

Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER



2017

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

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



2016 Summer Mission Trip Update:

This summer, eleven Zion youth will travel to St. Louis June 24-30 for a week of service and learning. This month you have two opportunities to support our youth as they raise funds to cover transportation and registration expenses:

Burger Baskets at The Lakes Monday, February 6

Come to The Lakes (151 W. Humphrey) for Burger Baskets! For each one sold, our Zion Youth will receive \$3.50 toward our fundraising goal.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Sunday, February 26

Join us for breakfast at American Legion Post 294 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The menu will feature pancakes, cheesy scrambled eggs, and sausage. All you can eat! Adults \$8, children 10 and under \$4.

If you're unable to attend these events, donations to support the trip can be made at any time to the Youth Fund. Please mark your offering "St. Louis."

Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars!

Lent begins March 1



Ash Wednesday: March 1

6:45 Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Mid-Week Worship and Fellowship:

March 8-April 5

5:30 Supper

6:45 Holden Evening Prayer

Holy Week: April 9-15

Easter Sunday: April 16

More information about worship in Lent will be published in the March newsletter.

Thank you Thrivent Members!

Thank you for selecting Zion Lutheran Church to receive your Choice Dollars®! **In 2016, Zion received \$3,260 in charitable outreach funding from Thrivent.** Thank you for making a positive impact in our community!

If you haven't yet allocated all of your 2016 Choice Dollars®, you have until March 31 to do so at www.Thrivent.com.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ -
This is a year of big anniversaries!

As I hope you've heard by now, 2017 marks 500 years

since Martin Luther posted his *Ninety-five Theses* on a Wittenberg church door on October 31, 1517. This event has taken on the quality of legend, and is recognized as the launching point for the Reformation.

This year also marks 125 years since the founding of our congregation, which was named "Zions Scandinavian Lutheran Church" in its founding charter. While this event may not be cloaked in legend (so far as I've heard!), the decision of our founders to join together in faith launched a ministry that continues today.

What is the best way for us to commemorate these anniversaries?

Should we have someone dress up as Martin Luther and post a copy of the *Ninety-five Theses* on the doors of Holy Family Catholic Church? Of course not! Many of the practices of the medieval church which Martin Luther protested (such as indulgences and the selling of clerical offices) are simply not present in the Roman Catholic Church of today. In fact, formal ecumenical dialogue between Lutherans and Catholics over the last 20 years has recognized areas of significant theological agreement.

Likewise, should we organize a worship service that reenacts the worship practices of 1892, complete with a Norwegian liturgy and pioneer costumes? Of course not! For one thing, few of us speak much Norwegian. Nor would I, as a female pastor, have been permitted to lead and preach for such a service in those days. Times have changed, and Zion's ministry has evolved so that we welcome Christians from many traditions and ethnic backgrounds.

As these examples show, we must guard against excessive nostalgia when looking back to remember important historical events and the people involved in them. We no longer live in the worlds of 1517 or 1892.

At the same time, remembering the past is important so that we can pass this history on to a new generation. Our identity is rooted in these events, even as

we have continued to grow and bear fruit in the years that followed.

I recall celebrating my grandparents' 50th anniversary. Our entire family and their closest friends gathered for a dinner banquet and much time was spent in sharing stories. It was clear that we weren't just celebrating the actual event of their wedding (though that story was indeed told). We were also celebrating the life that Marvin and Mildred Dobberman had built during those many years together, and the fruit that had been born through their family, work, and community life. We celebrated how my architect grandfather had shaped the city of Superior, as well as my grandmother's ability to promote his business with active civic engagement that often landed "the wife of Marvin Dobberman, architect" in the local paper! They were a team; together they created a legacy that continues to bear fruit through their grandchildren. Celebrating their anniversary encompassed all of this—past, present, and a view to the future.

I believe this is an apt model for our anniversary celebrations in 2017. Together, we can tell stories from the past, explore how they've shaped who we are today, and then look to the future to see what fruit we might continue to bear with God's grace and help.

How can you get involved?

- **Help us organize Zion's anniversary celebration!** We're currently forming a team to work on this, so speak to Rod Isebrand or me if you're interested.
- Take a fresh look at the story of Martin Luther by attending the screening of ***Rick Steves' Luther and the Reformation*** after worship on February 19. (See page 8 for more details.)
- Plan to attend our **mid-week Lenten worship services** beginning March 1. Our theme will be, "With Awe and Love: Reflecting on Luther's Small Catechism." A special Lenten Devotional called *Free Indeed* will also be available to help you grow closer to God by thinking on God's word and the basics of our faith.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Andrea Myers

Zion Lutheran Church

February 1:

Ruth Circle 6:30 p.m.

Miriam Circle 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Marsha Larson

Bible Study: Linda Isebrand

Rebecca Circle 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Judy Marshall

Bible Study: Kathleen Fleming

February 21:

ZLCW Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

February 28:

Bible Study for Leaders 6:30 pm

* *Martha Circle does not meet in February.*



The ZLCW board met on January 17 with Nikki Lowis as our new president. We welcome Diane Sandstrom, who is replacing Kathy Lewis on Tri-Mission.

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 narthex will be donated to the elementary school; however, if you give these items directly to the school, please give them to Kay Carlson or Diane Sandstrom to count so your donation can be included in our totals. We are also collecting greeting cards (the entire card must be donated) and used postage stamps, which are donated and processed by the Legion Auxiliary.

Any circle member who would like to have a copy of the 2017 ZLCW Handbook should contact Mary in the Church Office.

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!

Our next event will be serving at one of the Lenten suppers. Circle chairs will have this information at their March meetings.



Thank you to everyone who recycled lights this Christmas season. A total of 230 pounds were taken to MRCI!

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 hours, so any message left after 3:30 pm (Monday-Thursday), or on Friday may not be picked up until the next regular office day.



Zion Sunday School News

Each week, children will be given a bible verse to memorize. Please help your child work on this during the week. Many of these verses will be with them for their entire life!

February

5 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "Serve each other with Love." Galatians 5:13

12 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

19 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

26 Regular Class Kids sing "I have the Joy, Joy, Joy"

Bible Verse: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." 2 Timothy 3:16



Reading Buddies: Kelly Strenge & Nancy Hanson's class reading together at Sunday School.



March

5 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

12 Regular Class -Kids Sing "He'll be Coming Down From Heaven"

Bible Verse: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Genesis 1:1-2

19 Spring break—no class

26 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lifts up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26



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.





Happy Anniversary to the following Zion members celebrating February anniversaries!

Gregory & Janette Abraham
 Allan & Mary Hutchens
 Arlen & Judy Karau
 Michael & Beth Paumen



March Newsletter Deadline

The March newsletter due date is **February 23rd at noon**. Please turn your information in before this deadline! Earlier is great! Ministry Teams, we would love to hear what you are working on.

Gustavus Adolphus College

Building Bridges Conference—March 4, 2017
 Topic: Uprooting Injustice, fostering the growth of grassroots movements. Tickets can be ordered at gustavustickets.com or by calling 507-933-7590.

Step Up—March 9, 2017

A leadership development resource for high school youth. Students will be introduced to college level concepts of leadership that will help them develop a stronger personal plan for continuing to grow as a leader. For more information, go to www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations/setup. \$40 includes lunch and a t-shirt. 9 am—3:30 pm.



Happy birthday to the following Zion members celebrating their February birthdays!

Joycelyn Abraham	Lexie Laborde
Luanne Anderson	Charlene Manke
Makenzie Anderson	Judy Marben
Jason Antony	Nolan Meyer
Heidi Bartelt	Callie Mueller
Warner Beckmann	Matthew Nuytten
David Boomgarden	Paige Pockrandt
Bently Brandts	Chelsey Rustman
Brynn Brandts	Isaac Sandstrom
Mary Brockner	Craig Sandstrom
Jim Brockner	Adrian Schmalzriedt
Elfredia Deopere	Ardis Schmidt
Jacob Ebargary	Damia Siebenahler
Larry Elg	Paige Sittig
Seth Ellanson	Rebecca Sittig
Nancy Ellanson	Melanie Smith
James Ellanson	Cathy Snow
Kylie Feder	Robby Sorenson
Jesse Fleming	Chad Sorenson
Pat Gengler	Scott Spencer, Jr.
Devan Hagge	Charles Stoll
Seth Hartman	Michelle Stordahl
Linda Heydt	Kelly Streng
Allan Hutchens	Madison Teigen
Dustin Icks	Clarence Thompson
Aaron Isebrand	Cole Thompson
Brian Jacobs	Dorothy Yarger
Travis Jordan	

Bible Quiz Answer:

Answer: A (See Judges 3:12-26.)

zion youth news

Confirmation News: Mentor Night Recap

Many thanks to the confirmation mentors who gathered with our students on January 11. Our theme for the evening was *Prayer: Conversations with God*.

In our closing activity, students were asked to select a headline and news story from that week's *Mankato Free Press*. After reviewing the story, students and mentors worked together to write brief prayer petitions related to the news event. As we gathered in a circle to pray together, we prayed:

- for healing for the victims of the Ft. Lauderdale airport shooting;
- in thanksgiving that the airport personnel and emergency responders were able to do their jobs and care for distressed passengers;
- for women and families pregnant with multiples, that they and their babies would be healthy and safe;
- for healing for the victims of a beating assault, and forgiveness for the alleged perpetrator;
- for the homeless and those endangered by the cold weather;
- and much more!

Hearing our students raise their voices in compassionate and thoughtful prayer for others was a powerful conclusion to our time together.

Opportunities to talk with God about our needs and the needs of others are never far away!



St. Louis Trip Meeting

All trip participants should plan to attend our next Trip Meeting on **Sunday, February 5** after worship in the Youth Room. Bring at least one parent! We'll be working on our fundraising plans and finalizing dates for future trip meetings.

This month we will be working on two fundraisers as we work to cover transportation and registration expenses:

Burger Baskets at The Lakes Monday, February 6

Come to The Lakes (151 W. Humphrey) for Burger Baskets! For each one sold, our Zion Youth will receive \$3.50 toward our fundraising goal.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Sunday, February 26

Join us for breakfast at American Legion Post 294 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The menu will feature pancakes, cheesy scrambled eggs, and sausage. All you can eat! Adults \$8, children 10 and under \$4.

Donations to support the St. Louis mission trip can be made at any time to the Youth Fund. Please mark your offering "St. Louis." **Thank you!**

Narthex Design Team

This committee continues to meet to consider ways to repurpose and use our narthex. We are excited to meet with Anne Gerriets on January 30. Anne comes to us at no charge from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. She has experience and training in creating and recreating congregational space.

The team is excited that more people are using the time after worship to join in fellowship, conversation and coffee with one another. The numbers have grown and folks seem to enjoy the new setting. Our hosts have been provided with an overview of the responsibilities related to serving in this new space. They are posted in the kitchen and can be used as a reference, especially if you are a new host.

It's important to remember that this is about more than coffee! One of the most pressing issues is making the overflow worship space more welcoming and inclusive. Members of the NDT have committed to worshipping in that space so that we can better address the needs. We are working with Scheitel's and Rhapsody, both of whom have provided our team with quotes as we look to upgrade and improve the visibility in this area.

As the work continues, please consider the following three questions and share your responses with a member of the team:

- 1) What can we do to make this a more welcoming area?
- 2) What thoughts do you share about the church library?
- 3) What questions and thoughts do you have about this project?

Members of the team include Barb Feder, Sandy Friday, Karen Granger, Kristi Grindstaff, Cindy Jacques, Linda Isebrand, Joyce Roberts, Steve & Judy Marshall and Pastor Andrea.

Information Updates

With new photo directories being distributed, this is a good time for everyone to review their information. Have you changed address? Do you have a new/different e-mail? Get rid of your home phone and now have a cell number to share? If you see any changes needed, please call the church office to update. Thank you!

Team 2

February Leaders:

Greg & Janette Abraham
Mark & Judy Meyer

Team Members:

Jill Atkinson	Dennis & Donna Mikkelsen
Kent & Sandra Beecher	Matt & Bobbie Nuytten
Ian & Mandi Carleton	Alene Pettersen
Elfredia Deopere	Darlene Roberts
Kylie Feder	Amanda Roesch
Jim Forsyth	Ardis Schmidt
Jackie & John Graham	Brad & Cathy Snow
Allen Hrubby & Tammy Sweet	Mike & Amy Thofson
Fran Jurs	Dean & Paula Tibbetts
Steve & Val Laborde	Adam Ward
Kimberly Lilly	
Michael & Jody Maurer	



Sharing Shelf

Each month a volunteer from Zion delivers this food offering to the First Baptist Church. Thanks to Linda Isebrand for serving in January. The February volunteer is Patty Thompson.

Sharing Shelf needs for February include: canned chicken, oil, brownie mix, cereal, canned veggies and toilet paper.

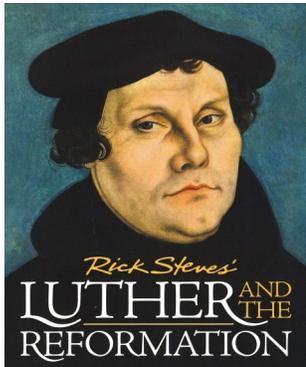
The Sharing Shelf is located at the First Baptist Church, 312 South Oakland Street. Hours are Wednesday evening from 6:00 - 6:30 PM or by appointment.

Screening and Discussion

Rick Steves' Luther and the Reformation

Sunday, February 19 after worship

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. To help those interested understand the whats, hows, and whys of it all, Rick Steves re-



cently produced a public television special called *Rick Steves' Luther and the Reformation*.

Luther and the Reformation weaves the story of Luther into the wider sweep of history, dealing candidly with Luther's human foibles

and weaknesses as well as his authenticity and passion for the gospel. The film also sheds light on other reformers, like Erasmus and Francis Xavier, who worked for change but stayed loyal to the Roman Catholic Church.

Concerning the project, Steves has written, "From our modern point of view, a monk translating the Bible into German may seem like no big deal. But to imagine it from the perspective of Jan Hus—the Czech reformer who tried to accomplish some of what Luther did a century earlier, but failed and was burned at the stake—that's our challenge. To explain the courage (and public relations brilliance) of Luther, 500 years ago, standing up to power—a simple monk defying the emperor and the pope—gives the story extra punch."

Join Pastor Andrea after worship in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 19 to watch the film (55 minutes). A group discussion will follow, for those able to stay longer, as we explore what we have learned (or relearned) by taking a fresh look at the story of the Reformation.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod presents

RENEW!

**EQUIPPING
CONGREGATIONS
FOR DIFFICULT
CONVERSATIONS**



with Rev. Eva Jensen

**FEBRUARY 26, 2017
2PM-4:30PM**

ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH, ROCHESTER
[HTTP://SEMNSYNOD.ORG/RENEW](http://semnsynod.org/renew)

*Free Event & Open to All
Registration Required
Registration Deadline: February 17*



Invitation to RENEW!

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is offering its annual leadership development event called RENEW! on February 26, 2017. This event is designed to help congregational leaders grow and learn in their ministry.

Pastor Andrea invites all Zion leaders to attend—including those not currently serving in an elected position! This year's event takes place from 2:00-4:30 pm at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester. The theme is "Equipping Congregations." for Difficult Conversations. For more details visit <http://semnsynod.org/renew>.

It's always fruitful when we can attend a variety of workshops and then compare notes regarding ideas that inspired us and seem relevant to our congregation. We would leave Lake Crystal about 11:30 a.m.. Following the event, we will likely gather for a quick supper in Rochester to share ideas before returning home by 8 p.m. See Pastor Andrea with questions or to RSVP for the event by Wednesday, February 15.

Camp Registration is Open!

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (GLLM)

www.gllm.org

320-796-2181

Driving time: 2 hours (105 miles)

2017 Summer Theme: “Faith: *On Fire!*” Throughout the week, campers will focus on the verse, “for by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

July 16-21 is “Zion Week” at Green Lake! Enjoy camp with your Zion friends and take advantage of the various programs available that week! Visit www.gllm.org to view the full summer camp schedule and begin making plans to attend!

Good Earth Village (GEV)

www.goodearthvillage.org

(507) 346-2494

Driving time: 2 hours 15 minutes (126 miles)

2017 Summer Theme: “The Table is Set” The scene is familiar. Chairs are filled and conversation begins, while a group of people share a tasty meal together. The table is set for community, for sharing, and for listening. This Summer, GEV’s community is ready for rich conversation. We’ll talk about dining with a stranger or sinner, about the gifts we have to feed our communities, the Lord’s table and the abundance we receive.

Along with your favorite camp programs, 2017 brings new opportunities to Explore, Grow, and Engage! Does a half-week program work better for your family? We’re excited to offer one for each age group! In the summer of 2017, experience a unique community of believers called to love each member as their wacky self. Come, build up friendships and leave for home with a strengthened spirit. Join us; The Table is Set.

Monday Bible Study

11:00 a.m. in Classroom 21
Zion Lutheran Church, Lake Crystal



Join us each week for a study that incorporates prayer, silence, and sharing as a way to deepen our understanding of the Gospel lesson for the coming Sunday.

Come, Dwell in the Word!

Keep Worship Projection Going!

The Projection Team is looking for volunteers to help with both producing and projecting services once or twice a month. If you are willing to produce, you will be shown how to use the software and the steps required to create a “Media Shout” presentation that will then be projected during service. Basic computer skills and a desire to help are all that are needed. Projecting services is even easier. All that is required is to set up the computer and press buttons to advance the slides.

The current Projection Team has been carrying the projection load for quite a while and is in need of help. Projection is a benefit we all enjoy. Please help spread this work out beyond a few dedicated individuals.

If you are willing to help, please contact Patrick Baskfield at 507-327-5459. Thanks.

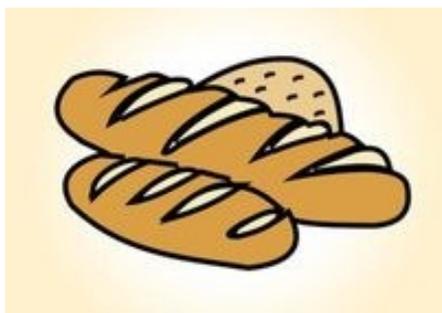
Social Ministry Team

Social Ministry is excited about 2017 and we look forward to using our faith to do “God’s Work Our Hands.” We especially want to thank Dawn Hartman for her three years of service to our team!

Food for Friends is scheduled for March 8. Watch for the signup sheet in late February. There will be opportunities to serve, make bars/cookies or provide financial support.

We will be revisiting the Prayer Chain Ministry. The only condition for members is that you commit to actual prayer for individuals or families when you are contacted. We are also looking for someone to serve as the leader of the prayer chain; the only responsibility is to pass the information on to the members and maintain the level of confidentiality requested. Thank you to Jody Maurer for her years of service to this ministry!

Opportunities continue to be open to anyone who would like to create prayer shawls or take part in making Little Dresses for Africa. We are excited that Cindy Jacques and her craft guild are using our Prayer Shawl Ministry as a service project. Thank you Cindy!



Communion Assistance

We are in need of individuals interested in helping with communion preparation. This includes baking bread, filling the communion trays, and assisting during the services (behind the scenes)! If you are interested, please contact Cindy Jacques at (507-327-0283).

Membership Team

Zion is still in need of a volunteer to fill the ZLCW Vice President position. Can you help? Contact anyone on our team. We would also like to thank everyone for their cooperation with activities throughout the year, especially with the Photo Directory.

Kathy Fleming, Steve Marshall & Beth Paumen.

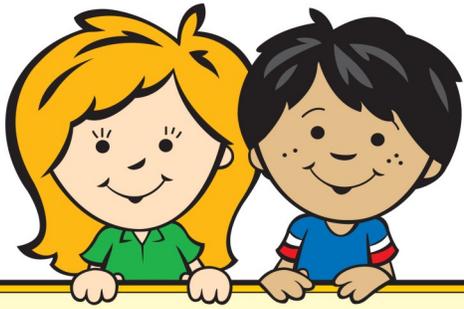
Simply Giving

As more and more people sign up for Simply Giving, please keep in mind if you have any questions or need any help, you can always call the church office. Mary is happy to help you make changes to funds, amounts, frequency, dates, etc. as well as provide any other help you might need.

Caring Coins

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward our January Caring Coins. A total of \$364.22 was generously donated for the new Lutheran Center in Juba, South Sudan.

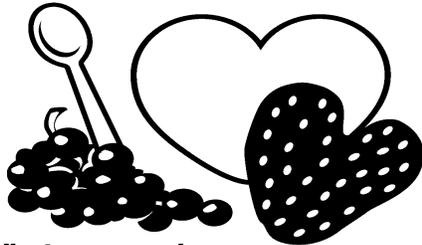
February 12 is Caring Coins Sunday, with donations designated for Wellcome Manor Family Services. WMFS is located in Garden City and provides a safe haven for women (allowing their young children to stay with them) as they recover from drug and alcohol addiction. Many of the families who come to Wellcome Manor have very little in the way of personal possessions. The funds collected in February will be used to support the needs of children, especially for the purchase of diapers, wipes, bottles and formula. Thank you in advance for your generous support of these families in need.



KIDS PAGE

Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.

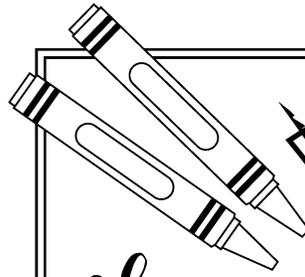


What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!



PUZZLE

Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.

(1) You really like ice cream! _____



(16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. _____

(21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. _____

(4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. _____

(11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. _____

(17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. _____

(6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. _____



"Honor _____ and _____, and _____ your _____."



Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV

BIBLE QUIZ

What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

- A. He was left-handed.
- B. He was blind.
- C. He was very fat.
- D. He was exceedingly strong.

Answer: See Page 5



Report for: December 2016

Income	December	YTD	Dec 2015	Change (+/-)	
Offerings	20,353.32	153,664.61	13,913.89	6,439.43	A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.
Non-Benevolence	1,855.00	23,952.13	3,180.00	(1,325.00)	
Building Fund	4,357.15	47,095.34	14,737.21	(10,380.06)	
Memorial Fund	0.00	290.00	0.00	0.00	
Special Projects	602.58	5,168.60	160.00	442.58	
Scholarship Fund	25.00	4,520.00	200.00	(175.00)	
Total	27,193.05	234,690.68	32,191.10	(4,998.05)	

Ministry Expenses	December 2016	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/1)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	
Salaries and Related Costs	11,143.43	10,709.33	434.10	116,591.98	128,511.99	(11,920.01)	"How do our ministry expenses compare to what we planned for in the budget?"
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	3,901.33	2,641.67	1,259.66	26,862.72	31,700.00	(4,837.28)	
Education, Mission, Related Costs	5,788.64	1,250.00	4,538.64	12,531.19	15,000.00	(2,468.81)	
Supplies	1,053.82	1,245.83	(192.01)	13,818.76	14,950.00	(1,131.24)	
Synod Mission Support	4,120.29	1,042.50	3,077.79	13,732.58	12,510.00	1,222.58	
Total	26,007.51	16,889.33	9,118.18	183,537.23	202,671.99	(19,134.76)	

Budget Cash-flow	December	YTD	
Income available	22,208.32	177,616.74	(General Offerings & Non-Benevolence)
Ministry Expenses	26,007.51	183,537.23	"What is our net cashflow for the year for our ministry expenses?"
Net (+/-)	-3,799.19	-5,920.49	

Building Fund	December 2016	YTD	
Income	4,357.15	47,095.34	"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Bldg Fund?"
Payments	(3,891.00)	(45,371.10)	
Interest	1.96	24.85	
Current Balance	12,551.23		

Balances	Dec. 2016	Attendance		Communion		
		December	2015	2016	2015	2016
General Checking	(2,941.55)					
Memorial Fund	6,041.18					
Non-Benevolence	179.62	Week 1	182	152	148	117
Special Projects	972.52	Week 2	170	160		
Choir	28.83	Week 3	287	53+185	116	118
Scholarship	6,173.80	Week 4	318+78	254+114	62	102
Line of Credit	9,100.00	Week 5	67	54		

Mortgage Principal (Thrivent) (480,173.22)

Wk 3: Children's Christmas Program.

12 Wk 4: Christmas eve. Communion only at one service in 2015.

Zion Lutheran Church
**“To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words
and Actions”**
December 21, 2016

PRESENT: Pastor Andrea, Matt Christianson, Rod Isebrand, Linda Isebrand, Dave Hoffer, Sheldon Meyer, Mary Hutchens, Doug Midthun, Jim Halvorson,
GUEST: Beth Paumen, Steve Marshall, Kathy Fleming, Gary Sandstrom

1. Opening Devotions: Rod opened with a reading and prayer.
2. Approve Agenda: Correction to November 16 Council meeting minutes, page 2 / Old Business 6.a. - Constitution Update: December 16 should be December 21; Finance & Stewardship - questions on Constitution; no Youth Ministry report; verbal report tonight from Building and Grounds; Kathy Fleming – additional contact with Life Touch, waiting for proof to be returned for corrections, original proof was turned in on November 6, Mary Gilman is clarifying issues with Life Touch; Pastor Andrea noted that offering deposits in December will be counted as part of 2016 totals, Mary Gilman will check mail on December 30 and will make a deposit on Friday, December 30. Offering envelopes will be delivered next week. Pastor’s report: new Council members’ event is open to everyone; Worship, Music & Adult Education Ministry Team report on devotion booklets, ok to use budget dollars without approval by Council. Motion to Approve: Linda Isebrand; Motion Seconded: Doug Midthun; Motion Passed
Thank-You Notes: Crossroads, donation of personal care items; thank you to Scholarship Committee from Megan Lee.
3. Reports (Consent Agenda Format): Motion to Approve: Sheldon Meyer; Motion Seconded: Matt Christianson; Motion Passed
 - a. Pastor’s Report: December newsletter deadline: Thursday, December 22 at noon. Special Worship Schedules in December: December 24: 5:00 p.m. Manger Service and 10:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Communion. Sunday, December 25: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day worship. Sunday, January 1: 9:00 a.m. New Year’s Day worship. Sunday, January 8: Pastor Peter Reuss from Southeastern Minnesota Synod will be guest preacher and will share the story of the new Lutheran church that we are helping to establish in the nation of South Sudan. Sunday, January 8 (p.m.)-January 10, Pastor will deliver a one-day workshop on Emotional Intelligence. In DeKalb, IL. Pastor will attend 2 continuing education events in Louisville, Kentucky on January 18-23. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is offering its annual leadership development event called RENEW! on February 26, 2017, at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester from 2-4:30pm. This event (theme, Equipping Congregations) is designed to help congregational leaders (council members, officers, ministry teams, etc.) grow and learn in their ministry. Encourage all Council and Ministry Team members to consider attending this event. Proposed “Zion Constitution & Bylaws” as well as the document that details the proposed bylaw changes will be available in the church office. All three documents (the summary, the proposed Constitution & Bylaws, and the Bylaws analysis) will also be available on the church website. 11 youth and 3 adults signed up for the St. Louis Mission Trip June 24-30, 2017. Participant families received information about the trip budget and current itinerary. The fundraising target (after family contribution of \$175 per student) is \$4,281. Part of this will be covered by a \$1,000 contribution from the Youth Fund. The remainder will be raised by participant families. Work has begun to identify the fundraising events and projects that will be scheduled.
 - b. Secretary’s Minutes: November 16, 2016
 - c. Statistical Reports / Financial Summary: handout
 - d. Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team (*Doug Midthun, Matt Lantz, Gary Sandstrom): Question on page 29 & 30 of Constitution by-laws, Finance and Stewardship Team oversee finances of Scholarship Fund in consultation with Social Ministry Team, this change was made in Constitution. Question on statement of communion to baptized members only, Pastor Andrea invites everyone who believes that Christ is present. This information is to be reviewed periodically. Thank you to those who have completed their intended offering this past year and encourage those who have not and a request to share a special end-of-the-year Christmas gift.

- e. Social Ministry Team (Dawn Hartman, Carol Dunker, *Linda Isebrand): Caring Coins received on December 11 and designated for the Lake Crystal Ministerial Association totaled \$296.28. As of 12/14/16, a total of \$2,090.23 had been donated through Caring Coins to support a variety of local and global ministries. We are grateful for the generosity of our congregation! Will review the Prayer Chain Ministry in January. The 2017 Sharing Shelf delivery schedule has been completed and given to Mary to mail. 29 more dresses were shipped in December, bringing the total to 103 Little Dresses for Africa shipped since December 1, 2015. Linda will bring information about the REACH Homeless Shelter for Youth (a program through LSS) to the ZLCW to see if they would like to work cooperatively with Social Ministry to support this program. We reviewed one additional change to one bylaw. Caring Coins designees were set for the months of January through May.
- f. Youth Ministry Team (*Becky Sittig, Kristy Schultz, Jennifer Fleming): No meeting.
- g. Membership & Outreach Ministry Team (Beth Paumen, *Kathy Fleming, Steve Marshall): Reviewed and accepted suggested changes to by-laws. Team is reviewing membership roster to determine inactive members.
- h. Worship, Music & Adult Education Ministry Team (*Sheldon Meyer, Phil Bachman, Kristi Grindstaff): Recommended purchase of Lenten Devotional booklets, will align with 500th Reformation theme. Reviewed and made recommendation to increase 2017 budget. Per a review of November Narthex Re-Design notes.
1. The coffee in the Narthex seems positive. More people. Sanctuary doors are closed. Round tables are better than square. Instructions for hosts will be written. A table top on "ushers' table" is almost necessary.
 2. Karen and Cindy reorganized the library. A Bigger TV is a top priority.
 3. Everyone is encouraged to visit other churches.
 4. Mission Investment Fund is an ELCA ministry; they can provide ideas on space usage.
 5. Future needs include airpots, plexiglass on ushers' table, more hymnals. Jason from Scheitel's figured out and fixed the fading problem on the sound system.
- i. Building & Grounds Ministry Team (Brett Streng, *David Hoffer, Mike Bottin): Dave reported on needed upgrades when finances are available.
- *Ministry Team Chairperson
5. Old Business
 - a. Stewardship for All Seasons – Update: 95 intent cards received, out of 120 members, 62% of revenue from last year – pledges; 79% participation. Suggestion to hold a telethon to those 19 who have not responded as they said they would. Doug Midthun, Gary Sandstrom and Rod Isebrand will do this follow-up.
 - B. Personnel Reviews: Executive Council and Carol Dunker held reviews and this process went well.
 6. New Business:
 - a. Extra Supply Pastor for EQHR: Need one extra supply Pastor for a Sunday so Pastor Andrea can serve as a certified trainer for the Center for Emotional Intelligence and Human Relations. There will be no additional expenses for Pastor's travel. Motion to approve 1 extra Sunday for Zion to pay for a supply pastor: Executive Council; Motion Seconded: Linda Isebrand; Motion Approved.
 - b. Approve 2017 Final Budget for Annual Meeting: Executive Council and Finance Ministry Team met previously to review budgets and create the proposed 2017 budget. Discussion was held and suggestions / clarifications were made. Benevolence budget total will change with final December donations.
 - c. Approve Newly Revised Constitution for Annual Meeting: Document was reviewed by Synod resource person, only have to vote once on updated language. Only 2 items have to be voted on 2 times; vote in January, 2017 and ratify the next January, 2018. Pastor reviewed changes. Articles of Incorporation, dated 1893, incorporated name: Zions's Scandinavian Lutheran Church, Constitution name needs to match. Chris Kennedy will look into the necessary process to amend Article of Incorporation with county. Will need to update legal entities and contracts, etc. Copies of full document will be in church office and on-line. Thank you to Linda Isebrand and Lisa Jacoby and Pastor Andrea for all of the hours and hard work to review and proof the Constitution and By-Laws. Motion to Approve a Recommendation to the Congregation to approve changes to Constitution and By-Laws: Pastor Andrea; Motion Seconded: Jim Halvorson; Motion Approved. See page 15



THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



CANDIDACY: WHAT IS IT?

By Rev. Emily Carson
carson@semnsynod.org

We all have unique gifts and abilities, and God calls all of us to use our time, talents, and passions in ways that reflect the love of our Creator. Some people discern that they want to serve God by becoming rostered leaders.

Within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the designation of “rostered leader” includes people who serve in a variety of environments. Rostered leaders often serve as parish pastors, but they can also live out their calling as specialized ministers and deacons in congregations, nursing homes, schools, and hospitals.

One of the core functions of the Southeastern

(Council Minutes Continued)

- d. 2017 Newsletter Due Dates: January 24, February 23, March 23, April 20, May 23, June 22, July 20, August 24, September 21, October 24, November 21 and December 21. Everyone is asked to submit articles as early as possible. Annual reports to Mary Gilman, per Constitution by January 10, Mary Gilman would like to have reports earlier.
 - e. Nominating Committee Update: Rod shared update on filling open positions.
 - f. Annual Meeting, January 29 at 10:15 a.m.: Encourage all Council members to attend.
7. Treasurer’s Report: General Checking: \$1,161.49; Memorial Fund: \$6,040.19; Building Fund: \$10,820.12; Non-Benevolence: \$1,119.39; Special Projects: \$1,046.66; Available to Pay Bills and Payroll: \$2,280.88; Overdue Bills: 1,073.77; Current Bills: \$5,033.84; Line of Credit: \$9,100.00.
8. Adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Minnesota Synod is to partner with people who take the road that leads to rostered leadership. The process is called candidacy.

The candidacy process describes the journey of an individual from the moment he/she decides to become a rostered leader to the moment he/she is ordained. The candidacy process is a group effort and involves the ministry candidate, the seminary, and the synod’s Committee on Candidacy.

Our synod’s Committee on Candidacy is comprised of eleven individuals including lay leaders and rostered leaders. They meet periodically throughout the year to journey with ministry candidates through each of the candidacy stages as they make their way to ordination.

The two Office of the Bishop staff members most involved in the candidacy process are Mary Kay DuChene, Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation, Candidacy, and Leadership, and Kari MacIver, Executive Administrator – Candidacy and First Call Administrator.

About the life-giving nature of her work, DuChene reflects, “It is an amazing gift to listen to the faith stories of people when they begin candidacy. It reminds me every time that God is at work in the world in creative and brave ways. I appreciate the passion with which candidates talk about the gospel and ministry in general.”

MacIver finds this piece of her synod responsibilities to be energizing as well. “As the administrative support for the seminary students and the synod’s Committee on Candidacy, I get the pleasure of working directly with the students as they go through the process. I love accompanying them on this journey! It is amazing to see the growth they exhibit.”

Zion Lutheran Church

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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US Postage
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Permit # 2
Lake Crystal, MN 56055

zioninfo@zionluthlakecrystal.org

pastor@zionluthlakecrystal.org
zionluthlakecrystal.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

The office is closed on Friday.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Love

is patient ♦
kind ♦ not envious ♦
not boastful ♦
not arrogant ♦
not rude ♦ does not insist
on its own way ♦
is not irritable or resentful ♦
does not rejoice in
wrongdoing ♦ rejoices in the
truth ♦ bears all things ♦
believes all things ♦
hopes all things ♦
endures all things ♦
never ends. ♦

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NRSV [adapted]

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

Miss the Sunday service?
Sunday worship services
replay on Channel 7 on
Wednesday mornings at
10:00 a.m.

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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Help Needed