

Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER



2017

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 4

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

Easter at Zion 2017

Maundy Thursday: April 13

Holy Communion 6:45 p.m.

Good Friday: April 14

Worship 6:45 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 16

Holy Communion (both services)

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast served 9:00-9:45 a.m.

by Zion Youth

The menu will include rolls, egg bakes, and juice. A free-will offering will benefit the 2016 Summer Mission Trip and the Youth Fund for future plans.



Save the Date!

May 21 is Celebration Sunday! Mark your calendars now for this exciting Sunday!

Easter Brass Players!

Contact Sheldon Meyer (327-0060) for rehearsal times for Easter Sunday.





Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As every good athlete and coach knows, developing as a player is “all about the fundamentals.” During these weeks of Lent, our worship themes have been focused on the fundamentals of what it means for us to live and grow as followers of Jesus.

On Sunday mornings, a series called “Rediscovering Baptism” has explored baptism and how the words, physical elements, and symbolic actions of our baptismal liturgy proclaim our rebirth, renewal, and new identity in Christ.

On Wednesdays, our study of the Small Catechism has helped us think about the essentials of faith as Martin Luther taught them. Taking a fresh look at the Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord’s Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion has reminded us of our utter dependence upon God’s grace and love in our lives.

Even more fundamental than the catechism or the sacraments is the death of Jesus Christ for our sake, and his resurrection from the dead. During Holy Week and Easter, our worship draws us deeply into the strong center of our gospel proclamation. Without death and resurrection, there is no salvation. Without death and resurrection, there is no Christian gospel.

When the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, he included a response to those who said, “there is no resurrection of the dead.” It is possible that they believed Jesus had been “raised” but only in a spiritual sense. Yet, Paul is emphatic that Jesus’ death was real, and that he was bodily raised to new life on the third day. The resurrection of the dead is absolutely essential to the gospel. He writes, “If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. . . .If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being,

the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:13-14, 19-22).

Easter is THE fundamental of the Christian faith and life. I invite you to join us during Holy Week, as we contemplate Christ’s death for us, and then to join in our Easter celebration of all that God has done for our sake. In Christ, we have been made alive! We are people of hope, and resurrection, and new life. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Andrea

P.S. I have exciting news to share regarding the new Lutheran Center in Juba, South Sudan! Pastor Pete Reuss visited us in January and introduced us to the vital health, education, and worship ministries that will be made possible through our synod’s partnership with our Lutheran brothers and sisters in South Sudan. Zion contributed \$364.22 toward construction of the Lutheran Center in Juba through our January Caring Coins. The great news is that the building construction was finished in March! They’re now working to furnish the clinic and organize the medical team that will soon serve 50,000 local residents. Below is a recent picture of the new facility’s progress. You can also watch a video update here: <https://tinyurl.com/ly6unge>



Zion Lutheran Church Women

April 5:

Ruth Circle 7:45 p.m.

Miriam Circle 7:45 p.m.

Hostess: Linda Isebrand

Bible Study: Kathy Lewis

Rebecca Circle 7:45 p.m.

Hostess: Rhonda Teigen

Bible Study: Mary Williams

April 6:

Martha Circle 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Lois Davis

Bible Study: Sylva Kubicek

April 18:

Bible Study for Leaders 5:30 p.m.

ZLCW Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.



We will be participating in the City Wide Garage Sale scheduled for May 12 and 13. As you're completing your spring cleaning, consider which items could be donated to support our budget. Please—no clothing items! Specific information about dates and times will appear in the May newsletter.

The MN River Conference Spring Event is April 29 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in German Lake. If you're interested in attending, please contact your circle chair.

If you are interested in purchasing some of Zion's dishes (free will offering), please contact the church office. Dishes will be available prior to the May garage sale.

The deadline for camp scholarships is April 16. Please leave your name in the church office if you are registering for the Full Blast (July 16-21), Half Blast (July 19-21), or another week of Bible Camp this summer.

Prayer Chain Ministry: The Social Ministry Team is reorganizing the Prayer Chain Ministry, the purpose of which is to support our brothers and sisters in Christ during times of loss, crisis, illness, decision making, thanksgiving and joy. One of Zion's Core Values states, "We believe that being a compassionate community means caring for others, lifting up the needs of our community in prayer and reaching out in generous acts of service." We are changing the prayer chain to strengthen this ministry of support and care.

If you are interested in joining the Prayer Chain Ministry, please complete the bulletin insert that will be available April 2 and 9. All that is necessary is your commitment to pray for others. You will be asked for your name and preferred method of communication (email or phone). If you wish, you may send your information directly to linda.isebrand@gmail.com. Each week, the office will send an email to the members of the prayer chain, listing the individuals or families to be held up in prayer. If a phone call is preferred, a leader will initiate the phone tree. *"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."* Philippians 4:6

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!

April

2 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God." 1 Chronicles 22:19

9 Regular Class: Kids play bells "Were you There When They Crucified My Lord" in worship.

Bible Verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5, 6

16 Easter Sunday—NO CLASS

23 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "I will not forget you. I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands." Isaiah 55:8, 9

30 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough troubles of its own." Matthew 6:34



Prepare your family for Easter!

Get free daily devotionals in your inbox from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Each devotional is designed to help families focus on the significance of Easter Week -- in just a few minutes a day! The devotional provides a brief video to watch and talk about, and an activity to do together. To see a sample or to sign up, go to <http://news.sparkhouse.org/heisrisen>.

Please note starting April 30, verses are all pushed up one week from the original schedule.

May

7 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "Ask and it will be given to you; see and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

14 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "Go there and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19, 20

21 Celebration Sunday - Kids sing "Wiggle Worm"

Bible Verse: "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." John 15:11

28 Memorial Weekend—NO CLASS

Sunday School will be over until fall. Thanks to everyone who made our program a success for our children!



This year Zion celebrates the 125th anniversary of its ministry. Do you want to learn more about Zion's history? Would you like to share your knowledge of the history of Zion? A new Anniversary Committee is in the works and has elected Steve Marshall and Diane Sandstrom as the co-chairs. Your input and assistance are welcome! Please share your ideas with Steve and Diane and let them know if you'd like to help!



Happy Anniversary to
the following Zion
members celebrating
April anniversaries!

Todd & Lisa Jacoby
Scott & Donna Spencer
Charles & Karen Stoll
Brett & Kelly Streng
Bill & Kim VanRyswyk



Happy birthday to the
following Zion
members celebrating
April birthdays!

Ethan Anderson	Erin Johnson
Mason Anderson	Carol Jones
Lily Anderson	Michelle Kennedy
Janet Becker	Sylva Kubicek
Matt Christianson	Carter Lowis
Lillian Dostal	Sandra Meixell
Scott Ellanson	Whitney Meyer
Nathaniel Feder	Alexandra Nuytten
Sandy Friday	Nancy Olson
Benjamin Gilman	Judi Olson
Ean Gilman	Asher Sandstrom
Maya Gilman	Andrea Stoll
Lindsay Gilman	Brett Streng
Kari Gustafson	Ronald Teigen
Daniel Hanson	Emma Teigen
Kaitlin Herbst	Heidi Thompson
Mary Hutchens	Sandra Tibbetts
Heather Isebrand	Sara Walters
Barry Jacques	Jennifer Winters

Bible Quiz Answer:

Answer: E (See John 20:24, NIV and ESV.)



Thank you to our Action
Team 3 leaders
Dave & Kay Carlson
for assembling the
March worship
schedules!

May Newsletter Deadline

The May newsletter due date is Tuesday, April 18th at noon. Please turn your information in by this deadline! Thanks!

Team 4

April leader

Deb Richmond-Johnson

Team Members:

Linda & Grant Barnard	
Aaron & Heidi Bartelt	
Ronnie Bergemann	
Terry & Vicky Chesney	
Jeff & Carol Dunker	John & Jeanne Madsen
Philip & Rhonda Fjeldberg	Greg & Cindy Miller
Eric & Jennifer Fleming	Tim & Judi Olson
Josh & KatieJo Fredrichs	James & Leah Pockrandt
Pete & Kelly Goeringer	Cathy & Russell Sohre
Matt & Tammy Greenough	Mary & Amanda Storlien
Roberts & Linda Hauge	Clarence & Boni
Allan & Mary Hutchens	Thompson
Gary & Kelly Karels	Scott & Jennifer Winters



Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, March 26 we welcomed the following families as new members of the congregation. Welcome, brothers and sisters in Christ!

James (Jim) and Janella (Jean) Johnson

April and Chris Neal, with Mya, Paige and Cason

Kristee Richards, with Lucy

zion youth news



St Louis Summer Mission Trip: Help Us Reach the Fundraising Finish Line!

We hope to see everyone at our final two fundraisers for the summer mission trip. If you can't make it, donations to support the trip can be made at any time to the Youth Fund (mark your offering "St. Louis").

**Easter Breakfast: Sunday, April 16
9:00 - 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall**

The menu will include rolls, egg bakes, fruit and juice. The free-will offering will benefit the 2017 Summer Mission Trip and the Youth Fund for future events.

**Brat or Burger Bar!
Friday, April 28, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
at the American Legion.**

For \$10 per adult you'll get to fix a brat or burger just the way you like it!

St. Louis Participant Meeting

Our next Trip Meeting is on Wednesday, April 5 after Holden Evening Prayer. All trip participants are expected to attend. (You need to speak with Pastor Andrea if you're going to miss it!) We'll spend our time in teambuilding, devotions, and planning. See you there!

Confirmation Update

Mentor Time concludes on Wednesday, April 5.

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

Regular Confirmation Class will be held on April 19, but there will be **NO class on April 26.**



2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Interest Meeting: May 21

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. The next Gathering will take place in Houston, Texas, June 27-July 1, 2018. Current 7th-11th grade students will be eligible to attend.

There will be an interest meeting on May 21 for students and their parents. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!!

Luther Memorial Home Auxiliary Spring Luncheon

The annual Spring Luncheon, sponsored by the Luther Memorial Home Auxiliary, will be held from 11:00 am—1:00 pm on Tuesday, April 11 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Madelia. The menu includes salads, beverages and cupcakes. Cost is \$6.00. Take out orders or in-town delivery (Madelia) are available by calling Trinity at 507-652-8301 from 10:30 am—12:30 pm. Raffle tickets to win one of the baskets donated by the member congregations or the LMH Auxiliary are available for \$1.00 each at the door, at circle meetings, or by contacting one of ZLCW's LMH Representatives.

A sign up sheet for a salad and cupcakes will be posted in the Narthex. Please support this important fundraiser for Luther Memorial Home!

Here's Your Chance To Help!

Like to work behind the scenes? We could use your help once or twice a month. Basic computer skills and a desire to help are all that you need.

If you are interested, please contact Pat Baskfield (507-327-5459). Thanks!

Zion Scholarships Available

Zion Scholarships for college students are available through the church until April 30, 2017. Go to the Zion website for more information or stop in the church office.

Sharing Shelf

Each month a volunteer from Zion delivers this food offering to the Sharing Shelf. Thanks to Barb McDonald for serving in March. The April volunteer is Cheryl Lantz.

Sharing Shelf needs for April include: pancake mix, pancake syrup, ketchup, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, peanut butter and toilet tissue.

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. or by appointment.



Feeling Overwhelmed by your Finances?

Lutheran Social Services offers Financial Counseling services. Their staff will support you without judgment or shame, offering real help that provides hope and a plan to move forward. LSS Financial Counseling provides empowering support and solutions to thousands of Minnesotans each year, including:

- Budgeting and debt solutions
- Student loan repayment counseling
- Foreclosure prevention, reverse mortgage help
- Resources & advocacy to prevent fraud/scams
- Financial literacy and education

Counseling is free and confidential. Simply call for more information (888) 577-2227 or go to www.conquoryourdebt.org.

Finance & Stewardship Team

Greetings from Gary, Matt, and Doug, your Finance and Stewardship Team. Let me say thank you first. Because of your commitment to Zion and our Stewardship for All Seasons campaign, I am thankful to report that our financial position has improved by nearly \$3000 through only the first two months of this fiscal year. That is very positive news. We have not yet been able to make any payments towards our line of credit, but hopefully we will be able to start whittling away at that soon. We can all pray for that.

The quarterly giving statements will be available soon. New this year for those that submitted intent cards will be a statement comparing actual giving to your commitment. Please review that statement and if there are any discrepancies we should address, e-mail concerns to Doug Midthun dougn@hickorytech.net. Thanks for all you do and all that you mean to Zion. We are One in Christ.



Camp Scholarships

To receive a scholarship, simply register for camp and then contact a member of the ZLCW board no later than Sunday, April 16. (Easter) Scholarships will be distributed on May 21, 2017.

Camp brochures are available on the Narthex bulletin board!

Food for Friends

Thank you to everyone who donated cash, bars/cookies, personal care items, magazines or volunteered to serve at Food for Friends on March 18. Because of your generosity, the day was rewarding and gratifying for everyone who donated or worked, and greatly appreciated by those who were served. Eight volunteers and 68 guests took part in the meal. Our next Food for Friends event is October 28.

Please note that we have not written a Thrivent Action Grant for the last several events. Rather, we have purchased the groceries, and prepared the food ourselves, which allows us to save a considerable amount. Your donations of \$155.00 allowed us to completely cover the cost of the meal with few dollars to spare and use the next time.

Caring Coins

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Caring Coins on March 9. A total of \$292.16 was collected and sent to the ECHO Food Shelf in Mankato. Each dollar donated allows ECHO to purchase up to \$9.00 in food items. Your gift does make a difference!

To date, your generous gifts toward Caring Coins have totaled \$874.29 in 2017. Thank you for these monetary gifts, as well as your continued generosity toward the Sharing Shelf.

A Word from the President

New Name, New Face?

This past fall, in the process of renewing our lease with Metro, who supplies Zion with the photo copier in our church office, I was informed that we had to use Zion's incorporated name on the contract. I was surprised to find out that Zion's official name was "Zions Scandinavian Lutheran Church." Many of our long term members probably knew this, however, it was new to Pastor Andrea and me. We thought it would be a good time to look into this and find out what it would take to get Zion's name changed to reflect today's member diversity. As you all know, our members are not all Scandinavian descendants.

Pastor Andrea got the ball rolling by contacting Chris Kennedy, who is an attorney and also a member of our congregation. Chris sent back an informational letter outlining the steps we would need to take to accomplish this. I checked into more details and began the steps necessary to get our name changed.

First we had to come up with a new name. There are a dozen Zion Lutheran Churches in Minnesota. Most all of them identify themselves with the city that they are located. It was suggested that we go by "Zion Lutheran Church of Lake Crystal, MN" by our Minnesota Secretary of State. I brought this to our Executive Council and then the Zion's Council and all agreed to the new name. A \$35 fee, and the application, were sent to the Secretary of State. We now officially have a new Certificate of Good Standing with our new name on record at the MN Secretary of State's office.

Chris Kennedy will be contacting Blue Earth County Records and proceed to get Zion's name changed on the Land Records that our facility sits on. He also will have a "Certificate of Assumed Name" posted in the legal postings of our local newspapers. I expect that there will be some fees from for these changes and postings. I want to give Chris a big "Thank You" for his help in this process. (continued on page 11)

Quilts & Care Kits

Fifty quilts, 14 personal kits, and 26 school kits were recently donated to Lutheran World Relief! The Mission Circle has been busy making quilts while Miriam Circle has been making kits.



Do you ever wonder where all of these items go? Last year 346,170 quilts, 191,720 school kits, 144,970 personal care kits, and 48,900 baby care kits were sent from Minnesota to over 16 countries. These kits helped benefit 534,144 individuals!

It all starts at Zion, where our members create these wonderful items. They are then delivered to Lutheran World Relief where they are sorted and processed by workers. Items are boxed, baled, and ready to ship. There are an average of 33—38 quilts per bale. Typically, a semi load is sent out each week. This week's load will contain about 920 bales of quilts and 1300 cartons of kits.

Thank you to the ladies of Zion for making such a wonderful difference in so many lives!!



Children in Peru practicing hand washing after receiving personal care kits from LWR.



Delivering to Lutheran World Relief in St. Paul



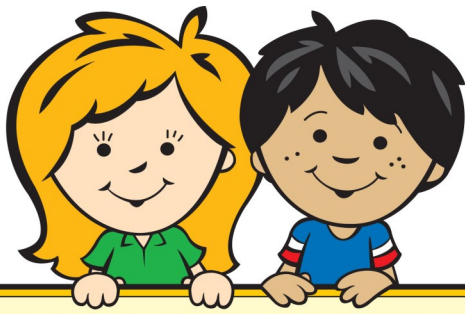
Quilts waiting to be processed and baled.



School, health, and baby kits ready to be processed by workers at LWR



Bales of quilts and boxes of kits ready to load onto semis for shipment.



KIDS PAGE

JESUS IS RISEN!

When Jesus' disciples saw that the stone was rolled away from his tomb, they knew he had risen. Make a moveable tomb to celebrate Easter.

What you need:

- 4 pieces of paper (brown, blue, black, yellow)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Brad fastener
- Marker



What you do:

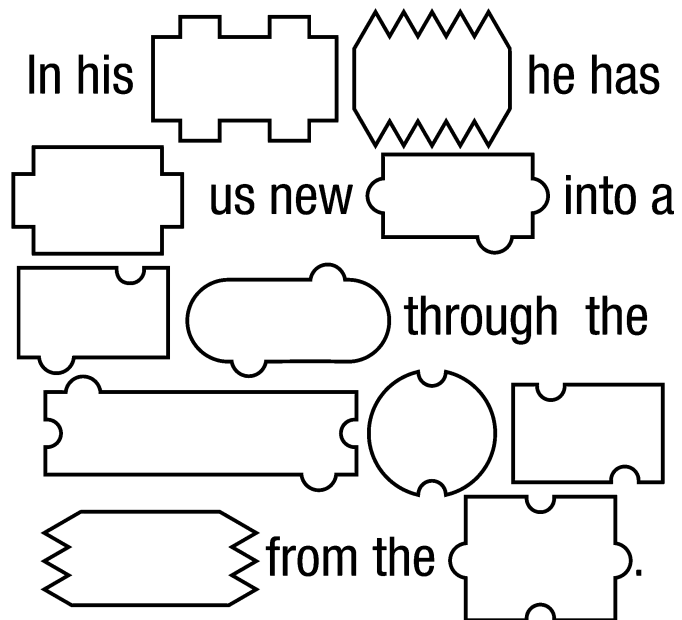
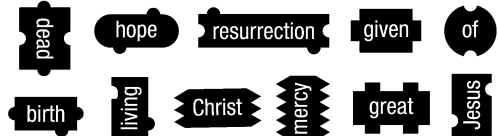
1. Fold the brown paper in half, short side to short side. Cut along the fold. On one half, draw and cut out a large half-circle (the tomb). On the other, draw and cut out a palm-sized circle (the stone).
2. Glue the brown tomb onto the blue paper.
3. Cut a black circle (the inside of the tomb) the same size as the brown stone and glue it onto the brown tomb.
4. Place the brown stone over the black half-circle; this is the entrance. Push the brad through one edge so the stone can move from side to side.
5. Cut out a cross from the yellow paper and glue it by the tomb.
6. Write "Jesus is risen!" atop the blue paper.



> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.



1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV

BIBLE QUIZ

By what other name(s) does the Bible identify the disciple we call "Doubting Thomas"?

- A. Didymus
- B. The Skeptic
- C. The Twin
- D. A and B
- E. A and C



Answer: See Page 5

Report for: February 2017

Income	February 2017	YTD	Feb 2016	Change (+/-)	A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.
Offerings	11,526.03	27,603.08	10,561.55	964.48	
Non-Benevolence	1,690.00	3,400.00	1,500.00	190.00	
Building Fund	2,688.00	5,820.15	3,709.60	(1,021.60)	
Memorial Fund	135.00	135.00	25.00	110.00	
Special Projects	572.91	917.13	191.81	381.10	
Scholarship Fund	10.00	10.00	50.00	(40.00)	
Total	16,621.94	37,885.36	16,037.96	583.98	

Ministry Expenses	February 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	11,325.25	11,096.60	228.65	19,817.18	22,193.20	(2,376.02)	
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	3,809.68	3,374.98	434.70	4,648.66	6,749.96	(2,101.30)	
Education, Mission, Related Costs	278.08	1,583.34	(1,305.26)	497.94	3,166.68	(2,668.74)	
Supplies	222.00	1,262.52	(1,040.52)	2,184.91	2,525.04	(340.13)	
Synod Mission Support	1,443.33	1,140.00	303.33	1,443.33	2,280.00	(836.67)	
Total	17,078.34	18,457.44	(1,379.10)	28,592.02	36,914.88	(8,322.86)	

Budget Cashflow	February 2017	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	"What is our net cashflow for the year for our ministry expenses?"
Income available	13,216.03	18,457.44	-5,241.41	31,003.08	36,914.88	-5,911.80	
Ministry Expenses	17,078.34	18,457.44	-1,379.10	28,592.02	36,914.88	-8,322.86	
Net (+/-)	-3,862.31			2,411.06			

Building Fund	February 2017	YTD	"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Building Fund?"
Income	2,688.00	5,820.15	
Payments	(3,891.00)	(7,782.00)	
Interest	2.06	3.85	
Current Balance	10,668.23		

Balances	February 2017				
General Checking	(964.23)				
Memorial Fund	6,178.17				
Non-Benevolence	980.08				
Special Projects	892.96				
Choir	28.84				
Scholarship	6,185.83				
Line of Credit	9,100.00				
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	(475,484.78)				

	Attendance		Communion	
February	2016	2017	2016	2017
Week 1	118	133	111	114
Week 2	119	126		
Week 3	131	114	115	105
Week 4	136	179		

Zion Lutheran Church
**“To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words
and Actions”**
Council Meeting Minutes / February 15, 2017

PRESENT: Matt Christianson, Rod Isebrand, Linda Isebrand, Jennifer Fleming, Dave Hoffer, Mary Hutchens, Pastor Andrea, Doug Midthun, Melanie Smith, Steve Marshall

GUESTS: Beth Paumen, Gary Sandstrom, Kristi Grindstaff

1. Opening Devotions (Mary H): Reading and prayer; sign-up sheet for providing readings and treats for 2017
2. Approve Agenda (this would be the time to add items not listed that you would like included): add 7.h. Organ Update; add 7.i. MN River Conference; add 7.j. Easter Worship Schedule; move 7.a. to #1. Motion to Approve: Pastor Andrea; Motion Seconded: Matt Christianson; Motion Passed
3. Thank-You Notes: Thank you from Madelia Strong for donation from Caring Coins offering
4. Reports (Consent Agenda format):
 - a. Pastor's Report: March newsletter deadline: Thursday, February 23 at noon; February events: Sunday, February 26: RENEW! – a leadership development event for congregational leaders. The theme this year is “Equipping Congregations for Difficult Conversations,” 2-4:30 p.m. at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester. All Council and Ministry Team members are invited. March events: Wednesday, March 1: Ash Wednesday; Sunday, February 19, rite of installation for all Ministry Team members and Congregation Officers; Zion's Constitution and Bylaws serve as the primary guide to the defined work of Ministry Teams/Offices, Pastor Andrea shared a one-page version. Over the past 6 months we've shifted to a “Consent Agenda” format for our meetings; a 1 page guide on using this format and the expectations connected with submitting reports, preparing for meetings, etc. was shared. The final tasks of the Constitution Task Force are

to create a “clean” version of the Zion Constitution & Bylaws and then submit finalized document to the Synod for review/approval. In January 2018, two of the amendments will need to be ratified at the annual meeting; in 2019, which is the next opportunity for the ELCA to amend the Model Constitution for Congregations, Zion should schedule another review and update to our Constitution & Bylaws. Next step in Stewardship for All Season (SAS) is to focus on things like planned giving, teaching stewardship principles, and sharing the impact of the ministry initiatives as they are accomplished.

- b. Secretary's Minutes: January 18, 2017
- c. Statistical Reports: See written reports
- d. Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team (*Doug Midthun, Matt Lantz, Gary Sandstrom): Doug shared a discussion on audit procedures with Kari and Kim and compiled list of items to be pulled for verification and will proceed with audit. Discussion on responsibility of ‘giving envelopes.’ Pastor Andrea, Rod, Gary, and Doug attended SAS meeting in Owatonna on February 6. Jim Halvorson will work with Melanie Smith in her transition as new treasurer. Need to work on updating signature authorities for accounts at Minnstar Bank. Discussion and approval with Kari regarding entry of pledge data in records system and ability to include that data in the quarterly giving reports.
- e. Social ministry Team (Carol Dunker, *Linda Isebrand, Judy Meyer): Linda noted a welcome to Judy. Prepared the signup sheet for Food for Friends, scheduled for Saturday, March 18 and will be posted by February 26. Will use the donated dollars to prepare the food for the meal, supplementing from carryover dollars as necessary. Will not request a Thrivent Action Team grant; will reserve this for other needs. Caring Coins donations for February will be collected on the 12th, with all dollars designated for Wellcome Manor Family Services. Dollars collected in

January for South Sudan totaled \$364.22. Information from the Narthex Design Team was shared regarding church ministries, storage and feedback from Anne Gerrietts from MIF. Reorganizing and updating the Prayer Chain Ministry, will include a bulletin insert for people who wish to take part in this ministry. Linda will speak to the person we hope will replace Jody Maurer as chair. The ZLCW is interested in working with Social Ministry in support of REACH, the LSS Center for Homeless Youth. Discussion will continue. May was selected as the month to promote a drive for supplies, with possible pulpit fill; will discuss those details with Pastor Andrea. Added known commitments to the Strategic Plan.

- f. Membership & Outreach Ministry Team (*Steve Marshall, Beth Paumen, Doug Winter): Beth shared a discussion on the items under the umbrella for the Membership Team. Steve and Doug will work with Mary Gilman on updating the membership list. The pictorials and giving envelopes will be handed out on February 12. Will discuss Council serving Lenten meal and what will be served. Steve will be chairperson and Beth the secretary.
- g. Building & Grounds Ministry Team (Mike Bottin, *David Hoffer, Brett Streng): Dave shared a discussion on upcoming duties that need to be taken care of this spring. Will schedule a date for spring clean-up. It was noted that Social Hall tables and chairs need some TLC, smoke alarm batteries inspected, estimate on concrete work to street from sidewalk, gutters repaired and others.

*Ministry Team Chairperson / Motion to Approve: Doug Midthun; Motion Seconded: Linda Isebrand; Motion Passed

5. Ministry Team Reports

- a. Youth Ministry Team (Kris Anderson, Jennifer Fleming, Susan Gengler): Jennifer Fleming noted the first meeting will be next week.
- b. Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (Phil Bachman, Kristi Grindstaff, Karen Granger): Kristi reported that they will survey

current Action Team leaders; looking at using Small Catechism for Lenten services; working with Net Medix and Communications on viewing church services; free Reformation books will be available; Narthex Team met with a Synod representative who suggested a designated visitor parking space, improved signage, high-top tables to stand at rather than sit. Organ will need to be replaced in 10-15 years, between \$40,000 and \$60,000. Need to brainstorm about 125th and 500th anniversaries.

Motion to Approve: Doug Midthun; Motion Seconded: Steve Marshall; Motion Passed

6. Old Business

- a. Stewardship for All Seasons – Update: 101 intent cards have been received with pledges of \$31,365.00.
- b. Nominating Committee Update – (Secretary Position): Still looking for a replacement.

7. New Business

- a. (MOVED TO AGENDA ITEM 1.) Caleb Brocker - Eagle Scout Project: currently has Life Scout Award and working to achieve Eagle Scout Award; approached and received approval from Twin Valley Council and Scout Master to carry out this project, military honor board, for congregation members to share family serving active duty in the armed forces. Caleb made the display and is donating to Zion. Share thoughts and prayers. Caleb and his parents will maintain this display. Motion to Accept This Gift: Linda Isebrand; Motion Seconded: Kristi Grindstaff; Motion Passed
- b. Council Orientation: Council installation this Sunday. Every Ministry Team has a key for the church. Records are kept by number on the keys. Please confirm who has the key and the number. Each Team has a mailbox in the Church office. Linda Isebrand is working to finalize Constitution, a copy was shared for each Team, need to review by-laws for each Team. Guide to 'Consent Agenda' was shared.

Renew is scheduled in Rochester on February 26, all are invited to attend. Topic is Equipping Congregations for Difficult Conversations. Pastor is planning one-on-one meetings with Council Leaders in the next few weeks. Rod shared an orientation from himself to Council Leaders.

- c. Authorize New Signers On Church Accounts: Kristi Grindstaff will work with the paperwork to get the signatures required on all of the accounts at the bank. Motion to Approve access to Thrivent online account to Melanie Smith and Kari Gustafson: Doug Midthun; Motion Seconded: Linda Isebrand; Motion Passed. Motion to approve authorized signers on Zion's accounts will be Rod Isebrand, Melanie Smith and Matt Christianson: Kristi Grindstaff; Motion Seconded: Doug Midthun; Motion Passed

- d. New Ministry Initiatives – 2017 budget: move ahead with budgeted initiatives; look to start youth coordinator position in the fall; move ahead with handicapped curb cut-out ramp (need permit and work with city, get 2 estimates); fix rotten fascia. Reinforce 'God's Work, Our Hands.'

- e. New Corporate Name for Zion: Zions Scandinavian Lutheran Church is current name on legal papers. Rod recommended a new name: Zion Lutheran Church of Lake Crystal, Minnesota. Cost is \$35.00 to fill out State Form to request name change. Ask Chris Kennedy to change name in land records, Synod Office, on contract with Metro, insurance policies and on Constitution (next Annual Meeting); need to check on new MN and Federal tax ID number. Motion for Council recommendation of name change to Zion Lutheran Church of Lake Crystal, Minnesota: Doug Midthun; Motion Seconded: Melanie Smith; Motion Passed

- f. Zion's 125th Anniversary (Who should work on this?): Need a committee? Guest preachers? Kristi will work on this project.

- g. Lenten supper sign up: March 1 – Zion

Youth / 2017 summer Mission trip to St. Louis (spaghetti supper); March 8 – Council / General Fund (sloppy joes); March 15 – ZLCW / Summer camp (casseroles); March 22 – Choir / General Fund (soups); March 29 – Confirmation / Youth Fund (baked potato bar); April 5 – Zion's men / camp scholarships (burgers and brats).

- h. Organ Update: Transposers (can pitch music lower) are not working; organ is not repairable; organ is 41 years old; need to make congregation aware; suggestion to start an organ fund.

- i. MN River Conference: Rod attended; very good speaker – Pastor from Tanzania; look as a possible Caring Coins donation. Pastor would be willing to preach at Zion. Dues were raised from .20 to .25 per baptized member.

- j. Easter Worship Schedule: In the past 8:30 and 10:45, youth don't need so much time for breakfast. Suggestion to hold services at 8:00 and 10:00. Motion to schedule Easter Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.: Pastor Andrea; Motion Seconded: Matt Christianson; Motion Passed

- 8. Treasurer's Report: General Checking: \$53.39; Memorial Fund: \$6,042.24; Building Fund: \$10,321.44; Non-Benevolence: \$1,129.80; Special Projects: \$1,494.86; Available to Pay Bills and Payroll: \$1,183.19; Overdue Bills: -0-; Current Bills: \$1,043.96; Line of Credit: \$9,100.00. Doug suggested an end of month Treasurer's Report only to conform with financial report that is monthly. Finance and Stewardship Team will look at this new process and make a recommendation. Add this report to consent agenda. Motion to Accept Treasurer's Report: Linda Isebrand; Motion Seconded: Steve Marshall; Motion Passed

Adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Mary Hutchens



THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



2017 Synod Assembly: What is it?

By Rev. Emily Carson
carson@semnsynod.org

The people of the synod gather yearly for a time of worship, Bible study, fellowship and the business of the church. This event is called the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly. This year's assembly will be held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester on May 6-7. The theme is "Equipping congregations to follow Jesus into a changing world." Additional event information and online registration is available at <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2017>.

There are three expressions that form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA): congregations, synods, and the Churchwide organization. Churchwide refers the staff and elected officers who work at the Lutheran Center in Chicago and in other locations around the world serving as administrators, advisors, conveners, partners and resource people for the ELCA and its ministries. Each year a representative from the Churchwide expression of the ELCA attends the synod assembly and brings updates from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the wider church. The Churchwide representative will be Rev. Stephen Bouman who serves as Executive Director for Domestic Mission, ELCA. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Gladys Moore. Rev. Moore serves as senior pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit, New Jersey. Prior to her tenure at St. John's, she was the Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life and Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Mount Holyoke College. Rev. Moore has been pastor, an assistant to the bishop of the New Jersey Synod, and has served as a chaplain, preacher, and Bible study leader at many events. Rev. Dr. Eric Barreto, Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, will serve as Bible study leader. His focus will be in the New Testament book of Acts.

The Saturday afternoon portion of assembly is a [Learning Event](#). The Learning Event will feature a variety of workshops to equip participants with ideas, actions, techniques, and strategies to live into their faith. This portion of the gathering is included in the registration fee for general assembly voters. **New this year: all are welcome to participate in the Learning Event!** People who would like to attend the event on Saturday afternoon but aren't voting members are invited to register online (<http://semnsynod.org/assembly2017>). The fee is \$25 and includes two workshops, a forum with Bishop Delzer, and closing worship on Saturday.

This year's assembly will take place on a Saturday-Sunday instead of the usual Friday-Saturday schedule. This is an experiment to see if the alternative schedule makes attendance more convenient. In that rostered ministers are required to attend, they will be at the assembly and unable to officiate that day in their local congregations. A variety of resources have been compiled to facilitate worship planning for congregations for Sunday, May 7. Available resources include: (1) an order of worship, (2) a printed version of Bishop Delzer's sermon for that day that can be read by a church member, and (3) a video recorded version of Bishop Delzer's sermon that can be used in your congregation. The Sunday morning worship service can be viewed live online for congregations able to stream from the Internet. Whether using the printed materials or viewing live online, Sunday, May 7 will be a special morning as people throughout the synod participate in worship together.

The Pre-Assembly report is an interactive document full of stories, photos, and engaging information about the synod's ministries. To view this year's report and discover more details about the assembly, please visit <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2017>. All preliminary printed and digital materials will be available by the afternoon of April 3.

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.



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As of now, the only thing left to do is get Zion's name changed in our Constitution, which we will accomplish at next January's Annual Meeting.

So, "Yes," Zion has a new name! "Zion Lutheran Church of Lake Crystal, MN" and "Yes" we definitely have new faces compared to what Zion's membership looked like in 1892. But, "No," the Face of what Zion represents has not changed. I am quite sure that the original members would agree with our Mission Statement today which is "To Make Jesus Known to All Through Our Words and Actions." May we continue on with our ancestor's foresight!

May God's peace be with you all,
Rod Isebrand, President

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

Did you 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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