servant event each quarter.	Outreach	Digital member directory	Quarterly
The Stewardship Committee will create and maintain Knowing, Growing, and Serving Group displays in the narthex to connect people to Bible studies, fellowship and servant events.	Stewardship	Digital member directory	Displays created by June 2020, updated quarterly
The Stewardship Committee will conduct an annual stewardship awareness fair.	Stewardship		Annually – fall
The Stewardship Committee will coordinate/maintain Stewardship focus in the newsletter. This will include a focus on what the gifts of the congregation have made possible.	a Stewardship		Monthly – by the 15 th for newsletter deadline
The Stewardship Committee will create and maintain digital member directory that includes servant interest/participation information.	a Stewardship	Church 360	Created by June 2020, updated biannually
The Finance Committee will provide monthly financial updates to the congregation in the newsletter.	Finance		Monthly
Lay Ministry will provide church ministry and/or financi updates to the congregation at each service at least twice per year.	Lay Ministry	Financial statements, pastors' reports	Biannually
Bring synodical stewardship person to speak regarding building a stewardship culture and sustainability.	Stewardship		Summer 2020

Identified Area of Need:	dentified Area of Need: TECHNOLOGY IN WORSHIP				
SMART Goal		Measures of Success			
Technology will be used to through effective projection operation. Technology will be used to communicate events/happ projection/TV.	n and sound effectively	 A group of people (at least 2 per service) who can operate the sound board A group of people (at least 2 per service) Who can assemble the weekly service slide show 		ervice) ekly service slide ector ets on a	
Action St	eps	Who is Responsible?	Resources Needed	Deadline	
The Technology committee hardware and equipment maintenance/replacement	needs and develop a	Board of Directors	Most recent technology master list	June 2020	
Develop a pool of voluntee weekly service slide show.	rs to assemble the	Stewardship	Serving groups board	2 months after congregational approval	
Develop a pool of voluntee projector at all services.	rs to operate the	Stewardship	Serving groups board	2 months after approval	
Develop a pool of voluntee sound board at all services.	rs to operate the	Stewardship	Serving groups board	2 months after approval	
Create an operational mar and sound that is updated		Lay Ministry/Lorien		August 2020	
Provide training for all mem Lay Ministry on operation of and projection.		Lorien/Gary Rathke	Operational manual	Annually, beginning September 2020	
Offer training four times a yearunning the projector, and system. Volunteers will be releast 1 training per year.	operating the sound	Lorien/Lay Ministry	Operational manual	Quarterly - beginning September 2020	
Coordinate a schedule of s projection, and sound boar (including publication and	d volunteers	Lay Ministry/Lindsay	Serving groups board	Beginning September 2020	
Operate projector and nar announcements prior to all Sunday morning fellowship slide show will be develope administrative assistant each	hex TV to display services and during hour. Announcement d by the	Lindsay/Lay Ministry		Beginning September 2020	

Identified Area of Need:	WEBSITE			
SMART Goal		Measures of Success		
Develop a web presence t information for all ministries		 Website is accessed easily by members and guests. Website is updated regularly to accurately reflect schedule/events. Consistent social media presence per the operational plan. 		accurately
Action	Steps	Who is Responsible?	Resources Needed	Deadline
Appoint a web presence so of: People familiar with Social media Website dev School leadership Ministry staff	a	Technology Committee		1 month after congregational approval
Research user-friendly web options to the board of dire		Web Subcommittee		August 2020
Develop an operational pla website/social media.	an/procedure for	Web Subcommittee		August 2020
Implement new website an presence.	d social media	Web Subcommittee		December 2020
Develop/conduct training authorized to update webs		Web Subcommittee		December 2020
Appoint coordinator(s) of so coordinate regularly with c		Technology Committee		December 2020
Appoint an individual from to provide ongoing IT webs		Technology Committee	_	December 2020

Identified Area of Need:		SUSTAINABILITY	,		
SMAR	SMART Goal		Measures of Success		
Zion will work to sustain ministry through biblically sound financial practices.		 The annual church income/revenue is consistently greater than its expenses. Zion is able to continue its mission and work toward its vision. 		enses.	
Action	Steps	Who is Responsible?	Resources Needed	Deadline	
Appoint a Sustainability Cor	nmittee.	Board of Directors		January 2021	
Determine what motivates pestablish a model for growth legacy giving/estate planni	in giving, including tithing,	Sustainability Committee		May 2021	
Create a climate for giving sermons, and blurbs in the S newsletter.		Pastoral Staff, Stewardship, Finance		Ongoing	
Offer courses in Christian far at least once per year.	mily money management	DCE		Annually, beginning June 2021	
Establish regular fundraising needs or causes.	events to support specific	BOD would determine people in charge according to event		Ongoing	
Evaluate current staffing an positions needed to fulfill Zio		Sustainability Committee		May 2021	

REVIEW PROCEDURE

Once approved by the congregation, the following plan will be used to review the strategic plan and report progress on a regular basis.

- 1. The Board of Directors (BOD) will take over responsibility for the Strategic plan and any/all goals within.
 - a. During the transition from SPC to BOD, Kevin Aker (team leader) and Hanne Burke (project manager) will remain engaged through the six-month review to ensure the effective implementation of the plan.
 - b. The SPC, with exceptions noted above, will be dissolved.
- 2. Initial Six-month Review January 2021
 - a. The following members of BOD will conduct the review:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice-president
 - iii. Both Members-at-large
 - iv. Kevin Aker (SPC team leader)
 - v. Hanne Burke (SPC project manager)
 - b. This team will review and discuss progress on SMART goals with responsible parties
 - c. Information from the review will be provided on the website and in the March 2021 newsletter.
- 3. Annual Review May, beginning 2021
 - a. The following BOD/congregational members will conduct the review:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice-president
 - iii. Both members-at-large
 - iv. Up to 3 additional members as appointed/approved by BOD
 - b. This team will evaluate:
 - i. What has and has not worked in the past 12 months
 - ii. What has changed in our environment
 - iii. What we remove and what we add into the strategic plan
 - c. Information from the review will be reported to the congregation at the June voters' meeting.
 - d. The congregation must approve any modifications or additional goals for the continuing strategic plan.
- 4. Cumulative review January 2025
 - a. The following BOD/congregational members will conduct the review:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice-president
 - iii. Both members-at-large
 - iv. 5-10 congregation members that represent all demographics of the church
 - v. Ministry staff
 - b. This team will:
 - i. Review vision/mission statement.
 - ii. Investigate what has been overlooked and what should be incorporated into the revised strategic plan.
 - iii. Conduct a SWOT to assess strategic plan against current situation
 - iv. Conduct congregational surveys to assess current priorities. This will aid in developing new goals/action steps.
 - v. Develop goals, action steps, and review procedure for the next five years and beyond.
 - vi. Develop strategies for embedding the strategic plan into performance measures and job descriptions at all levels of the church.
 - c. Information from the review will be reported to the congregation at June 2025 voters' meeting.
 - d. The congregation must approve goals/steps for the continuing strategic plan.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

During this process, SPC identified several needs/goals that would help Zion continue to grow and to fulfill our vision. These items, along with justification, are listed below.

- 1. Zion will work to hire a music director.
 - a. To ensure quality and consistency of music in worship and music education
 - b. To provide structure and organization for music groups at Zion
- 2. Zion will work to hire a business director.
 - a. To oversee administration of support staff and facilities
 - b. To conduct human resource decisions with ministry staff and board of directors
 - c. To monitor budget and finances
- 3. Zion will work to hire an IT director.
 - a. To ensure quality and consistency of operation of technology for church and school
 - b. To maintain quality hardware and oversee replacement schedule and inventory
 - c. To pursue funding for technology resources (phone system, security, etc.)
- 4. Zion will conduct faith field trips, both domestic and international.
 - a. To support Growing in Faith
 - b. To provide fellowship opportunities
- 5. Zion will investigate opening the facility to community use.
 - a. To encourage community engagement/outreach
 - b. To support Serving with Love
- 6. Zion's Lay Ministry and Ministry Staff will help coordinate an international trip at least once every five years.
 - a. To support Growing in Faith and Serving with Love
 - b. To gain greater insight into the intersection of our faith and the world