

Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 3

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

Join us for Wednesdays in Lent!

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Meal by: Choir

Menu: Soup

Meal Offering for: General Fund

Faith Story by: Kari Gustafson

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Meal by: Confirmation Youth

Menu: Baked Potato Bar

Meal Offering for: Youth Fund

Faith Story by: Matt Christianson

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Meal by: Zion Men

Menu: Brats & Hotdogs

Meal Offering for: Camperships

Faith Story by: Mike Bottin

LENT AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

you are the way
Living the Way of Jesus

Wednesday, February 14
Supper 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday
Worship 6:45 pm

Wednesdays February 21 through March 21
Supper 5:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer
6:45 pm

www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

Mark your calendars now and look inside for more information!



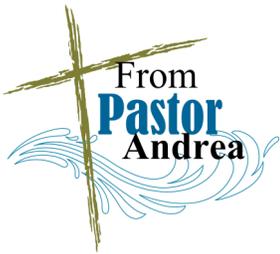
Family of Faith Day, March 11 (Page 6)

Connected Families Workshop, April 22 (Page 7)

Easter Services and Breakfast, April 1 (Page 9)

*Hosanna
in the
Highest*

A stylized green leaf graphic with several pointed segments, positioned to the right of the text.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In December, I spent a couple of days on retreat at Green Lake Bible Camp. During my stay at Chrysalis House, I spent my time of prayer and reading focused on discerning where God is leading Zion's ministry in 2018 and beyond.

Discernment is one of those words that we might throw around at church without really explaining what we mean. **What's the difference, after all, between discerning and deciding?**

The biggest difference is our sense of who gets to influence the choice between one option or another. *Deciding* considers only my own comfort or preference, whereas *discerning* seeks to know and do the will of God concerning that choice. Pastor and consultant Roy Oswald writes:

[Discernment] is based on the premise that all of us are in a relationship with a God who is ever more ready to communicate with us than we are to listen, a God who is ever more ready to bestow grace on us than we are to receive it. This God is also willing to offer us direction and perspective if and when we are ready to surrender our willfulness and be open to receiving such direction.

... God will rarely overwhelm us with a message so clear and blatant that our freedom to choose is eliminated. God created us with a free will. We will always have the option of either rejecting God or accepting God's invitation to servant-hood. Hence, we will rarely experience God speaking to us in such a clear, loud voice that there is no mistaking that this is God's voice and that God wants us to do such and such. From time to time, we will feel a gentle nudge moving us in a certain direction, or we may feel God wooing us to consider coming home. Occasionally we will feel a presence that is almost palpable, yet when reflecting on it later, we might wonder whether it was merely our imaginations. Sometimes we might feel God within us, coaching us to yearn for God. And like Elijah we might occasionally hear God talking to us in the "still small voice."^{*}

The starting point for discernment is always prayer.

Prayer is not only about speaking to God, but also listening for answers. I encourage you to pray daily for the ministries of Zion, so that we might discern God's will as we make decisions together. May our decisions about the ministries we will prioritize, and the new activities we might pursue, be shaped by God's preferences rather than our own comfort.

Our Southeastern Minnesota Synod is also entering a period of prayer and discernment. Bishop Steven Delzer has announced his plans to retire when his term concludes next year. A new bishop will be elected at our synod assembly in June 2019. Through a process called the "ecclesiastical ballot," any pastor currently serving in the ELCA, in any synod, is eligible for the nomination ballot. A series of votes will then narrow the field of candidates until one is elected.

This process is filled with possibilities for the movement of the Holy Spirit. It also raises many questions for discernment in the year ahead: Who should be considered for this role? What spiritual and leadership gifts are most needed to lead the church today?

As we discern these matters, Bishop Delzer invites all of us to join in a "Season of Prayer" which began on February 14 and will continue through the Day of Pentecost, May 20. Prayer resources, including scripture readings and meditations written by members of the synod, are being published in our synod's weekly email, the RC Weekly. Bishop Delzer prays that these biblical call stories and reflections will help us experience the presence of God as we reflect on the Spirit's movement in the discernment process of calling a new bishop. You're encouraged to subscribe to RC Weekly through the synod website, or you can find the Season of Prayer resources online at:

<http://semnsynod.org/seasonofprayer>.

In all that we do, as individuals and as a church, let us continually seek the God revealed through Jesus Christ who is "ever more ready to bestow grace on us than we are to receive it."

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Andrea Myers

^{*}Roy Oswald, *Discerning Your Congregation's Future*, (The Alban Institute: 1996) page ix.

Zion Lutheran Church Women



March 1:

Martha Circle 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Sylva Kubicek

Bible Study: group

March 7:

Ruth Circle 5:45 p.m.

Rebecca Circle 7:45 p.m.

Hostess: Janet Atkinson & Joyce Vee

Bible study: Linda Hauge

Miriam Circle 7:45 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Hostess: Darlene Halvorson

Bible study: Karen Granger

March 20:

Bible Study for Leaders 5:30 p.m.

ZLCW Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

March 29:

Maundy Thursday 6:45 p.m.

March 30:

Good Friday 6:45 p.m.

Members are reminded that we continue to collect Box Tops for Education and Milk Moola from bags or bottles of milk. Items left in the box in the narthex will be donated to the elementary school; however, if you give these items directly to the school, please let Diane Sandstrom or Linda Hoechst know how many were donated so they can include this number in their totals.



Used postage stamps for the American Legion Auxiliary can also be placed in this box. It is not necessary to trim them. We are also collecting greeting cards (the entire card must be donated due to copyright laws for some companies) for St. Jude's Ranch for Children. SJRC recycles these to create new cards that support their programs for homeless and abused children.

We are still in need of a vice-president and would ask that all women prayerfully and thoughtfully consider assuming this responsibility. The tasks are easy, and there is a lot of support from everyone. If you are contacted by a board member, please consider accepting this call.

The spring garage sale will be held in May 11 and 12, so please start setting items aside for donations! Watch for more information in the future editions of the newsletter.

It's Time for Summer Camp!

Zion week at Green Lake Bible Camp will be July 22-27, 2018! The camping options for that week include both half and full-week programs for youth of all ages. There's a Family Camp option, too!

For program details and registration, visit www.gllm.org. To be eligible for a Zion campership, be sure to notify the church office once you're registered!



"Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." Matthew 10:39



Happy March Anniversary to:

Jeff & Carol Dunker
John & Jackie Graham

Happy Birthday to:

Samuel Bartelt
Hank Beinke
Sally Bottin
Alexis Cloyd
Gina Cooper
Gabrielle Dehn
Carol Dunker
Greg Dunker
Colleen Dunker
Lori Ebargary
Edward Erickson
Robert Feder
Barbara Fleming
Mark Friday
Livia Friedrichs
Susan Gengler
Clara Gilman
Brogan Gilman
Meghan Glaubitz
Karen Granger
Chelsie Grindstaff
John Gustafson
Darlene Halvorson
Mike Herbst



Joyce Johnson
Fran Jurs
Ashley Kennedy
Val Laborde
Diana Lantz
Michael Maurer
Cade Maurer
Gail Peterson
Leah Pockrandt
Bailey Rustman
Kiliahna Scruggs
Lilly Snow
Cathy Sohre
Jay Spencer
Karen Stoll
Riley Stordahl
Mike Storlien
Braeden Streng
Boni Thompson
Bruce Tibbetts
Scott Winters
Darlene Zeidler

Newsletter Due Date

Articles for the April newsletter are due by Tuesday, March 20.

Ministry Teams are encouraged to submit articles but all Zion member are welcome to submit information.



Team 6

March leaders

Matt & Jamie Christianson
Darlene Zeidler



Team Members:

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

Caring Coins:

During March, Zion is joining people of good will from across the state to help alleviate hunger. Minnesota FoodShare's March Campaign is the largest food drive in the state, and congregations like ours are the heart of the campaign. Since its inception in 1982, Minnesota FoodShare has partnered with various community organizations, businesses and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide. In 2017, over \$8 million dollars and 4.7 million pounds of food were donated.

During March, our members are asked to be especially mindful of those in need of food. For those who can contribute, a list of needed items is posted on the bulletin by the entrance to the narthex. Consider taking a photo so that this shopping list is always available! All food items will be delivered to the Sharing Shelf at the Baptist Church in Lake Crystal.

On Caring Coins Sunday, March 11, donations received will be divided between our local food shelf and ECHO. Please make checks payable to Zion and write Caring Coins or Food Shelf in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Caring Coins in February. A total of \$270.18 was collected and donated to Wellcome Manor Family Services in Garden City. To date, Zion's 2018 Caring Coins donations have totaled \$483.00. Thank you for your kindness toward others!

Invest in our Youth: Become a 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Shareholder!

We're so excited by the wonderful response so far to our invitation to become Gathering shareholders and support our youth attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston!

It's not too late to purchase your Houston Shares for \$25 and help our youth participate in a life-changing faith formation event that helps them connect with Jesus, the church, and their calling in the world! **Shares may be purchased for \$25 by contacting the church office or at the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 1st.**



Whether you purchase one share, or a hundred! 100% of your investment will go toward our fundraising goal and support participants Caden Albrecht, Kendall Anderson, and Reese Goeringer.

Investors will be invited to attend a special "Shareholder Dinner" this summer, where the returns on the investment will be seen through stories and pictures by our youth and other attendees.

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Easter Breakfast: Sunday, April 1

9:00-9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall

The menu will include rolls, egg bakes, fruit and juice.

The free-will offering will benefit the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering participants and the Youth Fund for future events.

Confirmation During Lent

Mentor Time continues on March 7, 14, and 21.

Youth Serving Lenten Supper March 14: Confirmation youth and their families will be serving a Baked Potato Bar. Help is needed with setup and serving, as well as ingredient donations. Pastor Andrea has emailed parents with those details and links to sign up. Please be sure to respond!

The offering received on March 14 will go to the Youth Fund to support future youth events and trips.

Holy Week: All students are encouraged to attend worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as we reflect on Jesus' final days and remember that in order to celebrate Easter Resurrection, we must face the truth of the Friday Tomb.



From a newsletter in Portland, Oregon:

Children's church attendance was 4%.
The children made a wooden plague.
Join us again next Sunday at 9.

Let's hope that *plague* wasn't contagious.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday: March 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday: 6:45 p.m.

Good Friday: 6:45 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 1 8:00 am & 10:00



Help Wanted!

The Zion Sunday School is on the hunt for a new superintendent for the 2018-2019 school year. This important role involves working with our teachers and Youth Ministry Team to organize classes and communicate with Zion families. To learn more, contact Jamie Christianson or any of the Youth Ministry Team members (Susan Gengler, Kris Anderson, and Taylor Antony).



**Help
Wanted!**

Sunday School Schedule

March

- 4—Regular Sunday School
- 11—Intergenerational Activity where **all members, young and old, are invited! Sunday School students sing during worship**
- 18—Regular Sunday School
- 25— NO Sunday school (spring break)



FAMILY OF FAITH SUNDAY

MARCH 11, 2018
10:20 AM

IT'S TIME FOR A CAMP SONG
SINGALONG WITH SOME NEW
FRIENDS!

ALL AGES ARE INVITED!!
IT ALL BEGINS IN THE
SANCTUARY AFTER COFFEE AND
SUNDAY SCHOOL MUSIC

Food for Friends

Zion's serving date has changed to March 17. A signup area is posted in the narthex and will be available through March 11. Because of new guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health, procedures have changed. These are common sense changes and are intended to ensure the safety and protection of those we serve. None are difficult and all have been outlined in a brochure that is available at the signup location. We ask that everyone who is volunteering to prepare and/or serve food take one of these brochures so that you're familiar with the changes by our serving date. The signup sheet has also changed so please take note:

MENU: Zion has typically served scalloped potatoes and ham, peaches, buns, cookies/bars and milk. Coffee is furnished by the Salvation Army. Our cost for groceries is about \$200 and all food must be prepared at the Salvation Army or another commercial kitchen.

BAKED GOODS: Although we used to be able to bring cookies or bars prepared at home, this is no longer allowed. A local grocery store sells freshly baked cookies at a reduced price if they are for a charitable cause. Rather than ask our members to purchase cookies and bring them to the church, Social Ministry is including the amount needed for cookies in the requested donations.

WORKERS: A minimum of nine workers is necessary. Young people can assist if they are third grade or older since this can be a positive experience for responsible youngsters. However, these children must be supervised by their parents so they cannot be counted as one of the nine workers. High school students are very welcome to help and social service hours are granted for this experience! Please check with a member of Social Ministry if you have any questions.

DISCIPLINE THAT CONNECTS WITH YOUR CHILD'S HEART



**DISCIPLINE THAT
CONNECTS**



**Sunday, April 22
4:00-6:00 p.m.**

Zion to Host Parenting Worship April 22, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Register by April 9

www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

\$10 per person, \$15 for two people

Childcare Available

Zion's Youth Ministry Team is excited to offer a special event that will equip and encourage parents for one of your biggest challenges: discipline!

What kids learn when they are disciplined will last a lifetime. When parents are thoughtful about this, their kids grow up knowing that they are valued people built for God's purposes. When parents are not thoughtful, any myriad of troubles can grow.

"Discipline that Connects" is a profound and practical way to think about discipline that has empowered thousands of parents to be wiser and more

Effective when they discipline. This workshop is deeply biblical, immediately useful, and will change your life and your child's life for good!

Plan to join us on Sunday, April 22, 4:00—6:00 p.m. Registration will be via the Zion website, and the deadline to register is April 9. This event will be open to the community, so help us spread the word! *Childcare will be available.*

Our presenter will be Chad Hayenga, of Connected Families ministry. Chad has spent over 25 years ministering to kids and families as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Certified Life Coach, and speaker.



Speaker
Chad Hayenga

2018 Synod Assembly Banquet Invitation for May 4

The 2018 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly will take place May 4-5. Notably, this year's assembly will take place at the Verizon Center in Mankato, rather than in Rochester!

The assembly theme will be "Celebrating Our Global Congregation." We will be welcoming leaders from Colombia, Tanzania, and South Sudan. Zion's voting representatives for the assembly will be Matt Christianson, Dan Lewis (May 4) and Phil Bachman (May 5).

Zion members are invited to attend the special "Global Banquet" that will be part of the assembly events on Friday evening at 5:00 p.m. A separate registration is required for this event at a cost of \$35. Registrations are due April 13. Come and meet our special guests and enjoy fellowship and a brief program highlighting our global partners. For additional details and registration, visit the synod's website: <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2018>.

New Member Sunday Planned

Zion Lutheran Church will be receiving new members during worship on Sunday, April 15.

If you'd like to make Zion your official church home, please contact Pastor Andrea at the church office.

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ." (Romans 12:4-5)



Breakfast With The Bishop

**Saturday, April 21, 2018
from 9 am—11 am
at Cabela's, Owatonna**

**Reservations are due by
Friday, April 13, 2018.**



"The Lord works in mysterious ways. We are each proof of that" is the title for Al's presentation.

Men of all ages are invited to attend the 16th Annual "Breakfast With the Bishop." Keynote speaker is Al Batt of rural Hartland, MN.

Al is a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. He writes four weekly award winning humor and nature columns for many newspapers.. He is author of the book "A Life Gone to the Birds." He is columnist for "Bird Watcher's Digest" and "Watching Backyard Birds." He hosted TV shows for many years and speaks at various festivals, conferences and conventions all of the United States and Canada.



There is a poster on the bulletin board with more information. The sign up sheet is located in the church office. A \$10 check can be made payable to the SE MN Synod LMM. Checks will be mailed from the church on Thursday, April 12. If you wish to attend,

please stop by the Church Office before that

Going Green at Zion

If you've stayed for coffee after worship, you will notice that Zion is in the first stages of going 'green' by working to reduce the amount of garbage we send to our landfills. This transition involves awareness and a move toward compostable products. Once our supply of plastic silverware and Styrofoam plates is used up, we'll purchase compostable products for all our dining. However, for now, it might be a bit confusing. We hope this guide will make the transition easier for you.

While these lists aren't complete, they do reflect much of what we discard at Zion. Notice how much shorter the list is for garbage? Several members of Zion are working toward a Going Green initiative by working to ensure containers are well marked and easy for our members to understand. If you're interested in participating or would like to know more, please speak to Gina Cooper, Linda Isebrand, or Pastor Andrea.



COMPOSTABLE

What Goes in Here?

- Compostable Cups
- Compostable Plates
- Compostable Silverware
- Paper Napkins
- Paper Towels
- Coffee Filters
- Food Scraps
- Paper Placemats
- Soiled Newspaper
- Pizza Boxes
- Shredded Newspaper



RECYCLABLE

What Goes in Here?

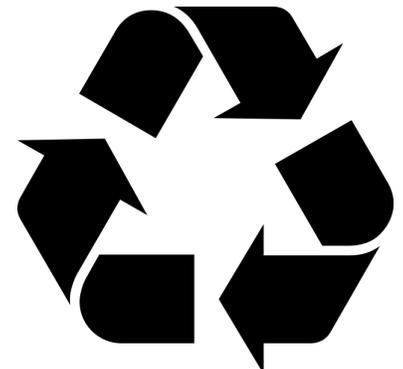
- Glass Beverage Containers
- Plastic Beverage Containers
- Office Paper
- Church Bulletins
- Aluminum Foil/Containers
- Tin Cans



GARBAGE

What Goes in Here?

- Styrofoam
- Candy Wrappers
- Plastic
- Diapers





KIDS PAGE

FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and “spots” on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry “head” by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!



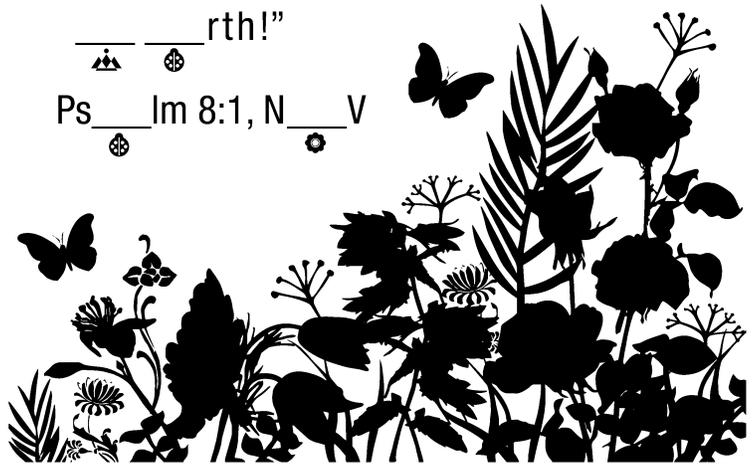
Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A = E = I = O = U =

“L__RD, __r L__rd, h__w
 m__j__st__c __s y__r
 n__m__n__ll th__
 __rth!”
 Ps__lm 8:1, N__V



Answer: “LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”
 Psalm 8:1, NIV

Bible Quiz

According to Matthew's account, what was torn when Jesus died?

- A. Mary's headdress — she tore it as a traditional Jewish sign of grief
- B. A Roman guard's sash — Peter grabbed and ripped it in anger
- C. Jesus' robe — the soldiers divided it among themselves
- D. The temple curtain — torn in two from top to bottom

Answer: D (See Matthew 27:51.)

Report for: January 2018

Income	Jan 2018	YTD	Jan 2017	Change (+/-)	
Offerings	17,090.56	17,090.56	16,022.05	1,068.51	A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.
Non-Benevolence	1,390.00	1,390.00	1,710.00	(320.00)	
Building Fund	3,946.33	3,946.33	3,187.15	759.18	
Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Special Projects	312.82	312.82	344.22	(31.40)	
Scholarship Fund	10.00	10.00	0.00	10.00	
Total	22,749.71	22,749.71	21,263.42	1,486.29	

Ministry Expenses	Jan 2018	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	
Salaries and Related Costs	10,283.90	10,755.75	(471.85)	10,283.90	10,755.75	(471.85)	"How do our ministry expenses compare to what we planned for in the budget?"
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	1,341.78	2,637.48	(1,295.70)	1,341.78	2,637.48	(1,295.70)	
Education, Mission, Related Costs	509.94	1,145.84	(635.90)	509.94	1,145.84	(635.90)	
Supplies	950.45	1,304.16	(353.71)	950.45	1,304.16	(353.71)	
Ministry Initiatives	0.00	1,291.68	(1,291.68)	0.00	1,291.68	(1,291.68)	
Synod Mission Support	0.00	1,275.00	(1,275.00)	0.00	1,275.00	(1,275.00)	
Total	13,086.07	18,409.91	(5,323.84)	13,086.07	18,409.91	(5,323.84)	

Budget Cash-	Jan 2018	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	
Income available	18,480.56	18,409.91	70.65	18,480.56	18,409.91	70.65	<small>(General Offerings & Non-Benevolence)</small>
Ministry Expenses	13,086.07	18,409.91	(5,323.84)	13,086.07	18,409.91	(5,323.84)	
Net (+/-)	5,394.49			5,394.49			"What is our net cashflow for the year for our ministry ex-

Building Fund	Jan 2018	YTD	
Income	3,946.33	3,946.33	"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Building Fund?"
Payments	(3,891.00)	(3,891.00)	
Interest	2.79	2.79	
Current Balance	13,697.42		

Balances	Jan 2018					
General Checking	7,418.86	Attendance		Communion		
Memorial Fund	2,583.18	January	2017	2018	2017	2018
Non-Benevolence	1,687.44	Week 1	50	131	44	110
Special Projects	2,485.26	Week 2	95	120		
Scholarship	6,466.91	Week 3	127	110+38*	116	89
Line of Credit	14,100.00	Week 4	120	125		
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	(449,374.59)	Week 5	138+52*			
Youth Checking Account	5,530.55	*annual meeting attendees				

Zion Lutheran Church

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

Council Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2018

Present: Mike Bottin, Matt Christianson, Susan Gengler, Linda Isebrand, Rod Isebrand, Steve Marshall, Doug Midthun, Pastor Andrea Myers and Melanie Smith.

Guests: Beth Paumen

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Rod Isebrand.

1. Devotions

Rod opened the meeting with devotions.

2. Approve Agenda

These additions were made to the agenda: Old Business f. Sponsorships; New Business c. Restructuring Offering and Giving Statement Categories and d. Fellowship Hall Use. Motion by Linda to approve the agenda with these changes; second by Mike. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Thank You Notes

A letter from Lutheran Social Service acknowledged and thanked the Zion for their 2018 commitment. Rod thanked Doug for agreeing to complete the remaining two years of Matt Lantz' term on the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team.

4. Reports: Consent Agenda

Changes to the Consent Agenda: Statistical Reports (Updated copies of these reports were distributed); Social Ministry (Linda acknowledged Caring Coins donations of \$212.82 on January 8, which are designated for VINE Faith in Action); Membership and Outreach (Pastor Andrea referenced the report, noting that it has been the practice to not order giving envelopes for individuals/families who have not attended/made a financial gift to Zion for two consecutive years). Motion by Steve to approve the Consent Agenda with these changes; second by Doug. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Pastor's Report: Pastor provided information on upcoming dates: **January 18-19** (Out of the office attending SE MN Synod Faith Formation retreat at Good Earth Village), **January 21** (Annual meeting at 10:15), **January 22-29** (In Houston TX for continuing education and vacation. Pastor Dan Buendorf will lead worship on January 28. Pastor Kaderbhai is available for emergencies. She will return the office

January 30), **February 14** (Ash Wednesday supper at 5:30, followed by worship at 6:45) and **April 1** (Easter Sunday with worship at 8:00 and 10:00/breakfast at 9:00). Other information:

- i. **Renew!**, a leadership event in Owatonna is scheduled for February 24 from 10:00 until 3:00. Please let her know by February 11 if you are interested in attending.
 - ii. Attendance for the Christmas Eve worship services was excellent.
 - iii. Ministry teams are asked to consider effective and deliberate ways to incorporate new members into their team's work. Pastor provided guidance to assist in the process.
 - iv. Pastor provided updates to SAS: 111 Statements of Intent were received, with 70% of the respondents indicating a commitment to increase or maintain their level of giving. Projected total of new gifts is \$8,062.00. Expanded options for e-giving will be explored, a special appeal to retire the \$14,000 line of credit is being considered and ways to increase those participating in Simply Giving are being discussed.
- B. Secretary's Report: No changes.
- C. Statistical Reports: Council members received these reports via email.
- D. Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team: No written report was provided, but we were glad to see that Doug is recovering from surgery and could attend the meeting.
- E. Social Ministry Team (Carol Dunker, *Linda Isebrand and Judy Meyer): The team met January 9 at Linda's home with all members present. VINE was the recipient for January, with \$212.82 collected. The next Caring Coins recipients are Wellcome Manor (February) and ECHO/Food Shelf (March). Prayer Ministry assignments for February through April have been set. Linda will write the February newsletter and bulletin articles. The team reviewed the notes from our food safety meeting at the Salvation Army, which will be shared with workers at each event via a brochure/handout. We'll request that a minimum of \$250 be kept in the Food for Friends budget. When additional dollars reach a certain amount, perhaps \$100, those dollars should be donated to the Salvation Army. Carol was thanked for her devotion to this ministry team! We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be set when a new member has been elected.

- F. Membership and Outreach Ministry Team (*Steve Marshall, Beth Paumen and Doug Winter): The team met on at the church on January 13 with all members present. A thank you note was sent to anniversary celebration sponsors, with a request for their input regarding remaining funds. Doug will deliver the remaining giving envelopes.
- G. Building and Grounds Ministry Team (Mike Bottin, *Dave Hoffer and Brett Streng): The team met January 10 with all members present. Discussion focused on the fellowship hall. Concerns have been voiced about the condition of the hall when it is used and how to best establish incentives so that all items are cared for and that cleanup is complete. Some chairs and tables have been damaged and will have to be replaced or repaired. A rental system that would cover custodial time and maintenance will be considered that respects those who use our facilities without causing additional work or damage.
- H. Treasurer's Report effective 12/31/2017: General Checking \$3,359.90, Memorial Fund \$2,582.72, Building Fund \$13,639.30, Non-Benevolence \$297.27, Special Projects \$2,477.26, Available to Pay Bills and Payroll \$3,656.27, Overdue Bills \$0.00, Current Bills (due mid-month) \$4,000.00, Line of Credit \$14,100.00.

**Indicates Ministry Team Chair*

5. Other Reports

- A. Youth Ministry Team (Kris Anderson, Jennifer Fleming and *Susan Gengler): The team met on January 15. Jamie Christianson is resigning her position as Sunday School Superintendent; however, she will continue through the end of the school year if a replacement cannot be found. Pastor will post the opening in the newsletter and bulletin. The first Family of Faith Sunday was a success with many youth and adults participating. The next event will be February 11 when participants will play BINGO and assemble Valentines for the residents at Crystal Seasons. A family seminar scheduled for April is in the planning stages. The Ash Wednesday supper and Easter Sunday breakfast will serve as fundraisers for the Houston trip. The youth will also serve the Lenten supper on March 14. Additionally, the team is hoping to set up sponsorships to help support this youth trip. The week of July 22 is Zion week at Green Lake Bible Camp.

- B. Worship, Music and Adult Education (*Phil Bachman, Karen Granger and Kristi Grindstaff): The team met with all members present. They are in the process of developing a schedule of seminars for 2018, which the Youth Ministry team will help support. Sessions are planned on parenting, financial planning, tithing, retirement planning and risk management, as well as sessions that address science and faith. Pastor Andrea is willing to lead some sessions and other resources have/are being identified. Movie night might also be an option. Lenten worship will incorporate the Holden Evening Prayer and personal life experiences. Calls to Action Team leaders continue and, as finances allow, brighter chancel lighting and a new bulb for the projection system will be installed. The next phase of the Narthex Design Team will be new tables; again, those will be ordered as funds become available. Motion by Linda to approve the other reports; second by Melanie. Motion carried unanimously,

6. Old Business

- A. SAS Update: Along with the information contained in her report, Pastor shared that 69 individuals/families indicated their intent to give to the Building Fund. In total, the office received 111 Intent Cards, compared to 103 last year.
- B. Personnel Reviews update: The Personnel Committee met with Pastor Andrea on January 9 who was unable to attend the first session because of a family emergency. Pastor noted again that deadlines for bulletin and newsletter articles should be observed as they make it much easier for Mary to complete her work in a timely manner without being rushed.
- C. Nominating Committee Update: Rod shared the proposed roster from the Nominating Committee, which shows two unfilled positions. Doug also shared that, as a candidate for the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team is sought, someone with technology skills, particularly as related to electronic giving should be considered.
- D. 2018 Proposed Budget Fix: Rod shared information about the proposed budget, noting that a minor error made in 2017 was corrected for this budget so that all numbers were aligned and correct. Motion by Mike to ac-

cept the proposed budget for 2018; second by Matt. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Andrea also prepared a handout that outlines the background on the budget preparation. This, along with the proposed budget, will be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

- E. Annual Meeting on January 21st, 10:15 AM: Pastor Andrea reminded chairs of the importance of sharing the work of their team in a manner that reflects to mission of the congregation and serves to inspire them toward growth in faith.
- F. Anniversary Sponsorships: Steve shared that more than half of the 20 surveys provided to the anniversary sponsors indicated a desire to use the additional funds, about \$950.00, as follows: General Fund (2), Narthex Design (4) or Line of Credit (7). The remaining choices were Special Projects (0) and Other (0). More discussion will take place at subsequent meetings and challenge gifts might be solicited as well.

7. New Business

- A. Zion's Name Change: Pastor Andrea moved to approve the constitutional language for presentation at the Annual Meeting: (new language is underlined)

C1.01. *The name of this congregation shall be Zion Lutheran Church of Lake Crystal, MN.*

C1.02. *For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church of Lake Crystal, MN, is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."*

Second by Doug. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. New Member: Pastor Andrea moved to approve Bill Dostal as a confirmed member of Zion. He, his wife Beth and their children have been attending for some time. Second by Linda; motion carried unanimously.
- C. Restructuring Offering and Giving Statement Categories: Doug and Pastor shared that giving categories will be adjusted in the quarterly statements to reflect the same categories as in our statistical re-

ports, which should allow members to better understand how their gifts are used. Doug noted that the yearly audit is in progress.

- D. Fellowship Hall: Mike stated that his team is discussing possible fees and/or incentives to ensure that groups who use our facility do not create additional work and/or cost for our congregation because of damage, etc.

- 8. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40. Rod closed the meeting by singing the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is February 21, at 7:45 (following Lenten worship). Matt is responsible for devotions and refreshments.

Faithfully submitted,

Linda Isebrand, Interim Secretary

Sharing Shelf

Each month a volunteer from Zion delivers this food offering to the Sharing Shelf. Thanks to Patty Thompson for serving in February. March volunteer is Barb McDonald.

March needs include: **tomatoes, chicken, muffin mix, boxes potatoes, rice, hamburger helper and toilet paper.**

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

125th Anniversary Booklet

Corrections:

Please note the following corrections to the 125th Anniversary Booklet:

Page 9: ground breaking (under top photo)

Page 18: seasonal paraments (under the photo of Cindy Jacques)

Page 29: Lena Dimmel & Irene Hylen are pictured in the last row (bottom photo)



AN INTERVIEW WITH JODIE ARCHER, SYNOD SECRETARY

Jodie Archer, a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spring Valley, has served two terms as the secretary of the synod. Her tenure will be completed this spring, and a new secretary of the synod will be elected at the Synod Assembly in May. Archer recently took time to reflect on the ministry and leadership lessons she's learned over these years.

HOW DID YOU FIRST FEEL THE SPIRIT NUDGING YOU TO BE OPEN TO THIS POSSIBILITY OF SERVING AS SYNOD SECRETARY?

The first time I felt the Spirit nudging me was when the then current Vice President, Shirley Gangstad, was sitting on my couch and sharing with me information on a sheet of paper she had with her that had the "specifics" of what the synod secretary's responsibilities were. When I asked her why she was sharing this with me, she smiled and said, "We have been watching you and we think you would be a good fit for this." I thought about it, I pondered it, I prayed about it. I couldn't come up with a reason to say no.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT THE WIDER CHURCH THROUGH THIS POSITION?

The wider church isn't scary or something to be feared. That group of people wants the same things that we in a congregation want. We are not a top-down organization. We are side-by-side working together to spread the word and do the work of Jesus Christ. We each have our part in this journey and benefit from the other.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF THROUGH SERVING AS SECRETARY?

If you know me, you will appreciate this – I have learned that I can go for several hours without speaking a word. I have learned about my style of leadership and how my gifts can serve a group. Everyone is not the same and that is very intentional. It's a God thing and it is most definitely a GOOD thing. We all bring something to the table, something of value and

of purpose. If we are not at the table, we will never fully know the potential or possibility of what could be.

WHAT MIGHT SURPRISE SOMEONE ABOUT COUNCIL?

We have had meaningful and difficult conversations in a respectful manner. It still surprises me that all of the people around the table are normal, regular people. We all share the same faith and we all believe that God is truly at work. We ask questions and we listen. The council is an eclectic or diverse group of people that changes every two years and yet at a specific moment, the gifts that are needed are around that table. We are not a rubber stamp council. We question things, we research things, we disagree; we pray for guidance and direction.

WHAT IS A POSITIVE MEMORY YOU'LL TAKE WITH YOU FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

The most positive memory that I will take with me is of the people I have been privileged to meet. I have new friends in the congregations I have visited. I have met people from other countries and other walks of life and I was honored to listen to their story. I am humbled by whom I have met and how blessed I continue to be because of this opportunity.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING SERVING IN THIS WAY? Go for it! What have you got to lose? You won't regret it and you will be amazed at what you learn. Being able to see things outside the four walls of your congregation brings new insight. There is not a specific requirement for serving – there is not a mold that you are expected to fit in to. If I can do it, anyone can do it. You will be blessed beyond measure. Your experience will be more than you could ever imagine it to be. You'll never know what you will know if you say no.

Zion Lutheran Church

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday 8 am—4 pm

Thursday 8 am—3:30 pm

The Office is closed on Fridays.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Sunday Morning

9:00 a.m. Worship

Communion the 1st & 3rd
Sundays

10:05 a.m. Sunday School

Weren't able to be here on
Sunday but want to see the
service you missed?

See Mary in the Office to
borrow the VCR tape of the
most recent service.

Our Mission Statement



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

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

Pastor

Rev. Andrea Myers

Office Manager

Mary Gilman

Choir Director

Linda Isebrand

Organist

Sheldon Meyer

Custodians

Bob and Barb McDonald

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