

Zion Lutheran Church

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Pastor Cory A. Estby

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“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

June 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Zion Lutheran Church of Grant Park, IL will be hosting a dinner auction on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at Lincolnshire Country Club in Crete, IL. We anticipate approximately 200 guests at this event, and the funds raised will assist with a “parsonage rebuild” to provide a fully-accessible single level home.

Pastor Cory Estby and his family (Christena and children: Gabriel-16, Kaleigh-14, Samuel-5, Josiah-3) have lived in Grant Park for the past 14 years, where he is called to serve as sole pastor at Zion. Samuel and Josiah were born with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (a genetic muscle disorder with no cure to date, and limited treatments available to slow the progression). Muscle degeneration is caused by a lack of dystrophin, a structural protein in the muscle. Without this protein, muscles are unable to function properly and suffer progressive damage. Boys with Duchenne typically are wheelchair-bound by 10-13 years old, with cardiac and pulmonary issues becoming a serious health concern by the teen years. Current average life expectancy for young men with Duchenne is mid-late 20s.

Upon learning about the boys’ diagnosis and prognosis for long-term medical care and accessibility needs, the congregation explored and determined that the current two-story home (parsonage), with its 130+ year history of housing their pastors, would not be cost-effective to repair/update/remodel. The congregation is now moving forward with plans to build a new home on the current site for the Estby family and future generations of pastors to come.

Please consider supporting our efforts to raise \$50,000 by the end of the year (a 1:1 matching challenge has been issued by a gracious congregation member). We are seeking gift certificates, merchandise or services to offer as part of our dinner auction. A committee member would be happy to pick up your donated item at your convenience, or you may deliver or send it to Zion Lutheran Church at the address listed above.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration! If you have any questions, please contact us via phone (815-465-6011) or email (ziongrantpark@yahoo.com).

God’s Blessings,

Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Tax ID # 36-2681725

