

Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER

December

2018

VOLUME 15
ISSUE 12



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA ★ LAKE CRYSTAL, MN ★ 507-726-2849 ★ WWW.ZIONLUTHLAKECRYSTAL.ORG

Advent and Christmas Worship 2018

Preparing the Way at Zion Lutheran Church



December 2

1st Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM

December 9

2nd Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM

December 16

3rd Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Program

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

December 23

4th Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM

December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM

10:00 PM

December 30

Christmas Lessons & Carols

9:00 AM

SAVE THE DATE:

ZION ANNUAL MEETING:

JANUARY 27, 2019, 10:10 A.M.

“GROWING IN GRACE”

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

SEE PAGE 8



Advent is a time of preparation! Our readings in worship this month call us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We're urged to wait in expectation, alert and watchful as we await the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We commonly think of Advent as preparing for Christmas, for the birth of the baby Jesus. But how does one prepare and wait for an event that already happened 2,000 years in the past?

Our present waiting and longing is for Christ's coming in the future, his promised return in glory to judge the living and the dead, and establish his kingdom on earth forever. With all of creation, we eagerly await our restoration, the end of sin, death, and tears, and the joy of life in the New Jerusalem with God.

How do we prepare the way for this?

Preparing for Christmas often involves a list of tasks to be completed before December 25. We'll be busy cleaning house, decorating, making treats, and gathering with friends. It's an important and special time of sharing our traditions and connecting with the people who mean so much to us.

If we're not careful, however, the long to-do list and full schedule will make our Advent preparations overwhelming and stressful.

So, I invite you to a more intentional kind of preparation. **Enclosed in this newsletter is an Advent Calendar.** Inspired by beloved Christmas hymns and songs, each day invites you to pause, and to pray. This simple practice will draw your heart and your attention back to the one at the center of our eager expectation: Christ, our Savior.

Let us watch, and wait, in joy!

Pastor Andrea

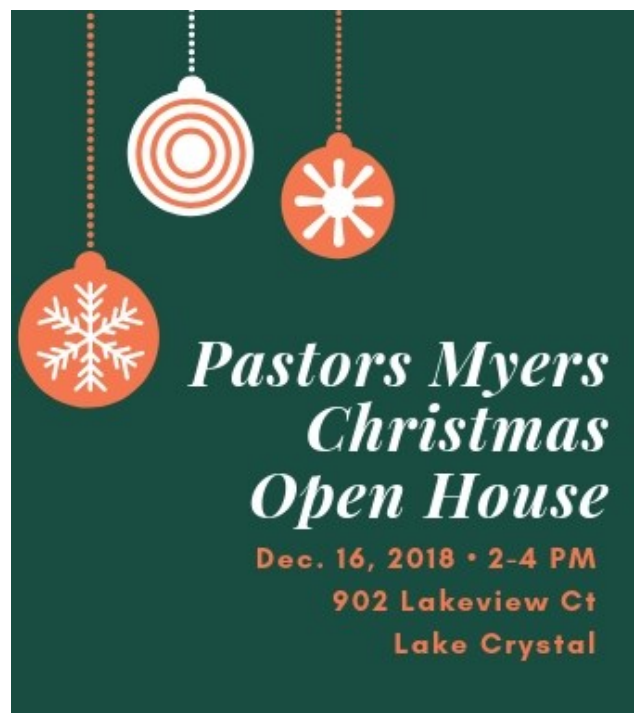
November Council Recap November 14th, 2018

2019 Budget Preparations:

The Council reviewed the initial draft of the budget, prepared by the Executive Committee and Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team. Ministry Teams are reviewing 2018 expenditures and 2019 plans to update their budget requests. Ministry initiatives related to the "Growing in Grace" fall stewardship appeal have also been incorporated.

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Pastor Andrea has been meeting with Marrett Broady Grund for orientation and ministry planning. There will be a few activities on the calendar for December, focused on introducing students to Marrett. We're grateful to the congregation for their warm welcome during his installation during worship on November 4.

"Growing in Grace" Appeal: Council and Ministry Team leaders were invited to return their Statements of Intent early so that preliminary totals could be announced during worship on November 18th. Our goal is to have 100% participation from our congregation leaders.



Zion Sunday School News

December 2018

Sunday School

Holiday preparations are under way!. We will be practicing for our Sunday School Christmas Program during the first 2 Sundays in December. The Christmas Program will be on December 16th at the 10:00 service. The 5th & 6th graders will be serving as ushers, readers, hosts, and lighting the advent candles during this service.

For those of you with children in PreK – 4th grade, it always makes for a better program if you can practice the songs with your kids at home also. This year they will be singing:

- O Little Town of Bethlehem
- Silent Night
- Joy to the World
- O Come All Ye Faithful

Mackenzie Jones has graciously agreed to direct the Christmas Program this year with Jaime Christianson and Nikki Lowis leading the music.

Please contact me, Kelly Strenge, with any questions at Kelly_strenge@yahoo.com



Calendar

December

2: Christmas Program Practice
9: Christmas Program Practice
16: Christmas Program During Worship
23: No Sunday School – Christmas Break
30: No Sunday School – Christmas Break

Mark Your Calendar Today!



Thank you to all
the volunteers and
those who helped
with the Christmas
Program!

Thank You Sunday School Volunteers!

Summer Camp News

It's not too soon to start thinking about summer camp for your family in 2019!

You can view the 2019 summer schedule for Green Lake Lutheran Ministries at www.gllm.org or on the Narthex bulletin board. **Stay tuned as we determine dates for "Zion Week" at GLLM in 2019.** Online registration will open on December 3. Registrations received before February 15 will get \$40 off of each registered program.

The 2019 theme at GLLM will be "Transformed Community," focused on Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Community is a big part of what is fostered and strengthened while kids, youth, families, and congregations participate in all that camp has to offer. Sharing faith in a setting away from the distractions of everyday life, in God's beautiful creation, and with other people, is a wonderful thing! As God moves in our lives, communities of all kinds change and grow, and camp is no exception.

GLLM has also announced that a few of their programs have transformed, too. They've shared the following updates:

- The former "Chrysalis Crew" age group (5th-7th grade) will now attend camp at Shores of St. Andrew. **This program will now be called "Trailblazers."** We will offer unique programming for this group at Shores, so the program will continue to be great, just at a new location.
- Our **core programs** of Stargazers, Trailblazers, Andy's Gang and Half Blast continue to be offered throughout the summer.
- Again this summer, we are offering an updated **Senior High program at GLBC for 9-12 graders** who love to come to camp. This program will



include service opportunities, fun at the lake, a worship planning experience, faith conversations with local leaders, and other new experiences.

- In addition to our traditional favorites, look for **Staff-In-Training** at GLBC, North Shore Servant Adventures and a new Fishing Camp week at Camp House, and **MAD Camp and Fishing Camp** at Shores!
- Our **Family Camp ministry** will move from the Shores Village to the Chrysalis House at GLBC. We are excited to continue our great Family Camp offerings at a reduced cost. Family Camp will be open for a family max fee of \$710 at Tier 1. This is a significant decrease from past years. We are excited to offer new amenities, creative programming, and focused family ministry at GLBC!

For all the latest details on GLLM events and registration, visit their website: www.gllm.org.

Scholarships Available

Remember that all Zion students are eligible to receive Camp Scholarships! Please contact the church office once you've registered.



Joy to the
WORLD

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

Directions: Circle all the complete small “joy” words — forward only.
Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find “Jesus” amid all the joy!

[illegible]

TOTAL JOY=_____

Answer: 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the O, 11 in the Y); Jesus is at the bottom of the large O

According to the fourth Gospel, “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the _____.”

A. love
B. life
C. light
D. Lord

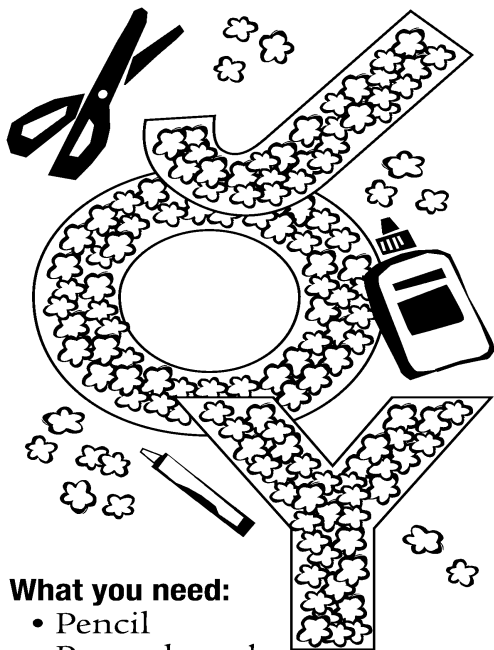
Answer: See Page 9

Bible Quiz



CHRISTMAS
joy

Make this fun decoration as a reminder of the joy Jesus brings.



What you need:

- Pencil
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Craft pompoms (red, white, green, silver, gold)
- Glue

What you do:

1. Trace large capital block letters J, O and Y on the poster board.
2. Cut out the letters.
3. Glue pompoms on one side of each letter, completely covering it.
4. Share JOY by displaying the letters in your home.

zion youth news

Confirmation News

Mentor Night: December 12

As part of their confirmation journey, each of our 7th and 8th graders selects a Faith Mentor. Students and Mentors will meet together during Wednesday classes on December 12 and January 9 from 6:00-7:15 p.m. In addition, they will worship together during Wednesdays in Lent (March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10).

Class Schedule

December 5: **Regular Class**

December 12: **Mentor Night**

December 19: **Extended Class (6-8 pm)!**

December 26 & January 2: **Christmas Break**



Zion Welcomes Marrett

On Sunday, November 4, we officially installed Marrett Broady Grund as Zion's new Youth Ministry Coordinator. Marrett (rhymes with Corvette) will be responsible for providing key leadership as we grow our ministries for 7th-12th graders this year.

December Youth Events:

Senior High Youth Night (9-12th Grades)

Wednesday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.

It's time for an Open House! This will be a fun night of games, treats, time with friends, and the chance to meet Marrett Broady Grund, our new Youth Ministry Coordinator! Youth will also have a chance to help us plan future events. Don't miss out!

Service Project (7th-12th Grades)

Help for the Homeless - Care Packages

Thursday, December 27 at 3:00 p.m.

Do some good for others during your Christmas Break! We'll be creating care packages for the guests at Connections Emergency Shelter. This Mankato-area ministry provides overnight housing for homeless men, women, and children.

Questions?

Contact Marrett: youth@zionluthlakecrystal.org

Friday, January 25

**Green Lake Bible Camp
Middle School Lock-In**

7th & 8th graders: Join your friends for a fun overnight at Chrysalis House! Plans include door prizes, a "Minute to Win It" competition, tie dye and crafts, night games and worship.

Cost: \$25 (cash or checks to Zion Youth)

Registration Deadline: January 9

Registration Form required. They've been emailed in the Confirmation Newsletter. Additional copies are on the Narthex bulletin board.

Questions? Contact Marrett or Pastor Andrea.

December 4:

Rebecca Circle 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Mary Williams

Bible study: Judy Meyer

Miriam Circle 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Barb Feder

Bible study: Linda Isebrand

December 5:

Martha Circle 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Jean Childs

Bible Study: Lois Davis

December 18:

Bible Study for Leaders 5:30 p.m.



We wish to thank all of you who supported the ZLCW in 2018. We look forward to the new year! The Board will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be January 15, 2019.

Thank you to the 13 women who attended the ZLCW's Annual/Thank Offering meeting and to those who prepared the food for the brunch. Thank you to Diane Sandstrom and Linda Hoechst for planning the event.

Reports were received from the officers, Tri-Mission, Living Meadows at Luther, Madelia Auxiliary and each of the circles. Officers elected for 2019 remain the same except for Sally Bottin, who has graciously agreed to serve as vice president. Thank you, Sally! We approved the budget for 2019.

New handbooks will be distributed to circle chairs prior to December meetings.



Imagine what God
could do through you.

It is that time of year when we offer all members of Zion the opportunity to enrich the lives of our congregation and church through service. The ministry team commitment is small, and yet, so rewarding!! There are only 11 meetings a year. A commitment of three (3) years is asked of any person willing to volunteer.

We need volunteers willing to serve on the following Ministry Teams: Finance and Stewardship, Membership and Outreach Worship, Music, and Adult Education, and the Nominating Committee.

New people and new ideas are necessary in order to help our church family grow and change with our future needs. Please prayerfully consider joining a team to further God's work in our community and abroad. All ages and talents are needed.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact: Dave Hoffer (514-2093), Gail Peterson (995-9430), Brian Isebrand (382-8439), Mike Bottin (327-3245) or Carol Dunker (726-6785).

Growing in Grace

2019

Fall Stewardship Appeal

Stewardship Appeal Update

Wow! As of the publication of this newsletter, 73 families have returned their statements of intent for 2019. Together, they've pledged \$6,895.60 in new General Fund offerings in 2019! In addition, 54 families have committed to supporting the Building Fund. **We're well on our way to our goals of 125 responses, \$18,000 in new General Fund giving, and \$10,000 in new Building Fund giving.** Your faithful financial support is vital as we continue **Growing in Grace** in 2019 through new and ongoing ministries.

Your participation in this effort is more important than ever! **If we reach our goal of 125 responses by December 10, we will unlock a special challenge gift of \$2,000 for the General Fund!** If you haven't already done so, please return your statement of intent card or complete the online response form today! We'll soon begin contacting families to encourage their participation so we can meet our goals.

Whether you plan to increase your giving or continue at your current level, by sharing your intent you'll aid Zion's leaders in financial planning for our ministries and staff. **You'll also help us access that \$2,000 challenge gift!**

Extra copies of the appeal brochure and card are available in the church Narthex. You can also submit your Statement of Intent online at the church website. Simply click the appeal logo on the main page.

The Church Office will close at noon on
Monday, December 24 and
Monday, December 31.

Office hours will be 8 am-12 noon

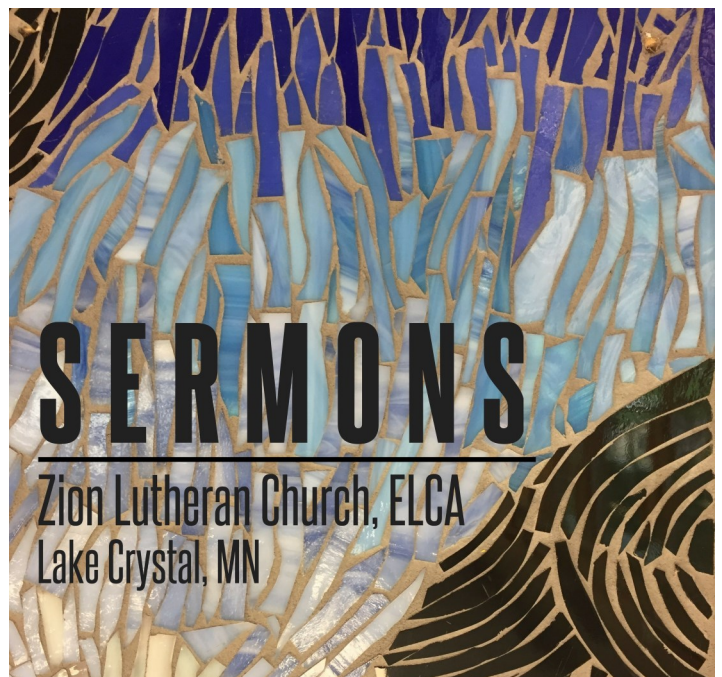
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all!

Zion Sermons Podcast Now Available!

Zion has now launched a weekly sermon podcast! Each week you'll be able to listen to Pastor Andrea's sermon from your smartphone or other listening device. To subscribe, just search for "Zion Lake Crystal Sermons" on your favorite podcast service.

This podcast is a great way to stay connected with your faith community and grow in faith, even when you're not able to attend Sunday Worship. It's also a great way to share a sermon with a friend!

You can listen to the podcast from Zion's website, too. Just click on "Worship."



Caring Coins

Social Ministry wishes to thank all those who donated a total of \$263.59 for our November Caring Coins recipient, Partners for Affordable Housing (PAH), located on Good Counsel Hill in Mankato. PAH is the parent agency for Mankato's two homeless shelters and owns and operates several site housing facilities that provide different housing options, including transitional and permanent affordable housing to homeless and/or at-risk individuals and families in the Mankato area. PAH houses a free store that provides a wide variety of household items. Thanks as well to those who donated any household items during November. Those will be delivered in early December.

December 9th will be Caring Coins Sunday when all gifts will benefit the Lake Crystal Ministerial Association. LCMA member churches include Abundant Life Christian, Cornerstone United Methodist, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Holy Family Catholic, Our Savior's (Butternut) and Zion Lutheran. These funds are most commonly used to provide limited emergency support in the form of vouchers that can be used for gas or groceries. Vouchers are approved and distributed by pastors to travelers or community residents. This association also helps organize the summer VBS program and LCWM's Bacalaureate Service in May. Checks can be made to Zion, with Caring Coins or Ministerial Association written in the memo line. Thank you for your gifts!

In early November, Sandy Friday, Linda Isebrand and Joyce Roberts shopped for The REACH in Mankato. Thanks to your generous gifts and a Thrivent Action Team grant, we were able to purchase more than \$600 in supplies that were then delivered to the center for use by their clients. We received this from their program manager: *I'm not sure if I officially responded to you, but we just wanted to say thanks again for all the amazing donations!!!! We appreciate your congregation and the all the great support!*

Bible Quiz Answer: C (See John 1:6-7, NSRV)



Pictured here with Zion's gifts are Sandy Friday and Joyce Roberts, along with Tasha, Kendrik and Ton, staff and volunteers at The REACH in Mankato.

Food for Friends

Thank you to all those who donated cash or provided help during the meals for our three Food for Friends events during 2018. Since many of our helpers are dedicated volunteers and might wish to note the dates on their calendars, Zion is signed up to serve on Saturday, March 23, and Saturday, October 26. We will likely pick up an additional Saturday during the summer months. Thank you for supporting those in need!

Sharing Shelf

Each month a volunteer from Zion delivers our food offerings to the Sharing Shelf. Thanks to Pat Baskfield for volunteering in November. December volunteer is Teri Thompson-Hobart. December Sharing Shelf needs include: **cranberry sauce, pumpkin, flour, oil, sugar, stuffing mix, cereal, and toilet paper.**

The Sharing Shelf is located at the First Baptist Church, 312 South Oakland Street. Hours are Wednesday evening from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Due Date:

Articles for the January newsletter are due by Tuesday, December 18.



Happy Anniversary:

Adam & Mackenzie Jones
Gary & Kelly Karels



Happy Birthday:

Barb Anderson	Michele Langer
Blaine Anderson	Noah Lantz
Leah Anderson	Cheryl Lantz
Lohr Anderson	Chloe Lantz
Karl Anderson	Gus Larson
Dorothy Barnick	Heather Lee
Lorrin Beecher	Todd Manke
Nickolaus Beinke	Richard McDonald
Corey Burnett	Lorraine Miller
Derek Cloyd	Beth Paumen
Ben Copeland	Brooke Pockrandt
Chris Erickson	Rachel Sandstrom
Theresa Glaubitz	Brianna Sittig
Kelle Goeringer	Tim Smith
Carter Greenough	Brad Snow
Denise Hagge	Julia Streng
Jim Halvorson	Rhonda Teigen
Justin Hruby	Matthew Teigen
Todd Jacoby	Patty Thompson
Roger Jones	Brayden Thompson
Jaci Jordan	Dean Tibbetts
Gavin Knutson-Icks	Sheryl Utter
Cole Kottke	Larry Walters
	Jennifer Zumwalt

December (Team 6)

Leaders: Matt & Jamie Christianson & Darlene Zeidler



Courtne Albrecht	Amy Montgomery
Tim & Barb Anderson	Deb Osdoba
Chad & Shawna Brandts	Jerome Sandstrom
Greg & Colleen Dunker	Karin Scruggs
Lori Ebargary	Ken & Barb Sorensen
Dave & Amanda Gilman	Todd & Tracy
John & Kari Gustafson	Stomswold
Lowell & Linda Heydt	Matt Strum
Todd & Terri Hutchens	Dwayne & Jessica
Dustin & Angie	Thormodsgard
Knutson- Icks	
Lisa & Jody Johnson	
Fred & Charlene Manke	

Weather Reminder:

All evening activities will be cancelled whenever LCWM schools are closed, cancel evening activities, or dismiss early due to inclement weather.

Worship cancellations will be announced on the church Facebook page and on KEYC.



Thank you Action Team 5 leaders, Gary and Diane Sandstrom, for organizing the November Action Team Schedule.

Matt & Jamie Christianson and Darlene Zeidler, Team 6 leaders, will be responsible for the December schedule.

Report for: October 2018

Income	Oct 2018	YTD	Oct 2017	Change (+/-)	A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.
Offerings	12,245.75	150,250.77	17,168.54	(4,922.79)	
Non-Benev	1,165.00	13,315.00	1,970.00	(805.00)	
Building Fund	2,825.00	40,742.41	3,393.00	(568.00)	
Memorial Fund	0.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	
Spec Projects	491.43	16,450.12	2,327.70	(1,836.27)	
Scholarship Fund	800.00	2,050.00	1,730.00	(930.00)	
Total	17,527.18	222,863.30	26,589.24	(9,062.06)	

Ministry Exp	Oct 2018	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	"How do our ministry expenses compare to what we planned for in the budget?"
Salaries and Related Costs	9,990.82	10,755.76	(764.94)	104,453.62	107,557.48	(3,103.86)	
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	1,558.86	2,637.51	(1,078.65)	30,221.41	26,374.98	3,846.43	
Education, Mission, Related Costs	2,758.25	854.17	1,904.08	6,531.61	8,541.66	(2,010.05)	
Supplies	1,073.86	1,304.17	(230.31)	10,539.55	13,041.66	(2,502.11)	
Ministry Initiatives	0.00	1,291.66	(1,291.66)	500.00	12,916.68	(12,416.68)	
Synod Mission Sup	1,681.08	1,566.66	114.42	14,180.79	15,666.68	(1,485.89)	
Total	17,062.87	18,409.93	(1,347.06)	166,426.98	184,099.14	(17,672.16)	

Budget Cashflow	Oct 2018	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	(General Offerings & Non-Benevolence)
Income available	13,410.75	18,409.93	(4,999.18)	163,565.77	184,099.14	(20,533.37)	
Ministry Expenses	17,062.87	18,409.93	(1,347.06)	166,426.98	184,099.14	(17,672.16)	
Net (+/-)	(3,652.12)			-2,861.21			

Building Fund	Oct 2018	YTD	"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Building Fund?"
Income	2,825.00	40,742.41	
Payments	(3,891.00)	(43,313.00)	
Interest	2.27	25.14	
Current Balance	11,093.85		

Balances	Oct 2018				
General Checking	(826.65)				
Memorial Fund	2,642.07				
Non-Benevolence	216.01				
Special Projects	13,420.07				
Scholarship	7,516.16				
Line of Credit	11,751.00				
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	(422,681.33)				
Youth Checking Account	5,786.44				

	Attendance		Communion	
October	2017	2018	2017	2018
Week 1	132	140	101	125
Week 2	182	226*		154*
Week 3	251*	107	119*	85
Week 4	130	131		

*Confirmation on Sunday.

Zion Lutheran Church

211 East Robinson St.
P.O. Box 236
Lake Crystal, MN 56055
Phone: 507-726-2849
Fax: 507-726-2119

Church Office e-mail:

zioninfo@zionluthlakecrystal.org
pastor@zionluthlakecrystal.org

Church website:

www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Tuesday 8 a.m.-noon
The Office is closed on Fridays.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Sunday Morning

9:00 a.m. Worship
Communion the 1st & 3rd
Sundays

Sunday School 10:05 a.m.

Our Mission Statement



“To Make Jesus Known
to All in Our Words and
Actions.”

Presort STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit # 2
Lake Crystal, MN 56055

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Zion Lutheran Church
211 East Robinson Street
Lake Crystal, MN 56055

Pastor

Rev. Andrea Myers

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Marrett Broady Grund

Office Manager

Mary Gilman

Choir Director

Linda Isebrand

Organist

Sheldon Meyer

Custodians

Bob and Barb McDonald

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sermon Podcast
Launched

2019 Stewardship
Update

December Worship