

Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER



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

All Saints Sunday: November 6

Our worship service on All Saints Sunday will include a time of remembering and giving thanks for those of our congregation who have died since All Saints Day 2015. In the words of our worship liturgy, “In joyful expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember this day those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors, especially those family members and friends who are dear to us.” We will also pray for all those who have lost loved ones over the last year. Please join us for this meaningful service!



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

All are welcome as our community churches gather for a Service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday evening, November 23th at 7:00 p.m. The service will be held at here at Zion Lutheran Church. Pastor Salim Kaderbhai will serve as preacher.

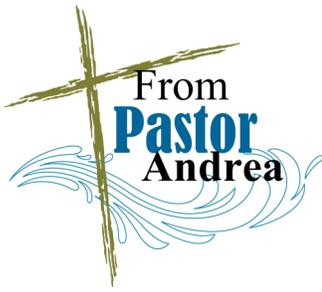
Fall Stewardship Appeal *One in Christ*

With your help, Zion is making a difference in our community. Members are growing as **One in Christ**, before we are sent out of our doors to share Jesus’ love. Support for the on-going ministries of our congregation makes all of this possible.

In the coming year, increased giving will be needed to keep our ministries strong, financially healthy, and functioning at peak performance. The **One in Christ** Fall Stewardship Appeal has a goal of increasing offerings by \$33,000. These funds will allow us to pursue important new ministry initiatives!

Please plan to attend **Appeal Commitment Sunday, November 20th**, when you’ll be invited to present your Statement of Intent card and communicate your intended General Fund giving for 2017.

Be sure to read the letter that will come to you soon. Study the Stewardship brochure that will be enclosed. Then, pray for a generous response to this appeal. Consider prayerfully how you will respond to the invitation to increase your offering. Through your generosity, you will be saying **thank you** for the ways God has supported and encouraged you through Zion.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

In this season of Thanksgiving, I want to say **thank you!**

Thank you for being part of our church family, and for the many ways you have contributed your gifts, energy, and presence to the ministry God has given us to do.

We are called to make Jesus known to others through our words and our deeds. This is something that we are called to do as individuals, for we each have daily opportunities to share God's love with others.

It's also something that we're called to do together. This is what it means for us to live as **One in Christ**. Each one of us contributes the gifts that God has given to us in support of the work of the whole body. None of us could single-handedly provide the resources necessary to support a congregation's ministry. However, by contributing according to our own ability, we each play our part in making Zion's ministry possible.

Thank you for your generous participation! I'm very proud of how well Zion works together for the sake of our common ministry!

In this time of celebrating the harvest and God's bounty in creation, we pause to give thanks. We know full well that even when we plant the seeds, it is God who gives the growth.

As we've sung so frequently in worship this fall:

*We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blest us, to thee our first-fruits give.*

As we offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasures,

we are giving thanks for all that God has provided for our lives. Whatever our gift may be, it is given in a spirit of joy and gladness, in response to the generosity God has first shown to us.

I learned about "glad giving" at a young age. Every Sunday morning, my mother would write the offering check, and my father would bring that week's envelope to the table from the box he stored in his sock drawer (so he wouldn't forget!). This weekly ritual continued over the years without much fanfare, even when my father lost his job. It was during those difficult times, when we were making financial sacrifices together, that I realized just how much trust and gratitude that offering envelope was capable of holding.

When the time came for me to get my own box of envelopes (at age 16), I followed my parents' example. Even if it was just a few dollars from my allowance, I saw that my small contribution was something significant when I joined my voice in the congregation's prayer, "We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love."

Over time, as my capacity for financial giving has grown, I've continued to remember those early lessons. Our contributions, both large and small, are significant. And our envelopes (or *Simply Giving* transfers) hold a treasure of trust and gratitude.

All that we have, including our life as a community of faith, is a gift from God. I give thanks that God continues to equip this ministry, calling us to move forward with compassion, joy, and a commitment to serve others with the love of Jesus.

And I give thanks for you, and for the trust and gratitude that you show in this journey together!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Andrea Myers

Zion Lutheran Church Women



November 2

-Ruth Circle 6:30 pm

-Rebecca Circle 7:00 pm

Hostess: Mary Williams

Bible Study: Rhonda Teigen

-Miriam Circle 7:00 pm

Hostess: Sally Bottin

Bible Study: Marsha Larson

November 3:

-Martha Circle 2:00 pm

Hostess: Sylva Kubicek

Bible Study: Sylva Kubicek

November 12:

ZLCW Annual Meeting/ThankOffering 9:00 am

November 15

ZLCW Board Meeting 6:30 pm

November 29:

Bible Study for Leaders 6:30 pm

Annual Meeting/Thankoffering:

On Saturday, November 12, all women are invited to attend the ZLCW Annual Meeting/Thankoffering event. We'll begin at 9:00 AM (note the earlier start time) with a breakfast of egg bakes, sweet rolls, fruit, juice, and coffee. Following the meal, we'll hold our Thankoffering Service, review the budget for 2017, elect officers, hear reports from 2016 and review and approve our revised constitution. We are currently in need of a Vice-President and hope that someone will prayerfully consider accepting this position. It's a fun way to share our faith and the work is light when we work together. All board members are encouraged to invite others so that our interests and needs are represented. We look forward to seeing you then!

Christmas Light Donations Wanted!

Zion will once again collect unwanted/burned-out Christmas lights. Donations can be placed in the plastic tote available in the narthex November 27 through January 15. All items will be delivered to MRCl for recycling where they provide much needed work for the clients served by this organization. Please contact Linda Isebrand if you have questions.

Tour of Tables:

The ZLCW would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Tour of Tables a success! We especially want to thank our younger women for helping with the event; you are our future! Thanks as well to all those who donated silent auction baskets, door prizes, or any other items that helped make the day special. We'd like to express our gratitude to the members of SonRise for sharing your gifts with us; you are a blessing to our faith community! Special thanks to the men who served the food so our women could enjoy the day: Matt Christianson, Jim Halvorson, Roger Hoechst, Rod Isebrand, John Peterson, and Howie Ward. This event raised approximately \$1800.00, all of which will be used for camp scholarships. Thank you all!

Circle Chairs:

Circle chairs are reminded that any changes to the handbook should be given to the office by November 7. Please provide a list of hostesses and Bible study leaders for 2017. Our goal is to have the booklets printed and ready for the December circle meetings, so please submit your information as soon as possible.

Nursery:

ZLCW members are invited to assist in cleaning the nursery on **Saturday, November 19, at 9:30 AM**. We were unable to complete this job on our regular cleaning day in August and hope a few of you will help this time. Many hands make light work!

St. Peter Regional Treatment Center Christmas Gift Wish:

This wish list is now posted in the Narthex. Watch for more information in the upcoming weeks.

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!

November

6- Regular Class

(3rd Grade attend Bible Class with Pastor Andrea)

13- Regular Class Kids SS bells “Let There Be Peace On Earth”

(3rd Grade attend Bible Class)

20- Regular Class

27- Thanksgiving Weekend No Class

December

4 & 11 Christmas Program Practice

18- Christmas Program (10:45 a.m. service)

25- Christmas Break No Class

Reminder: Sunday School Students, go right to choir after the church services. Snacks will be served in your classroom.

We are very excited for this year’s Christmas program. If you have any interest in seeing how you can help, please contact Beth Dostal (726-6949) or Chelsea Copeland (340-0149).

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 2017 summer schedule and 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).

We’re designating July 16-21 as “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!



Creative Souls Craft Retreat

Green Lake Bible Camp, November 18-20, 2016

Whatever your hobby may be, bring your supplies and join us for a great weekend of crafting at Green Lake Bible Camp. You will enjoy fellowship, setting and Christian atmosphere in the company of other creative women. This is a great opportunity for a mother/daughter, sister or girlfriend get-away. You will also have time for devotions, a walk, a massage or even a nap. Retreat begins at 7 pm and wraps up Sunday around noon. Fee \$135. Includes meals, double occupancy lodging and programming!



Happy anniversary to the following Zion members celebrating in November!

- Kent & Sandra Beecher
- Edward & Laura Erickson
- Roger & Linda Hoechst
- Gary "Gus" & Marsha Larson
- Dean & Sandra Meixell

ATTENTION!

If you are celebrating an anniversary or birthday and do not see your name on these lists, please provide the information to Mary Gilman in the Office.



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

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Gregory Abraham | Gail Larson |
| JoAnn Allen | Megan Lee |
| Reese Anderson | Kathleen Lewis |
| Easton Antony | Nathan Lilly |
| Harold Barnick | Payton Lowis |
| Michael Bottin | Mark Meyer |
| David Carlson | Jordan Nelson |
| Jasmine Fleming | Amelia Nuytten |
| Amanda Gilman | Dee Pendergast |
| Jack Goeringer | JoAnn Richmond |
| Tammi Greenough | Angie Rustman |
| Kristi Grindstaff | Branden Schultz |
| Robert Hauge | Kristy Schultz |
| Cheri Herbst | Randy Schultz |
| Roger Hoechst | Russell Sohre |
| Laurie Jacobs | Jill Sorenson |
| Mark Jacobs | Kelsey Sorenson |
| Mason Jones | Kaitlyn Stromswold |
| Christopher Kennedy | Robert Vee |
| Diane Klinkner | Mary Williams |
| Carter Kottke | Melissa Winters |



Thank you to our Action Team 7 Leaders Matt & Cheryl Lantz for assembling the October worship teams!

December Newsletter Deadline

The November newsletter due date is **Thursday, November 17 at noon**. Please turn your information in before this deadline! Early is better! Ministry Teams, we would love to hear what you are working on.

Snow Birds:

Please let the office know what dates you expect to depart and return this winter as you head south to the warm country! That way you will receive all Zion news and newsletters!



zion youth news

Winter Warm-Up

Who: Confirmation Students

When: Wednesday, November 16. We'll leave Zion at 5:45 p.m. and return at 8:30 p.m.

What: Visit Christ Chapel at Gustavus Adolphus College to hear a talk from three different speakers.

This year's theme is "Speak Out," based on Proverbs 31:8-9:

*Speak up for the people who have no voice,
for the rights of all the down-and-outers.*

Speak out for justice!

Stand up for the poor and destitute!

Confirmation Mini-Retreat

Sunday, November 20

3:30-8:00pm

This year's retreat is an exploration of the Apostles' Creed. We'll dig into what it means for us to proclaim our belief in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Our schedule will include games and supper, as well as our usual Small Group Huddles and learning time. Students who do not attend the retreat will be asked to do make-up worksheets.

Help Wanted! Two volunteers are needed to help plan and serve the supper. Please contact Pastor Andrea if you're available!



Save the Date and Get Recharged!

Attention parents, Sunday School teachers and anyone who loves the kids of Zion! You're invited to RECHARGE, a 1-day conference designed to inspire and equip church volunteers and leaders doing ministry with children and youth.

RECHARGE will take place on Saturday, January 7, in Eden Prairie from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You'll experience a day of renewing worship, dynamic speakers, and practical workshops designed to equip you for sharing the love of Jesus!

Not currently volunteering, but want to learn more about how to help your children or grandchildren grow a deep, consequential faith in Christ? Then you should come, too!

Contact Pastor Andrea to learn more or to sign up by Sunday, December 4. Cost: \$52 (or less, depending on how many register).

Family Bible Classes Continue

November 6 & 13

Our 3rd graders and their families will continue learning how to use their new bibles during a 3-week class with Pastor Andrea. Classes meet 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Introducing our 2017 Summer Mission Trip Destination:

St Louis, Missouri!

A service and learning trip for youth currently in grades 8-12.

Trip Dates: Saturday, June 24 through Friday, June 30

Non-refundable Deposit Required:

\$50 due by Monday, November 14

Come to the Interest Meeting to Learn More:

Sunday, November 13

7:00-7:45 p.m.

Space is limited. Talk to Pastor Andrea today!!



About St. Louis

The Gateway Arch stands ready to welcome visitors to St. Louis, serving as a reminder that this city was once considered the “Gateway to the West.” Today, this vibrant city is home to world-renowned educational institutions and hospitals, and also full of art and a variety of cultural and historical attractions. However, St. Louis is also a very broken city. The racial divisions in St. Louis are so significant that the city was recently featured on a BBC documentary, and the nation’s attention has been focused on the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson since an officer-involved shooting in August, 2014. Poverty, unemployment, and homelessness are also significant problems, due to the decline of industry.

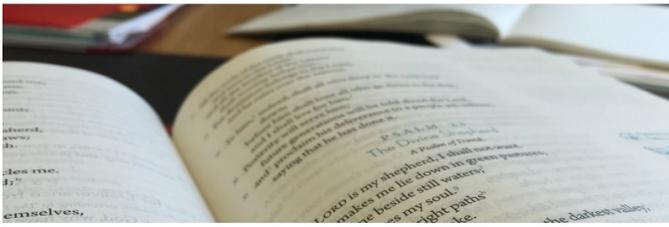
During our time in St. Louis, our youth will have the opportunity to serve the city in a variety of ways, often crossing racial and geographic lines.

Our host will be YouthWorks, whose partner organizations come alongside St. Louis’s homeless population, local children and the elderly. Our youth may find themselves playing bingo, cooking meals, painting a house, shooting hoops, sorting clothes or spending time with any number of community residents. Afternoons and evenings will include opportunities for worship, fun, and a community cookout.

St. Louis is a city of contrasts, and alongside the brokenness are many people who are working to bring life and restoration back to the city. Indeed, in the aftermath of the unrest of 2014, there have been many displays of unity and hope that make this an exciting time to be involved with what’s happening in St. Louis.

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!

Leadership Nominations for 2017

The Nominating Team will soon begin its work in preparation for elections at our Annual Meeting in January. They will seek out members available to serve the ministries of Zion through our Ministry Teams and other elected offices. They welcome your prayers and assistance in this effort. The current members of this team are: Phil Bachman, Sandy Friday, Judy Meyer, Cheryl Sandstrom, and Mary Ward.

Please contact any member of the Nominating Team to offer your suggestions, or if you'd like to volunteer to serve. Please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider these opportunities to become more involved with the ministry of Zion. Thank you for your support for those in the ministry of congregational leadership!

A Word from the President Fall Stewardship

By now, you have seen and heard a little about our fall stewardship drive. Our church council decided last year to accept help from our SE MN Synod in a fund raising appeal. We have a team that has been working diligently in this appeal with their assistance.

During my time here at Zion, I have been involved with several stewardship drives. We have not had an in depth fund appeal for our budget for many years. When I think about one of the stewardship drives that I was involved with in 1975, I remember one family in particular that I visited. Our fund appeal involved an every member visitation, so I had five or six families that I had selected to visit. This particular family was an older retired couple that had been members of Zion their entire lives. When it came time to visit, they welcomed me with open arms. They had committed themselves to God and their congregation with their involvement and their financial support. They were on a very limited and fixed income and I understood that anything that they gave to Zion may have caused somewhat of a hardship. At that time, I remember that they were giving \$2.00/Sunday. Even in 1975, that was not a whole lot, but that was still a lot for them. They told me that they prayed about this fund appeal and considered thoughtfully about how much they could increase their pledge to Zion. They had decided that they could increase their Sunday offering by \$.50. Again, I know that this was not a lot, but this was going to be a sacrifice for them. I was touched by their thoughtfulness and their prayerful consideration in determining what their increase would be. I left them with a thank you and a greater understanding of the sacrifices some people make in order to help with their financial support of their church.

During this fund appeal, I would ask all of you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving level to help reach our goals which will reach out to not only our members, but to people all over the world to help spread the Good News!

May God's peace be with you all.

Rod Isebrand, President

Social Ministry News

There will be no Caring Coins collected in the month of November as Zion will be conducting our Stewardship Drive. Thank you for your generous support throughout the year to Zion's mission to reach out to those in need.

The Social Ministry would like to thank everyone who donated cash, prepared bars or cookies or helped serve Food for Friends on October 8. We were particularly excited to have some new folks – and young people! – join us for this heart-warming and faith-filling experience. A total of \$185 was collected; those dollars were used to purchase groceries for a dinner of Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, sliced peaches, buns and dessert. We also provided personal care items and magazines to those in need; all were sincerely appreciated. We will not serve again until 2017. Thank you to everyone who supported Food for Friends during the 2016 year!

Operation Christmas Child will soon be in full swing! Please check out the display in the narthex and help yourself to a brochure, which outlines gift ideas, including what to include/not include in the boxes. If you'd like to take a plastic container and lid for your box, please take it from the display table. We shipped 47 boxes last year and hope to exceed that number in 2016. Donations to support this program are also welcome and can be placed in the box on the table, turned in with your regular offering or given to Mary in the office. (Be sure to mark all donations for "OCC".) All boxes must be delivered to the church in time for worship on November 13.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Operation Christmas Child during our October Caring Coins collection. Donations totaled \$299.57, which was added to our carryover from 2015 of \$27.78. That amount, \$327.35, will provide nearly all that is needed to ship fifty boxes, which is this year's goal. Thank you from your Social Ministry Team (Carol Dunker, Dawn Hartman and Linda Isebrand).

Team 8

Leaders:

November

Rod & Linda Isebrand

Team Members:

Justin & Kris Anderson

Jeff & Janet Becker

Scott & Nancy Ellanson

Lewie & Barb Fleming

Lindsay Gilman

Kevin & Denise Hagge

Roger & Linda Hoechst

Tony & Laurie Jacobs

Eric Jones

Gail Larson

Richard & Dawn Kottke

B.J. Larson-Kittleson

Don & Judy Marben

Sheldon & Holly Meyer

Verone Nelson

Dee & Mary Pendergast

Rod & Denise Roberts

Randy & Angela Rustman

Eli Sandstrom

Doug & Evonn Siebenahler

Chad & Shannon Sorenson

Jon & Michele Stordahl

Matt Teigen

Helen Thorstad

Robert & Joyce Vee



Lunch for A Buck

On Tuesday, October 18, several members of Zion provided the food for "Lunch for A Buck" at Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Forty-five students and five helpers enjoyed a lunch of goulash, salad, rolls and bars. Thanks to Marsha Larson, Kathy Fleming and Barb Feder for preparing the food. A Thrivent Action Team grant was used to buy the groceries and all remaining food was left at Crossroads. Pictured above are those who helped serve: Phil Johnson, Marsha Larson, Janette Abraham, Linda Isebrand and Barb Feder.

Sharing Shelf

Each month a volunteer from Zion delivers this food offering to the First Baptist Church. Thanks to Sandy Friday for serving in October. The November volunteer is Pat Baskfield.

Needs for November include: Crackers, soup, canned chicken, hamburger helper, brownie mix, muffin mix 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.

Honoring our Veterans

Veterans Day is an official U.S. holiday celebrated on Nov 11 honoring people served and serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, also known as veterans. This day coincides with Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also marks the end of WWI. (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918) Unlike Memorial Day that remembers people who gave their lives while in service, Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.

Veterans Day is not a Church festival, but it is recognized by many people of faith as an opportunity to say thanks for significant community service. This sacrificial service assists in protecting our many freedoms including the freedom of religion. Additionally, this day gives a chance to focus attention on the needs of vet-

erans. Zion will include Veterans in our prayers on Sunday, November 13.

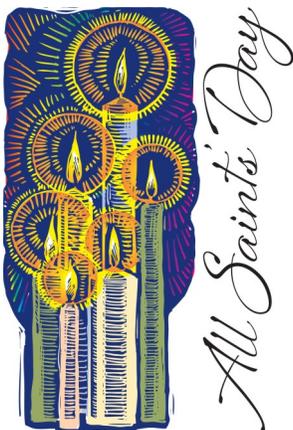
The ELCA helps in a variety of ways. As chaplains in the ranks, Lutheran Pastors serve worldwide. Congregations send prayer books, cards, gifts, and promote innovative ways to join local efforts to work veteran issues like homelessness, employment, and moral injury. The ELCA Bureau of Federal Chaplaincy Support works with the membership of the church by informing and connecting with what is happening in veteran support for the ELCA.

Talk to Pastor Andrea if you would be interested in supporting those currently serving our country by a) contributing to the scholarship fund for those training to become Lutheran chaplains, or b) purchase a copy of the “Armed Services Prayer Book” for yourself or someone currently in service.



Save Us A Stamp!

If you haven't already, please stop by and pick up your Q3 giving statement in the narthex. Statements will be available until mid-November.



We remember this day those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors, especially those family members and friends who are dear to us and who have died since last All Saints Day:

Carolyn “Carol” Kraus	February 25, 1931—January 20, 2016
Viola “Tootie” Bresser	June 16, 1923—January 24, 2016
Mollie Johnson	March 8, 1919 - February 24, 2016
Donna Gens	August 29, 1929—April 18, 2016

Coffee & Fellowship Are On The Move!

Over the past several months, the Worship, Music and Adult Education Ministry Team (Phil Bachman, Kristi Grindstaff and Sheldon Meyer) have been discussing the overflow area in the narthex in an effort to determine how to better utilize that space. With that in mind, a Narthex Design Project Team was formed to work toward a goal of redesigning that space so that it most effectively meets the current needs of our congregation. A group of volunteers met and five priorities were set:

1. The gathering space should be warm and inviting and reflective of our congregation.
2. The overflow seating should be integrated into community worship.
3. Seating in the additional space should allow for small group meetings and conversation.
4. The furniture should facilitate coffee and fellowship in the Narthex
5. Additional spaces should be created that would improve storage and better display of congregational ministries.

In order to encourage discussion and bring more people into the conversation, our after-worship coffee will be moved to this area effective November 6. Tables, chairs and other appropriate furniture will be moved and left in place so that the responsibilities of the weekly hosts do not become burdensome. Coffee, juice, servers, sweets, cups and napkins can be placed on the kitchen cart and moved to the new area. The 'help yourself' process will be continued and the hosts can simply return things to the kitchen after the serving is done. It is hoped that this new arrangement will encourage members and guests to stay and visit after worship. It will also allow the Fellowship Hall to be used for other purposes.

So, linger a bit and look at this space. How do you see it being used? What types of decorations & changes would better address the vision of Zion? How can we support worship in this overflow area? Share your ideas!

Members of the Narthex Project Team are Barb Feder, Sandy Friday, Karen Granger, Linda Isebrand, Cindy Jacques, Steve & Judy Marshall, and Joyce Roberts. Kristi Grindstaff is Worship, Music & Adult Education liaison; Pastor Andrea will serve as advisor.

Partners for Affordable Housing

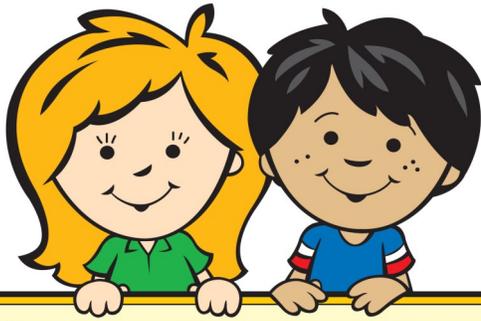
owns and operates Mankato's two homeless shelters: the Theresa House and Welcome Inn. A staple in the Mankato area since the mid 1980's; these shelters offer temporary respite to families and single females struggling under the weight of extreme poverty. The Agency provides a stable and safe environment for its clients, in addition to providing supportive services, life skills training, resource connections, rental assistance, transportation, and home furnishings as clients work towards gaining permanent affordable housing.

The shelters house as many as 30 individuals per night in these two facilities. Partners for Affordable Housing is currently looking for a new larger shelter to help serve more individuals and families due to high number of homelessness in our community.

You can help families in our area by:

- Joining Partner's Monthly Giving program or donating new or gently used household goods & furniture
- Adopting a family during the holidays
- Providing paper goods and cleaning supplies to the shelters or serving a community meal
- Becoming a sponsor or team member for Pedal Past Poverty
- Some important statistics for our area:
According to the US Census Bureau—1 in 4 Mankato residents are living in poverty.
- 300+ students have been identified as "homeless or highly mobile" in our community with couch hopping at family or friends is the most common form of homelessness in the Mankato area.
- 21% of individuals and/or families needing shelter have slept on the street, vehicle, or other places
- Most of the shelter's guests are working individuals trying to support themselves & family members.
- Poverty is a key contributing factor to a family losing their housing! Families at risk cannot pay the rent when the car breaks down, Mom's hours are cut or a child is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness and extended hospital care is required!

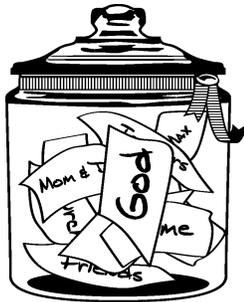
- Lack of affordable housing is a big issue in Mankato. According to a recent Harvard University study, Mankato has one of the lowest supplies of affordable housing in the state of Minnesota! According to the study, 52% of all renters in our area are paying greater than 30% of their income on housing, 36% of those paid 50% or more of their income on housing!!



KIDS PAGE

BLESSINGS JAR

Thanksgiving reminds us of our many gifts from God. Count your blessings all month long with this craft.



What you need:

- Jar
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue
- 3 sheets of paper (different colors)
- Marker or pen



What you do:

1. Measure and cut enough ribbon to wrap around the jar's neck, below the lid. Glue in place and let dry.
2. Fold each piece of paper in half three times, resulting in eight rectangles per sheet. Cut along the fold lines, and you'll have 24 rectangles.
3. Each day in November until Thanksgiving, write down one blessing from God. Then place that blessing in the jar.
4. On Thanksgiving, open the jar and read all your blessings to your family and friends.



Blessings from the Lord

Throughout the Bible, God blesses his chosen people. How can we receive these gifts?

Directions: In the word search, find all the words in the box. Then write the words in the correct order on the blanks below to complete the verse.

come you these LORD if blessings you the accompany
Deuteronomy All on your obey will God you and

I	J	T	Z	Z	L	M	X	N	W	C	I	Z	Y	H
X	V	U	B	M	O	O	O	V	I	O	L	T	R	T
N	L	V	L	I	R	A	D	S	L	M	R	H	A	T
B	F	C	E	Z	D	T	X	O	L	E	D	E	L	D
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C	T	I	S	Z	O	M	T	E	Q	M	P	N	T	O
C	X	C	I	D	U	U	O	L	R	D	P	T	C	N
F	S	X	F	R	T	L	P	M	F	B	L	A	A	O
Y	Y	Y	O	U	H	T	U	A	P	A	I	U	N	M
E	O	K	N	U	E	A	Z	U	F	E	F	B	D	Y
T	Q	U	Y	N	I	N	O	O	V	E	O	T	Z	I

"All _____"

28:2, NIV

Answer: "All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God." Deuteronomy 28:2, NIV

Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, O my _____, and forget not all his benefits."

- A. people
- B. soul
- C. heart
- D. children



Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV.)

Report for: September 2016

Income	September 2016	YTD	Sept 2015	Change (+/-)
Offerings	10,746.41	107,808.63	10,128.04	618.37
Non-Benevolence	2,894.36	18,872.13	1,895.00	999.36
Building Fund	6,417.15	34,831.95	7,175.00	(757.85)
Memorial Fund	0.00	280.00	395.00	(395.00)
Special Projects	228.37	3,584.45	0.00	228.37
Scholarship Fund	0.00	3,770.00	995.00	(995.00)
Total	20,286.29	169,147.16	20,588.04	(301.75)

A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.

Ministry

Expenses	September 2016	Mo. Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)
Salaries and Related Costs	9,460.30	10,709.33	(1,249.03)	86,048.12	96,383.97	(10,335.85)
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	1,233.25	2,641.66	(1,408.41)	20,554.27	23,774.99	(3,220.72)
Education, Mission, Related Costs	939.13	1,150.00	(210.87)	6,290.24	10,350.00	(4,059.76)
Supplies	152.85	1,245.83	(1,092.98)	11,212.51	11,212.51	0.00
Synod Mission Support	1,907.44	1,042.50	864.94	9,382.50	9,382.50	0.00
Total	13,692.97	16,789.32	(3,096.35)	133,487.64	151,103.97	(17,616.33)

"How do our ministry expenses compare to what we planned for in the budget?"

Budget

Cashflow	September 2016	YTD
Income available	13,640.77	126,680.76
Ministry Expenses	13,692.97	133,487.64
Net (+/-)	-52.20	-6,806.88

(General Offerings & Non-Benevolence)

"What is our net cashflow for the year for our ministry expenses?"

Building Fund	September 2016	YTD
Income	6,417.15	34,831.95
Payments	(3,891.00)	(33,698.10)
Interest	2.04	12.61
Current Balance	9,386.41	

"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Building Fund?"

Balances	September 2016
General Checking	(2,391.95)
Memorial Fund	6,028.18
Non-Benevolence	1,649.01
Special Projects	888.17
Choir	28.83
Scholarship	5,420.85
Line of Credit	9,100.00
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	(487,149.44)

September	Attendance		Communion	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Week 1	75	66	59	61
Week 2	162	138		
Week 3	180	97	118	76
Week 4	157	137	83	
Week 5				

Zion Lutheran Church Council 2016

Rod Isebrand, President: Executive, Membership & Outreach, Worship, Music & Adult Education

Matt Christianson, Vice President: Executive, Social and Youth

Mary Hutchens, Secretary: Executive, Membership

Jim Halvorson, Treasurer: Executive, Finance and Stewardship, and Building & Grounds

Dave Hoffer: Building and Grounds

Doug Midthun: Finance and Stewardship

Kathy Fleming: Membership and Outreach

Linda Isebrand: Social Ministry

Sheldon Meyer: Music & Adult Education

Becky Sittig: Youth

Zion Lutheran Church

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

Council Meeting, September 21, 2016 / 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Pastor Andrea, Matt Christianson, Rod Isebrand, Sheldon Meyer, Jim Halvorson, Becky Sittig, Linda Isebrand, Kathy Fleming, Mary Hutchens, Doug Midthun, Dave Hoffer

GUEST: Beth Paumen

1. Opening Devotions: Sheldon Meyer opened with a reading and prayer.
2. Approve Agenda: add: OLD BUSINESS: Core Values – Pastor Andrea
3. Thank-You Notes? Habitat for Humanity, donation of \$110.25; thanks for Sharing Shelf from Baptist Church; SE MN Synod staff – thank you for continued support
4. Consent Agenda: Motion to Approve: Linda Isebrand; Motion Seconded: Pastor Andrea; Motion Passed
 - a. Pastor’s Report: October newsletter deadline: Thursday, September 22 at noon; 3rd Grade Bible distribution: October 30; classes with students & parents will be October 30, November 6, and November 13; All Saints Sunday: November 6; Fall Theological Conference (Pastor away): November 6 (afternoon) – 8. At first Ministerial meeting of the year, it was decided that Zion will host this year’s community Thanksgiving service on November 23 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Salim Kaderbhai will preach. Each church will be asked to provide a pan of bars. Zion will need to provide servers and coffee. Confirmation Sunday is moving to the fall. Mark your calendars: This year’s 8th graders will be confirmed October 15, 2017.
 - b. Secretary’s Minutes: August 24, 2016
 - c. Statistical Reports
5. Ministry Team Reports:
 - a. Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team (*Doug Midthun, Matt Lantz, Gary Sandstrom): Doug reported that Zion received the 2012 IRS refund for Affordable Care Act, this process is complete. Team will issue a thank you to the Congregational Consulting Service for their assistance. Thanks to SAS Team members: Pastor Andrea, Gary Sandstrom, Matt Lantz, Rod Isebrand, Sally Bottin, Beth Teigen, Dan Lewis and Doug Midthun.
 - b. Social Ministry Team (Dawn Hartman, Carol Dunker, *Linda Isebrand): Linda reported on Operation Christmas Child, details will be shared, looking for someone to write for a Synod Action Grant, Sign-up sheet for workers, bars/cookies and cash donations for Food for Friends on October 2. Caring Coins – will not collect in November for World Hunger, rather for South Sudan and the work of the ELCA to establish a building for a Lutheran congregation. September Caring Coins collected \$228.50 for Back Pack program. Discussed creating a display to raise awareness and focus of Caring Coins donations.
 - c. Youth Ministry Team (*Becky Sittig, Kristy Schultz, Jennifer Fleming): Becky said thank you for letting Junior class to hold a garage sale at Zion. Still looking for Sunday School teachers. Confirmation has started.
 - d. Membership & Outreach Ministry Team (Beth Paumen, *Kathy Fleming, Steve Marshall): Kathy reported on layout review for directory. Thanks to Mary Gilman for her support of this project. Waiting for proof to be returned for review.
 - e. e. Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (*Sheldon Meyer, Phil Bachman, Kristi Grindstaff): Sheldon reported that on Oct. 9 and 16

there will be a Reformation book store available, to browse and purchase books, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Narthex design meeting held last Sunday with great turnout and a group agreed to meet and create suggestions to support ministry of Zion in this space. Phil Bachman is working with the city on updating video equipment; he is willing to create a teachable class. Hymn Sing group met to pick hymns. Consider donating blank VHS tapes to Zion to record church services.

- f. Building & Grounds Ministry Team (Brett Strenge, *David Hoffer, Mike Bottin): Dave reported on work on fascia. Dave has parts to fix the water fountain. Working with North American Security on replacing batteries for smoke alarm. Looking at down spout issue.

*Ministry Team Chairperson

6. Old Business

- a. Stewardship For All Seasons Update: Ministry Goals determined at past meetings: expand ministry for youth and families; maintain and improve facility; strengthen on-going ministries. The financial goal is increased gifts of \$33,000 in general offering. Upcoming key activity dates were shared.
- b. Constitution Task Force Update and Questions: Question on some of the by-laws showing the responsibility of some of the Ministry Teams; no Ministry Team currently oversees the Scholarship Team and it will be suggested to add as a separate Ministry Team.
- c. Memorial Fund Wish List (Finalized): Per Rod, added to list: amplifier and sound system and bell tower, youth would like another 14" deep fry pan.
- d. Crossroads (Lunch for a Buck): October 18, Zion will prepare and serve. Would like a Synod Action Grant to support this.
- e. Core Values – Pastor Andrea: Draft statement was shared.

7. New Business

- a. Zion's 125th Anniversary in 2017: Suggestions include inviting previous ministers for a service, picnic at a park, spread out celebration over a number of weeks; possibly create a team to focus on this event.
8. Treasurer's Report: General Checking: \$88.17; Memorial Fund: \$6,027.19; Building Fund: \$11,642.56; Non-Benevolence: \$1,183.69; Special Projects: \$888.21; Available to Pay Bills and Payroll: \$1,271.86; Overdue

Bills: 0; Current Bills: \$2,662.87; Line of Credit: \$9,100.00. Thanks to those who chose Zion in the Beat the Heat contest (\$500.00 credit).

- 9. Adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

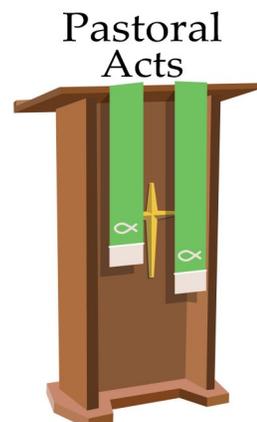
Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Mary Hutchens



Zion's congregation donated 57 quilts, 91 school kits and 12 personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief in October! These kits are part of LWR's "Project Promise" and are sent to places where even these simple items are more than families can afford. They are also sent to people who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence.

October:
Baptism
Kylie Kae Halvorson



Zion Lutheran Church

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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.



Sunday, November 6



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

Custodians
Bob and Barb McDonald

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