

Zion Lutheran Church  
**MESSENGER**



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 12

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

# Advent and Christmas Worship 2017

Waiting and Watching for our Savior at Zion Lutheran Church



December 3  
1st Sunday in Advent  
9:00 AM

December 10  
2nd Sunday in Advent  
9:00 AM

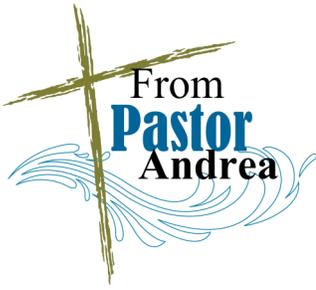
December 17  
3rd Sunday in Advent  
8:00 AM  
Sunday School  
Christmas Program  
10:00 AM

December 24  
4th Sunday in Advent  
9:00 AM  
Christmas Eve  
5:00 PM  
10:00 PM

December 31  
Christmas  
Lessons & Carols  
9:00 AM

**SAVE THE DATE:  
ZION ANNUAL MEETING:  
JANUARY 21, 2018, 10:10 A.M.**

**125TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION ON NOVEMBER 19TH  
PHOTOS: PAGES 8-9**



One of my favorite things about marking Zion's anniversary this year has been hearing stories about events and people that I never had a chance to see or meet for myself. These stories offer encouragement, surprise, and often a good laugh. Some stories might even serve as parables for us. Take this example that I heard recently.

A congregation once built a church where they could gather for worship, fellowship and learning. The building served them well through many seasons yet, in time, they outgrew the space and determined that the best path forward was to purchase a new property where they could build a new church and education wing. And so this is what they did. With great joy and the pealing of the old church bell, the family of faith moved into their new home where they continue to gather today.



Empty and a little lonely, the old white church remained there on its street corner, missing the sounds of singing and laughter and the company of children.

Then, one day, a man named Clarence "Red" Herbst decided to turn his former church home into a new home for his growing family. (Was it for sentimental reasons, or simply for thrift? I'm not sure.)

Sometime in 1959, Red bought the old church and carefully cut it into pieces to be moved across town to the eastern end of Blue Earth Street. He cut the roof down to "normal" house size, and then rearranged other parts of the church building to become the kitchen, living room, and bedrooms where his family would live and grow. The house now belongs to Red's son, Mike.

As you can see, the new house doesn't look anything like the old church. Without the story and pictures, you'd never know that the walls of the Herbst home contain timbers soaked in the songs and praise of generations.

As I said, it seems to me that this story might function as a parable for us about the church, and change.

Having celebrated the past, Zion is moving forward in



faith into the next era of its ministry together. As we try to imagine ourselves 25 or 50 years into the future, it's inevitable that we'll go through changes as we seek continued growth in faith and strength. Chances are that some of those changes will feel drastic. It might even seem as if we've cut the church apart and rearranged its pieces so that we can no longer recognize them.

Sometimes, when I try to imagine myself into that future, I get really nervous, and even scared. I love the church. I love this congregation, and know you do, too. It can be really hard to see the things that we love endure this kind of change.

What will the future hold in the new year, or the years to come? We can only imagine, and pray, and listen for God's leading. But let us move forward with courage and confident trust that God will be at work in the midst of it.

For as we celebrate this month, our Savior Jesus Christ once stepped down from his heavenly home in order to come and dwell among us. This journey of change brought God's incarnate Word to a manger in Bethlehem. He was willing to be transformed so that he could transform us into something new - a spiritual house of living stones where God could dwell forever. In this, our hearts rejoice, and overflow with divine love and grace by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Andrea Myers



## Zion Lutheran Church Women



### **December 6:**

**Ruth Circle** 6:30 p.m.

**Rebecca Circle** 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Kathleen Fleming

Bible study: TBA

**Miriam Circle** 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Linda Hoechst

Bible study: Diana Lantz

### **December 7:**

**Martha Circle** 11:30 a.m.

Potluck at Crystal Seasons

### **December 19:**

No board meeting

### **December 26:**

Bible Study for Leaders 5:30 p.m.

Thank you to those who attended the ZLCW's Annual/Thank Offering meeting and to those who prepared the food. The format, which included brunch, worked well for the 11 women who attended. Thank you to Kay Carlson and Diane Sandstrom for planning the event!

Reports were received from the officers, Tri-Mission, Luther Memorial Home Auxiliary and each of the circles. Lois Davis shared a bit about her experience at the 2017 WELCA Triennial Gathering and read reports from Dorothy Yarger and Barb Feder, who could not attend Saturday's meeting. All three women thanked the membership for their donation and support. The next Triennial Gathering is in Phoenix in 2020.

Officers elected for 2018 include Joyce Roberts, president, and Linda Isebrand, LHM representative. We approved the budget. Thank you to Nikki and Kay for your service to the ZLCW. Linda Hoechst has graciously accepted a two-year term on Tri-Mission. We are still in need of a vice president for 2018 and are hopeful that someone will prayerfully consider this opportunity and come forward. The work is easy and fun. The time commitment is minimal.

Proposed Amendment to the ZLCW Constitution: Recommended change to Section 1. Nominating Committee: There shall be a Nominating Committee of at least ~~three~~ two people to submit the names of individuals willing to fill open positions at the time of the Annual Meeting of the ZLCW or whenever a vacancy might occur during the calendar year.

The board will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be January 16, 2018. Thank you to everyone for the faithful work completed in 2017.



### **Thank you Action Team 2 leaders,**

Greg & Janette Abraham and

Mark & Judy Meyer

for assembling the

November Action Team duties!



**Happy Anniversary to:**  
 Gary & Kelly Karels  
 Adam & Mackenzie Jones



**Happy Birthday to:**

Barbara Anderson	Karl Anderson
Dorothy Barnick	Brad Snow
Jim Halvorson	Corey Burnett
Roger Jones	Noah Lantz
Lorraine Miller	Chloe Lantz
Rhonda Teigen	Cheryl Lantz
Patty Thompson	Lorin Beecher
Larry Walters	Julia Strenge
Brooke Pockrandt	Justin Hruby
Denise Hagge	Dean Tibbetts
Brad Friday	Gavin Knutson-Icks
Matt Teigen	Tim Smith
Jennifer Zumwalt	Nickolaus Beinke
Anna Feder	Theresa Glaubitz
Robert McDonald	Rachel Sandstrom
Beth Paumen	Todd Manke
Carter Greenough	Brianna Sittig
Todd Jacoby	Brayden Thompson
Sheryl Utter	Ben Copeland
Gary "Gus" Larson	Kelle Goeringer
Leah Anderson	Michele Langer
Blaine Anderson	
Lohr Anderson	
Derek Cloyd	
Heather Lee	

**Newsletter Due Date**

**Articles for the January newsletter  
 are due by December 19**

**Team 3**

**December leaders**  
 Dave & Kay Carlson

**Team Members:**

Milton & Joycelyn Abraham  
 Jason & Jill Antony  
 Phil Bachman  
 Paul Beinke  
 Bill & Beth Dostal  
 Nathaniel & Anna Feder  
 Karen Granger  
 Andrey & Dawn Hartman  
 Alexandria Hughes  
 Arlen & Judy Karau  
 Fred & Diana Lantz  
 Daniel & Nikki Lewis  
 Robert & Barb McDonald



Greg Mikkelson  
 Kelvin & Regina Olson  
 Mari Kay Resner  
 Renee Rollings  
 Donald & Byrene Schmidt  
 Dan & Lois Sohler  
 Charles & Karen Stoll  
 Patricia Thompson  
 Steve & Susan Trnka  
 Mary Williams

**Leadership Nominations for 2017**

Looking for a way to meet new people, be more involved with the Church and serve the Lord all at the same time? If so, we have just the solution.

Zion is currently looking for volunteers to fill several upcoming Ministry Team vacancies. Volunteers are needed for the following teams: Building and Grounds; Finance and Stewardship; Membership and Outreach; Social Ministry; Worship, Music and Adult Education; and Youth Ministry. These are 3-year positions. The Nominating Team is also looking for someone to fill the roles of President-Elect and Council Secretary for two-year terms.

Serving on a Ministry Team is a rewarding experience and we ask you to prayerfully consider helping if you are able.

If you are interested, please contact Patrick Baskfield at:  
 507-327-5459.



## ELCA Youth Gathering Update

Two of our Zion youth will be attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. Tenth graders Kendall Anderson and Reese Goeringer will join Pastor Andrea and a group from Epiphany Lutheran Church



(Eagle Lake) for a week of learning, worship, growth in faith and plenty of fun!

Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to offer your financial support for this trip. Please also pray for the many volunteers who serve as the planners and organizers for this amazing event that will gather 30,000 ELCA youth and adults from around the country and the world!

## Confirmation Mentor Update

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 13 and January 10 from 6:00-7:15 p.m. In addition, they will worship together during Wednesdays in Lent (February 21, 28, March 7, 14, and 21).

If a student asks you to be their Mentor, please prayerfully consider saying yes!

## Winter Warm-Up Recap



Zion's Confirmation Students were inspired to "be deliberate about Christmas" during an inspirational presentation at this year's Winter Warm-Up on November 15. Ben Glenn, also known as "The Chalk Guy," kept our youth laughing and listening as he recounted stories about his family, his failures, and his experiences navigating life with ADHD and dyslexia.

Ben powerfully told students about one Christmas when he disobeyed his parents and did something so bad that it required a trip to the emergency room! He dreaded the punishment to come, ready for his parents to carry out their earlier threat to give away all of his Christmas presents. Instead, when Ben and his dad returned from the hospital his parents decided he'd "been through enough" and he was able to enjoy the bountiful Christmas he'd hoped for. It was true grace. Ben called it "the greatest gift he'd ever received," until the night at camp that he welcomed the grace of Jesus Christ into his life. He urged the youth present to keep this greatest gift in mind and to celebrate Christmas "on purpose" with Jesus at the center.

Then, while music played, the Chalk Guy began to draw, quickly filling his canvas with a rich and lively nativity scene. All who watched were transfixed to see the scene take shape, and to recognize the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ, born for us!



## Social Ministry: Caring Coins December 10

The Lake Crystal Ministerial Association will be the designated recipient of December's Caring Coins offering Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Lake Crystal Ministerial Association members are: Abundant Life Christian, Cornerstone United Methodist, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Holy Family Catholic, Our Savior's (Butternut) and Zion Lutheran. Ministerial 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 the pastors to local residents and travelers. The Ministerial Association also helps organize the Community VBS program and LCWM's Baccalaureate Service in May. Checks can be made to Zion, with "Ministerial Association" written in the memo line. **Thank you for your donation!**



### 2017 Christmas Open House with the Pastors Myers

*It was such fun last year, we're doing it again! Ronald and I invite you to our home for a Christmas Open House. You'll get to see our home decorated for Christmas and meet members from Epiphany Lutheran in Eagle Lake. We hope to see you there!*

Sunday, December 17

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

902 Lakeview Court

Lake Crystal

## Forward in Christ 2017 Fall Stewardship Appeal Update

Did you miss Stewardship Appeal Sunday in November? Never fear! It's not too late to return your **Forward in Faith** Statement of Intent for 2018. Extra copies of the brochure and card are available in the church Narthex.

You can also submit your Statement of Intent online! Visit the church website today: [www.zionluthlakecrystal.org](http://www.zionluthlakecrystal.org).

This year, to honor our 125th anniversary, our goal is that **125 Zion families** will return statement of intent cards this fall. To reach this goal, we have begun contacting families to encourage their participation. As we celebrate our congregation's anniversary, know that your faithful financial support is vital as we move forward into a new era of Zion's ministry.

## Planning Ahead: Summer Camp!

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

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries has announced their 2018 summer schedule and theme, "Get Lost!" based on Matthew 10:39, "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

Camp registration opens December 4, 2017. Stay tuned for details about "Zion Week" at GLLM, which offers a chance to enjoy camp with your Zion friends. Visit [gllm.org](http://gllm.org) to view the full summer camp schedule and begin making plans to participate!

## A Word From the President

### Oh, What a Year, Oh, What a Day

2017 will be the year to be remembered for the celebrations that Zion has participated in that involved all of her members!

First, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation. Second, the celebration of Zion's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and all of the participants that played a role on November 19<sup>th</sup>, the day we celebrated all of this.

I want to thank again all the people involved for making Sunday a very memorable day. Without listing names, I want to thank the committee that organized everything, the sponsors that helped offset the expenses, the pastors that came back to share some of their memories and all of the members that participated in the dinner afterwards. It was a very satisfying experience and I have heard many compliments from those who attended.

We also included our **Forward in Faith** fund appeal in which we asked you to turn in an Intent Card of your financial support to Zion for 2018's General Fund and Building Fund. Our Stewardship for All Seasons committee felt that this celebration day would be an appropriate time to ask our members to look forward to next year and consider what each of you could do to help financially meet the initiatives set by our Council. We are looking at Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> as our celebration day to report results of this appeal. If you have not turned in your Intent Card, we would ask that you attempt to get this to the church office before December 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are approaching the end of another year. That said, we always have an urgent appeal of our members to prayerfully consider a Thank Offering or a Christmas Offering that will help us catch up on some of Zion's commitments such as Lutheran Social Service, Green Lake Bible Camp, Good Earth Village and Crossroads Campus Ministry at MSU. Zion's contributions to these organizations gets put off until the end of the year usually as a result of a lack of funds. These items have been supported by Zion for many years and they again were budgeted for 2017. Therefore, we need to fulfill these commitments and keep our support for these organizations intact. Zion's books will close on December 31<sup>st</sup>. So, when you make these offerings or any other offerings, please keep that in mind.

Thank you to all for your support!

May God's peace be with you all,

Rod Isebrand, President

## Sharing Shelf

Each month a volunteer from Zion delivers this food offering to the Sharing Shelf. Thanks to Pat Baskfield for serving in November. The December volunteer is Teri Thompson-Hobart.

**December needs include: bagged and boxed rice, chicken, peanut butter, muffin mix, crackers 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.

## ECHO Food Shelf

Even you have two hours a month to volunteer! ECHO Delivers needs you! Volunteers are needed to deliver food to those who have challenges getting to the Food Shelf. Here's all that you have to do:

1. Marcia, Coordinator for ECHO Delivers, connects you with a client.
2. Shop for food at ECHO and deliver it to your client's door once a month!

If you want to help, call ECHO Food Shelf at 345-7477 or Marcia at 351-2922.

## Weather Reminder:

All evening activities will be cancelled whenever LCWM schools are closed, evening activities, are cancelled, or there is early dismissal due to inclement weather.

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

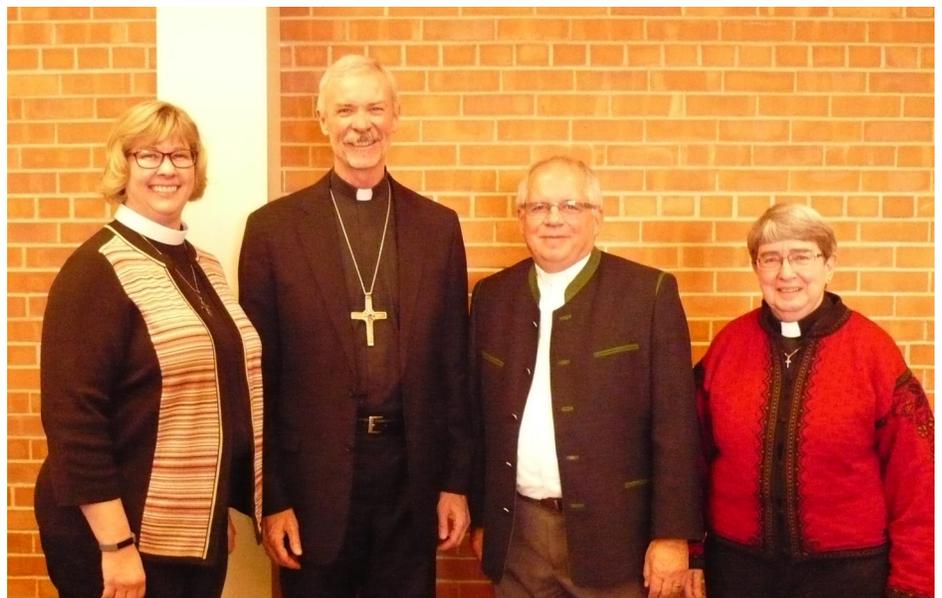


# 125th Anniversary Celebration



Zion Lutheran Church celebrated 125 years of congregational ministry with a special Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, November 19. The Rev. Steven Delzer, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA, served as guest preacher and reminded those in attendance that, “for 125 years, Zion has been a symbol of God’s presence among its members, the Lake Crystal community, and the world.” Previous Zion pastors Rev. Nancy Dreier and Rev. Glenn Taibl returned to Zion as special guests, assisting in worship and sharing remarks during the Anniversary Program. Congregation members were joined by visitors and former Zion members for a catered luncheon after worship.

“We know that many things have changed in the last 125 years. Our world has changed and so has the church,” noted Pastor Andrea during the program, “but we know that the gospel of Jesus Christ has endured for more than two-thousand years, in spite of many changes. Today, we are building on this congregation’s strong foundation, trusting that God will continue to help us make Jesus known to all in this changing world.”

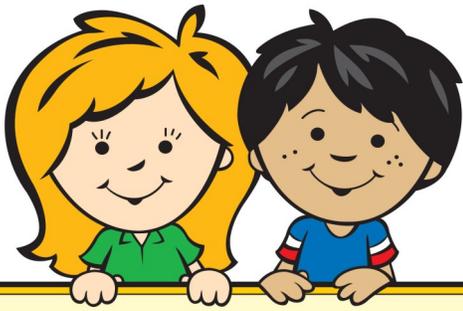


(L-R): Pastor Andrea Myers, Bishop Steven Delzer, Pastor Glenn Taibl, Pastor Nancy Dreier



*Making Jesus  
Known:  
Yesterday, Today,  
Tomorrow*





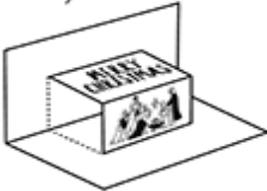
# KIDS PAGE

## POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

### What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick

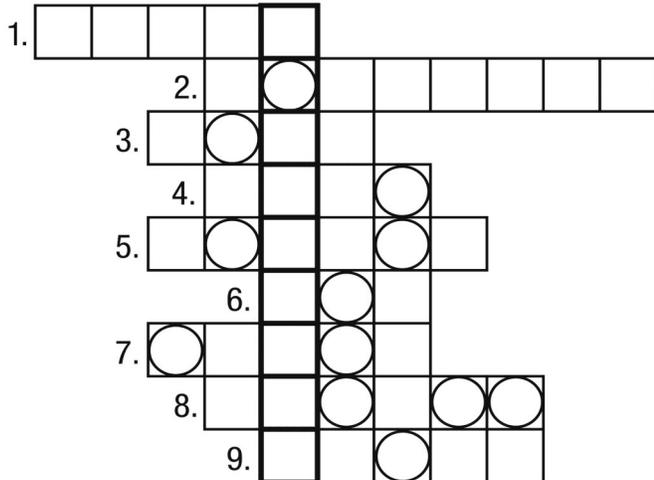


### What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

**Bold word:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seasonal phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, tax, camel, manger, sheep, Christmas, peace on earth

## Bible Quiz

After Mary learned she was pregnant with God's Son, what relative — also miraculously pregnant — did she go visit?

- A. Esther
- B. Elizabeth
- C. Anne
- D. Anna

Answer: See Page 15



## Report for: October 2017

Income	Oct 2017	YTD	Oct 2016	Change (+/-)	A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.
Offerings	18,272.95	140,093.89	13,571.86	4,701.09	
Non-Benevolence	1,970.00	16,913.51	1,265.00	705.00	
Building Fund	3,393.00	37,549.15	5,199.09	(1,806.09)	
Memorial Fund	0.00	235.00	10.00	(10.00)	
Special Projects	2,327.70	10,585.15	614.57	1,713.13	
Scholarship Fund	1,730.00	1,890.00	725.00	1,005.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,693.65</b>	<b>207,266.70</b>	<b>21,385.52</b>	<b>6,308.13</b>	

Ministry Expenses	Oct 2017	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	10,110.49	11,096.60	(986.11)	99,891.07	110,966.02	(11,074.95)	
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	9,271.32	3,375.01	5,896.31	28,629.26	33,749.98	(5,120.72)	
Education, Mission, Related Costs	742.46	1,583.33	(840.87)	7,078.97	15,833.34	(8,754.37)	
Supplies	983.16	1,262.49	(279.33)	10,853.89	12,625.02	(1,771.13)	
Synod Mission Support	1,074.03	1,140.00	(65.97)	10,964.37	11,400.00	(435.63)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,181.46</b>	<b>18,457.43</b>	<b>3,724.03</b>	<b>157,417.56</b>	<b>184,574.36</b>	<b>(27,156.80)</b>	

Budget Cash-flow	Oct 2017	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	"What is our net cashflow for the year for our ministry expenses?"
Income available	20,242.95	18,457.44	1,785.51	157,007.40	184,574.36	(27,566.96)	
Ministry Expenses	22,181.46	18,457.44	3,724.02	157,417.56	184,574.36	(27,156.80)	
Net (+/-)	(1,938.51)			-410.16			

Building Fund	Oct 2017	YTD	"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Building Fund?"
Income	3,393.00	37,549.15	
Payments	(3,891.00)	(41,051.23)	
Interest	1.85	19.03	
Current Balance	9,078.18		

Balances	Oct 2017
General Checking	(1,253.90)
Memorial Fund	4,286.36
Non-Benevolence	50.03
Special Projects	4,432.29
Scholarship	7,023.57
Line of Credit	9,100.00
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	(456,647.25)
Youth Checking Account	6,009.50

	Attendance		Communion	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
<b>October</b>				
<b>Week 1</b>	144	132	110	101
<b>Week 2</b>	129	182		
<b>Week 3</b>	135	251*	119	119
<b>Week 4</b>	162	97		
<b>Week 5</b>	179	130	133	97

\*2017 Confirmation Sunday: October 15

# Zion Lutheran Church

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

### Council Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2017

**Present:** Phil Bachman, Matt Christianson, Susan Gengler, Linda Isebrand, Rod Isebrand, Steve Marshall, Doug Midthun, Pastor Andrea Myers, Melanie Smith and Brett Strenge.

**Guests:** Beth Paumen

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Rod Isebrand.

#### 1. Devotions

Melanie opened the meeting with devotions.

#### 2. Approve Agenda

Motion by Steve to approve the agenda as presented; second by Phil. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Thank You Notes

There was no correspondence; however, Pastor Andrea shared receiving two handwritten notes from Crystal Seasons after the Confirmation students' visit. Doug had also received a verbal thank you.

#### 4. Reports: Consent Agenda

One correction to the Consent Agenda: In the prayer concerns, Bruce Schultz should have been listed as Bruce Schmidt. Motion by Doug to approve the Consent Agenda; second by Melanie. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Pastor's Report: Upcoming events were listed, including Reformation with Temple Talk (**October 29**), All Saints' Sunday with Temple Talk (**November 5**), New Member Sunday with Temple Talk (**November 12**), Anniversary Celebration and Appeal Commitment Sunday (**December 19**) and Sunday School Christmas Program with two worship services at 8 AM and 10 AM. Pastor will also be away beginning the afternoon of **November 5** through **November 7** for the SEMN Synod Fall Theological Conference in La-Crosse WI. Information was shared regarding the new Capstone ministry for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students preparing for confirmation. The three areas of focus included exploring the five commitments of baptismal living; completing two homework assignments that asked them to select their confirmation verse, reflect on their gifts of ministry and share which confirmation components most affected them; and complete a class service project. This year's confirmation goal is to replace the current curriculum being

used and incorporate teaching the 'Bible Year' during class time. The primary source for this instruction is *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*. She also provided information from the Narthex Design Team, Stewardship for All Seasons and an addition to the Prayer Concerns (Gus and Marsha Larson on the death of his brother).

B. Secretary's Minutes: No changes.

C. Statistical Reports: Council members received these reports via email.

D. Social Ministry (Carol Dunker, \*Linda Isebrand and Judy Meyer): The team met on October 9 with all members present. Caring Coins (\$677.70) for October 8 are designated for the REACH Drop-In Center in Mankato, and are being supplemented by a Thrivent Action Team Grant. Total Caring Coins for 2017: \$3,228.15. The order for ELCA World Hunger from September Caring Coins has been placed. No Caring Coins in November due to the Stewardship Appeal and the Anniversary Celebration. Food for Friends is October 28. The fee for each box for Operation Christmas Child has increased \$2 and is now \$9.00/box. Next meeting is at 4:30 on November 8, at the church.

E. Youth Ministry (Kris Anderson, Jennifer Fleming and \*Susan Gengler): The team recommended approving the job description for the Youth Ministry Coordinator. There will be a Christmas-themed book fair on November 5 and 12. Intergenerational activities are being planned for the second Sunday of each month, beginning in 2018. A co-leader for the Christmas program is still needed.

F. Membership and Outreach (\*Steve Marshall, Beth Paumen and Doug Winter): The team met on October 12, with all members present. As of October 12, 60 dinner tickets have been sold and 14 sponsorships have been received. No date has been set for 'Lunch for a Buck' at Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry. The history display table will not be set up until after the Tour of Tables. Magnets ordered for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary should be received this week and the historical booklet is near completion.

G. Treasurer's Report effective 9/30/2017: General Checking (\$1,387.07), Memorial Fund \$6,285.43, Building Fund \$9,574.33, Non-Benevolence \$124.94, Special Projects \$2,524.59, Available to Pay Bills and Payroll (\$1,262.13), Overdue Bills \$0.00, Current Bills \$3,310.35, Line of Credit \$9,100.00.

\*Indicates Ministry Team Chair

#### 5. Other Reports

A. Finance and Stewardship (Matt Lantz, \*Doug Midthun and Gary Sandstrom): Doug reported that a member has graciously provided Zion with a \$4,000 gift that should be

used at the discretion of the church council. Based on this, they suggest the gift should be placed in the general fund. There are a number of outstanding bills; however, the council is also concerned about the unpaid balance on the line of credit. After discussion, Doug moved that this gift be deposited in the general fund and that the dollars be expended at the discretion of the treasurer. Motion carried 8-1. On a related note, there are currently 36 of 180 giving units who use Simply Giving. Beginning in 2018 and based on discussions by the SAS team, Simply Giving will be promoted regularly. They may also use a 'challenge' gift as a means to encourage others to consider giving in this manner.

B. Worship, Music and Adult Education (\*Phil Bachman, Karen Granger and Kristi Grindstaff): The team met October 9, with all members, along with Pastor Andrea, present. The new digital video camera has been in use since October 1. The city-wide move to digital technology would help enhance our presentations, but that is currently on hold. There was discussion about additional projection issues related to lighting in the sanctuary, particularly the chancel. The lightbulb in the projector may be part of the problem. Themes for the upcoming Lenten worship series were also discussed.

C. Building and Grounds (Mike Bottin, \*Dave Hoffer and Brett Strenge): Brett presented his team's report verbally. Problems with the roof have surfaced, beginning with a leak in the kitchen. Schwickert's has provided two bids, one for immediate repairs (\$6,117.00) and the other that is long-range (\$3,773.00) for a total of \$9,890.00. The board is asked to seek at least one more bid and bring a recommendation to the council for them to consider. Brett was also asked to follow up on the light above the east entrance of the fellowship hall that has not been repaired.

Motion by Linda to approve these three reports; second by Doug. Motion carried unanimously.

## 6. Old Business

A. Zion's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Progress: Steve updated the anniversary numbers from their report: 80 dinner tickets sold and 16 sponsorships received. An ad will be placed in the Tribune on October 25. Tickets will be sold again on October 29, November 5 and 12; the final count is due to Truffles on November 15.

B. Narthex Design Team: Linda reported that the committee's work is currently on hold pending the completion of the projects in Phase One (the purchase of high top and regular tables), which is based on available funds. She shared that she was approached by someone who is considering a gift toward this project as a memorial to a loved one.

C. SAS Update: The team last met on October 10 and are on pace with the planning. Temple Talks will begin October 29.

D. Approval of proposed Youth Ministry Coordinator job description: The motion to approve this came from the Youth Ministry Team. Second by Linda; motion carried unanimously.

## 7. New Business

A. Portico Benefit Services: Council members received these resources via email. Motion by Doug to continue with Portico Benefits Plan Gold Plus; second by Matt. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Finance and Stewardship (donation designation): This discussion took place as part of the earlier report from the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team.

C. 2018 Budget Planning and Annual Reports: The meeting to begin work on the 2018 budget is scheduled for 6:00 PM November 14. Those attending include the Executive Board (Rod, Matt, Linda, Melanie and Pastor Andrea) and the members of the Finance and Stewardship Team (Matt Lantz, Doug Midthun and Gary Sandstrom).

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:48. All members joined in the

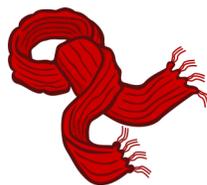
Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is November 15, at 7:30 PM. Steve Marshall is responsible for devotions and refreshments.

Faithfully submitted,  
Linda Isebrand, Interim Secretary

## Calling all Crafters!

The REACH Drop-in Center in Mankato needs your help! During this season of cold weather, they are making free scarves available to the community.



The scarves are hung along their fence, often with caring notes attached.

A recent Facebook post indicates that the demand is great and they're having trouble keeping the fence filled.

If you'd be willing to make or donate a scarf for the REACH, please bring them to the church office (Pastor Andrea will drop them off) or contact the Reach directly at (507) 720-0331.

## Zion Remembers

### Stories from 125 years of ministries

By Howard Ward

As a child my mother made it clear to me, “to live in this household you must do three things: graduate from high school, take piano lessons, and be confirmed in the Lutheran faith.” My parents were of moderate means and dad could afford few hobbies or outside interests, but he did bird hunt and from the age of five he took me along. I remember being placed on a muskrat house at age six and shooting my first flying bird, a blue winged teal, at age seven. The duck boat was where I learned to identify a pied-billed grebe, learned what a hard stemmed bulrush was and where dad and I bonded as father and son.

Life was good until age twelve, and then confirmation began. Dad had only weekends to hunt and I had confirmation on Saturdays and sermon notes to take on Sundays. Hate is a strong word but does not come close to expressing the contempt I had for church. Every weekend of the autumnal months was a struggle between parent and child. I was confirmed at age fourteen and this coincided with the age that youth who have taken firearms safety training can hunt unaccompanied by adults. After that I found others my own age to hunt with and I must say that it was also at this time that my father and I began to drift apart, later philosophically and politically.

Through my early adult years my church attendance was sporadic at best. There were two years of military service, then movement back to Mankato, then New Ulm, then Courtland, Marine on The St. Croix, and eventually back to Mankato. And then there was the issue that my profession required working weekends. I pretty much lived by the adage, “I’ll see you in church – if the windows are clean.”

We moved to Lake Crystal and joined Zion in 1979. It is at Zion where my faith has finally found stability. It is at Zion where my children were confirmed. It is at Zion where I have learned the message of the Bible, not because I have had to but because I have wanted to. It is at Zion where I have made new friends who share a common faith and I feel comfortable expressing it. At Zion I feel at home.

### The Giver

Many Christian families struggle with what role — if any — Santa Claus should play in their Christmas celebrations. No matter what you decide, it’s fascinating to know the history of the real-life St. Nicholas.



Born about 270 A.D., Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, or modern-day Turkey. In the year 325, he was part of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed.

Nicholas, known for his generosity, often gave away his money anonymously. According to tradition, he secretly provided dowries for the three daughters of a bankrupt merchant. Nicholas threw two bags of gold through open windows and placed the third in a stocking hanging by the fireplace to dry. Thus began the Christmas tradition of placing gifts in stockings.

St. Nicholas is quoted as saying, “The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God’s giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves.”





# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



## CONTINUING EDUCATION & SABBATICALS: WHAT ARE THEY?

By Rev. Emily Carson [carson@semnsynod.org](mailto:carson@semnsynod.org)

A healthy approach to ministry is rooted in a willingness to grow, adapt, learn, and experience spiritual refreshment. Annual time set aside for continuing education is one of the ways the leaders of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod live out their callings as healthy, vibrant leaders.

Continuing education time is a requirement of a full-time rostered minister's call, and Bishop Steven Delzer believes it is extremely important that synod leaders make it a priority. When a rostered leader joins the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, one of the commitments that they make is to engage in a minimum of 50 hours of continuing education time every year.

Continuing education can take many formats and may include seminary classes, online courses, workshops, or independent study directed toward a specific goal. It is meant to inspire and also refresh.

The synod's official "compensation guidelines" document is a tool approved annually at the synod assembly. The document is a resource that leaders and congregations can use as they discern together the appropriate compensation package.

The compensation guidelines describe continuing education this way: "Continuing education time and funding should be provided for leaders for updating skills and for professional growth in order to strengthen their ministries. It is recommended that a minimum of two weeks (including up to two Sundays) and \$750 be granted annually for continuing education."

Congregation members are invited to have an open, encouraging relationship with the church staff members about their continuing education experiences! Ask questions. Encourage leaders to set aside time for learning. Celebrate with leaders when they return from continuing education experiences and express an openness to learn more.

Sabbaticals are another valuable tool that congregations and leaders can utilize in order to grow, learn, and experience spiritual refreshment. Sabbaticals are beneficial to both congregations and leaders. Rev. Tim Ehling serves as the chair of the synod's Synodical Leader Grant Team, and he and the other committee members are strong advocates for leaders and congregations in the synod who want to engage in a sabbatical.

Congregations are encouraged to write and approve a sabbatical policy for their rostered leaders. The 1997 ELCA Churchwide Assembly recommended that rostered leaders be granted a period of extended study and renewal, a minimum of 1-3 months every 5-7 years in the current call. This time of refreshment and renewal can take many forms. The leader works in collaboration with the congregation and the synod's Synodical Leader Grant Team in order to shape the sabbatical time.

If you have questions about continuing education, please contact the Office of the Bishop by calling 507-280-9457. Please email Rev. Tim Ehling at [tim.ehling@firstlc.org](mailto:tim.ehling@firstlc.org) for additional information about sabbaticals and ways that leaders in the synod can receive special funding for continuing education & sabbatical experiences.

### In Case of Emergency



Life events such as illness, accidents or death don't happen on a schedule. If you or a family member face an emergency and are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Andrea on her cell phone: 507-402-1114. This number is also included in the church office's voicemail greeting.

Please note that we do not check the office voicemail outside of regular office hours (Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm) or over the weekend, so any message left during that time will not be picked up until the next regular office work day.

Bible Quiz Answer: B (See Luke 1:39-40.)

# Zion Lutheran Church

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Church website:  
www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday-Thursday 8 am—4 pm  
The Office is closed on Fridays.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



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**Pastor**

Rev. Andrea Myers

**Office Manager**

Mary Gilman

**Choir Director**

Linda Isebrand

**Organist**

Sheldon Meyer

**Custodians**

Bob and Barb McDonald

"HE WILL BE  
**GREAT**  
AND WILL  
BE CALLED  
THE SON OF THE  
**MOST HIGH.**"

LUKE 1:32



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

Our Mission Statement



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

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