

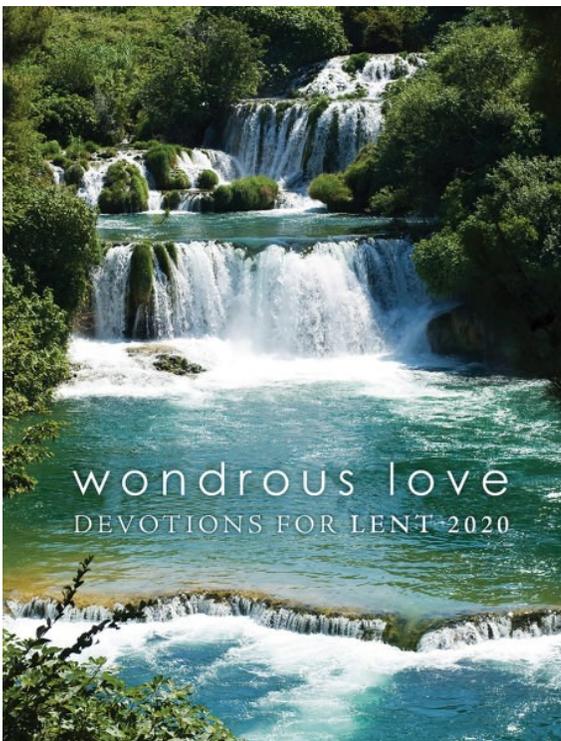
Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER



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

Lent Devotional Available Mid-February



Zion will be providing complementary copies of a new Lenten devotional for 2020 called **Wondrous Love**. This beautiful, full-color devotional highlights readings from the gospel of Matthew with 46 entries, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. The accessible and colorful format make it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey.

Wondrous Love explores Jesus' journey from baptism to the cross and the empty tomb, as depicted in Matthew (the gospel focus for 2020, Year A in the Revised Common Lectionary). Jesus predicts that he will be betrayed, arrested, abandoned, and put to death, yet he continues on to Jerusalem and the cross. The wondrous love shown by Jesus on this journey guides us on our baptismal journeys and inspires us to sing, serve, and share God's love with others.

Lent 2020 Dates

Ash Wednesday: February 26

6:45 Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Mid-Week Worship and Fellowship:

March 4 –April 1

5:30 Supper

6:45 Holden Evening Prayer

Holy Week: April 5-11

Easter Sunday: April 12

Our 2020 midweek worship services will follow the "Wondrous Love" theme. Join us each Wednesday in Lent, as a member of our congregation shares a part of their faith story during worship, reflecting on how Jesus and his wondrous love has been revealed in their lives.

For a preview of supper dates and menus, see page 5.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I wrote in my article last month, this year we're going "Back to Basics." My hope and goal is that together we will rediscover and recommit to the most essential practices and habits of Christian life. In this way, we can open our eyes and our hearts to more fully recognize what God is doing in our lives and in our community.

Where do we start this journey? What would you wish to include in a list of these "most essential" practices?

A helpful place for us to start is with Zion's mission statement. You may already know that our mission is *To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words and Actions*.

But in order to make Jesus known to others, we first must know Jesus for ourselves! We cannot proclaim a gospel we have not heard and known to be true in our own lives.

As the Apostle Paul has written,

All who call on the Lord's name will be saved. So how can they call on someone they don't have faith in? And how can they have faith in someone they haven't heard of? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news. (Romans 10:13-15 CEB)

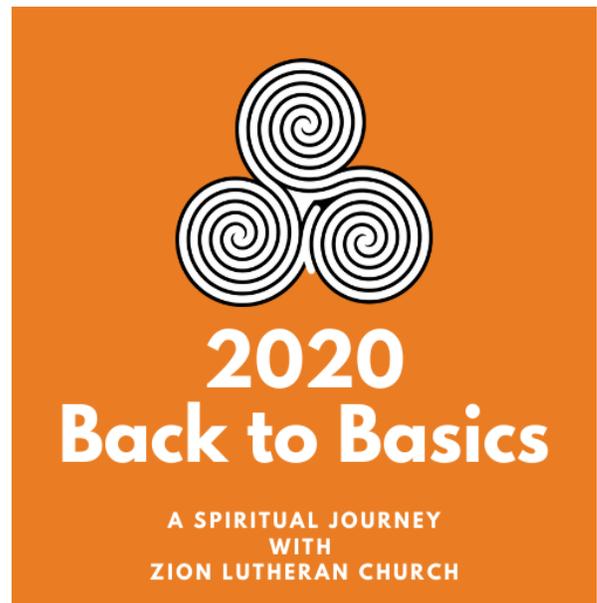
The first step in going "Back to Basics" is to seek Jesus.

Who is he? What did he do? What has he commanded us to do? How does his death and resurrection transform our lives here and now, and for eternity? I love to ask questions like these. Not merely for the sake of knowing ABOUT Jesus, but in order to KNOW Jesus.

As we pray for a deeper knowledge and connection with Jesus, this prayer can be a helpful place to begin:

Gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you; eyes to behold you; ears to listen for your word; a heart to love you; and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW, p. 76)

Did you know that our mission statement is actually much longer than just the phrase we print each week in our bulletin? At some point in the past, Zion's leaders developed a full-page "mission statement" that also includes statements of what we believe and how we intend to accomplish this mission of making Jesus known. (This full state-



ment is usually printed in the Annual Report booklet on page 2.)

The Mission Statement concludes:

TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION (To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words and Actions) WE WILL:

- **Worship regularly**
- **Offer to God with joy and thanksgiving: ourselves, our time, and our possessions**
- **Strive to "Love kindness, do justice, and walk humbly with our God"**
- **Study God's Word**
- **Invite and welcome all in our community, especially, new and unchurched persons**
- **Support, nurture, and educate one another to follow Jesus in our daily living**
- **Cooperate with and support other Christian congregations in our community**

Put more briefly, our mission statement commits us to the essential tasks of **Worship, Giving, Service, Scripture, Invitation, Learning, Prayer, and Partnership**.

This list of practices and habits is the "basics" of our life together because they root us in Christ and his commandment to love God and love our neighbor. And it all begins by opening our hearts to seek and know Jesus!

peace,
Pastor Andrea Myers



January Council Recap January 15, 2020

Finance and Stewardship The mortgage principal was reduced by \$41,420.86 in 2019. The Line of Credit was reduced by \$4,494.50 from 1/1/19 through 1/15/20 with interest paid to date.

Social Ministry Caring Coins for January, designated for Wellcome Manor Family Services, totaled \$187.06. Pastor Andrea is now including each month's Caring Coins recipient in the Prayer Ministry email, as well as in the prayers during worship.

Building and Grounds LED light installation has been completed.

Youth Ministry Team The team continues to seek Sunday school teachers for spring classes and are reviewing new curriculum.

Membership and Outreach Ministry The team did not meet in December.

Worship, Music and Adult Fellowship The team is considering ways to increase summer worship attendance and are considering speakers to share their Lenten faith stories.

Council Action The Lenten supper schedule for 2020 will remain the same as it has for the last several years. Pastor Andrea or Mary will contact the appropriate leaders. In regard to summer camp scholarships, Pastor Andrea and the Youth Ministry team are recommending that families pay the \$125 deposit for each camper. Scholarship payments up to \$350 will be made. If there are additional needs, families should contact Pastor Andrea or the church office. Payments will come through the church office and made directly to each camp. Matt Christianson thanked the council for the opportunity to serve. Both he and Doug Midthun, whose term has also ended, were thanked for their faithful service to Zion.

Social Ministry

On behalf of the staff and clients of Wellcome Manor Family Services, Social Ministry would like to thank the Zion's members for their gifts of \$187.06 that were received during January's Caring Coins.

In February, our gifts will be designated for the Connections Shelter in Mankato. Connections Ministry began as a coalition of Mankato churches coming together to best serve those in the community seeking assistance and resources. As a result of intentional relationships built through these connections, it was determined that one of the best ways to make a difference was to open a rotating shelter. Sixteen area churches worked together to open the shelter in October of 2017. Since opening, the Connections Shelter has provided a warm place to stay for nearly 300 guests, the youngest of which was 4 months old; the oldest of whom was 80 years in age. More than 350 volunteers are working together to show God's love by providing housing and other assistance to families in need. This venture is led by Rev. Collette Broady Grund (widow of our late youth coordinator Marrett Broady Grund) and Rev. Erica Koser. Connections Ministry now seeks to open a day shelter and secure a permanent shelter location in Mankato. Your gifts will provide funds to assist the staff and residents of the Connections Shelter. Thank you for your kindness toward those in need!

Help Our Counters!

When offerings are counted, each fund has to have its own deposit slip. If you are donating to more than one fund, please write **two** checks, one for each fund. (For example, instead of writing one check for \$150 and say that \$100 of it goes to Stewardship and the additional \$50 goes to the Building Fund, write one check for \$100 and a second check for \$50.)

This will be a huge help to the counters!

Thank you!

February 5

Miriam Circle 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Marsha Larson
Bible study: Karen Granger

Rebecca Circle 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Judy Marben @ Zion
Bible study: Judy Marben

February 21

ZLCW Board Meeting 2:30 p.m.

February 28

Bible Study for Leaders 5:30 p.m.



The first ZLCW board meeting of the year was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. It was brought to our attention that when a circle chooses to change their meeting place, time, or leader they should let Mary know. For the newsletter/bulletins she uses our handbook to list the circle information which would not reflect these changes.

ZLCW will be hosting and serving the Lenten supper on March 4th. We are asking each circle to provide two workers (1 per shift), three casseroles (serving 12-15 each), three salads (serving 12-15 each) and three pans of bars. Rolls and milk will be furnished by the ZLCW.

Please note there is a change this year in the Thrivent Action Team Grant protocol. Please check for the specific information/details in an article listed below.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18th at 2:30 p.m.

Thrivent Action Team Grants



There have been some changes to the process for Thrivent Action Team Grants. Anyone or any group applying for these funds should be aware of these adjustments:

The \$250 card is available for use for 120 days.

Applicants have up to one year to send their final report; however, Thrivent prefers to receive the report as soon as possible after the event is ended.

Once the final report has been submitted, the card will remain active for ONLY two additional weeks so applicants should be certain they have used all their funds within that window of time.

As always, please check the supply of shirts in the store room adjacent to the church kitchen so that additional shirts are not ordered if they are not needed. All event participants are encouraged to keep any shirt used at their event.

New Scam Targets Church Members

According to the Federal Trade Commission, scammers have started posing as pastors, priests, rabbis, imams and bishops to ask worshipers for gift card contributions for a worthy cause. These appeals most commonly come by email, but some scammers have also used texts and phone calls.

Pastor Andrea has heard reports from multiple colleagues across the country whose members have been targeted. Usually the scammer asks you to purchase a popular gift card, and then asks for the card number and PIN on the card. That's all the scammer needs to steal the money you've loaded on the card.

The FTC says that the email or text may look legitimate, but you can watch for some tell-tale red flags. "For example, the email address isn't the one normally used by the church. The message may begin with a simple, "Hi," but doesn't include a recipient's name. There also may be spelling errors, including the pastor's name."

Please be aware that Pastor Andrea will NEVER contact you directly with a request to purchase a gift card! If you receive such a request, please contact Pastor Andrea to let her know and so that we can file a report with the FTC.

2020 Camp Registration Early Bird ends February 14

You can view the 2019 summer schedule for Green Lake Lutheran Ministries at www.gllm.org. There are programs for all elementary, middle, and high school students! Early Bird Registration discounts are available until February 14.

The week of July 19-24th has been designated as "Zion Week." This is a great chance to try camp with the assurance that you'll see friends from home while you're there!

To receive a Camp Scholarship, simply contact the church office once you've registered!

Sharing Shelf

Each month a volunteer from Zion delivers our food offerings to the Sharing Shelf. Thanks to Linda Isebrand for volunteering in January. February volunteer is Patty Thompson.

February needs include pancake mix, pancake syrup, tuna, 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 p.m.



2020 Lenten Suppers:

February 26 (Ash Wednesday): Youth

Menu: Taco Bar

Proceeds go to Youth Fund

March 4: ZLCW

Menu: Casseroles

Proceeds go to Camp Scholarships

March 11: Council

Menu: Sloppy Joes

Proceeds go to General Fund

March 18: Choir

Menu: Soups

Proceeds go to General Fund

March 25: Confirmation

Menu: Baked Potato Bar

Proceeds go to Youth Fund

April 1: Men

Menu: Brats and Hot Dogs

Proceeds go to Camp Scholarships



Zion Sunday School

February 2020

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.



We need to fill five more Sunday School teaching spots.

If you can help, please contact Kris Anderson (726-6673).

Thank you!

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!

Calendar

February:

- 3- Regular Sunday School
- 10- Regular Sunday School (SS Students sing during worship)
- 17- NO Sunday School (Presidents Day Wknd)
- 24- Regular Sunday School

March:

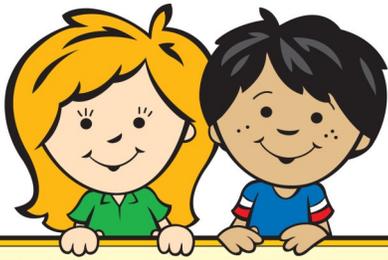
- 1- Regular Sunday School
- 8- Regular Sunday School (SS Students sing during worship)
- 15- Regular Sunday School
- 22- Regular Sunday School
- 29- NO Sunday School (spring break)

April:

- 5- Regular Sunday School
- 12- NO Sunday School (Easter)
- 19- May Day Baskets
- 26- Last day of Sunday School
Visit Crystal Seasons & Camp scholarships given out at worship

Activities/Dates are subject to change! Watch for further announcements via bulletin, newsletter and email.

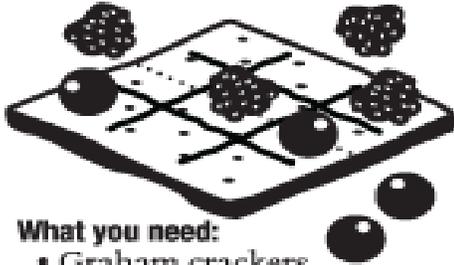




KIDS PAGE

Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

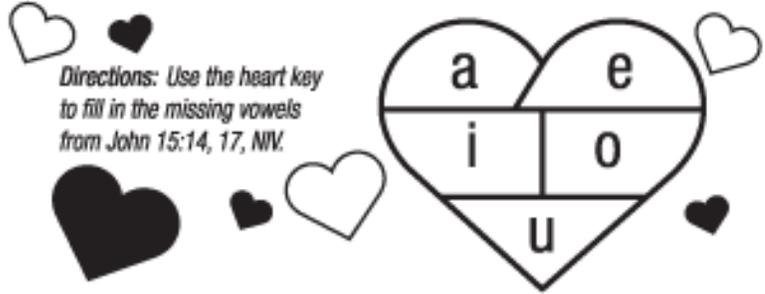
What you do:

1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!



A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.

“Y _ _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f

y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. ...

Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:

L _ v _ _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV

Bible Quiz

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word “love” occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300
- B. 400-500
- C. 600-700
- D. 800-900



Answer: C

zion youth news

Confirmation During Lent

Lent begins February 26 (Ash Wednesday)!

In place of regular Wednesday classes, students will participate in mid-week worship at 6:45 p.m. Mentors are asked to worship with their students on March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1.

Confirmation Youth will be serving the Lenten Supper March 25: Confirmation youth and their families will be serving a Baked Potato Bar. Help is needed with setup and serving, as well as ingredient donations. Watch the weekly Confirmation News email for details and links to sign up.

The offering received on March 25 will go to the Youth Fund to support future youth events and trips.

Confirmation Calendar

February 5: Regular Class

February 12: Regular Class

February 19: Regular Class

February 26: Ash Wednesday Worship (Lent Begins)

Looking ahead: Confirmation Lock-in on Friday, March 13!

Invest in our Youth: Become a Colorado Adventure Trip Shareholder



**2020
SUMMER
YOUTH TRIP**

This summer, five of our youth will be travelling to Colorado for a week of adventure and learning!

Instead of asking you to buy fundraising “stuff” we’re again inviting you to simply **invest in our youth!** Your investment will help the youth experience an event designed to nurture their relationship with Jesus and help them better understand their calling to love others.

Colorado shares will be available beginning in March for \$25 each. Purchase one share, or a hundred! 100% of your investment will go toward our fundraising goal. We hope to raise \$1,000 through the support of our Shareholders! Every trip investor will receive an invitation to our special Shareholder Dinner Presentation next summer.

ELCA Stories of Faith in Action: Church On A Rock

Church on a rock



irst [they] said we were crazy for building a Lutheran church,” recalled Fabian Gaspar Cardenas, pastor of St. Augustine Lutheran Church in La Esmeralda, Guatemala. “Then they said we were crazy for building it on top of a hill.”

But the St. Augustine community believed this audacious space — high on a rock overlooking La Esmeralda — was exactly where God had called them to be. Cardenas said they were inspired by other churches and holy

places they’d seen that were built on hilltops.

“It is better to build on a rock than in the sand, so that is why we built here,” he added, referencing the Gospel of Matthew.

Though St. Augustine’s building is new, the congregation has worshipped in La Esmeralda for more than 20 years since their return from Mexico, where they spent the worst years of Guatemala’s civil war in refugee camps. Today the congregation

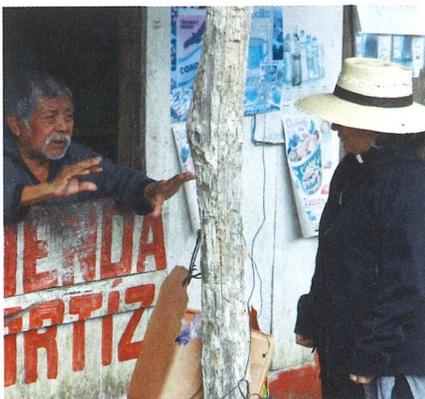
strives to support sustainable livelihoods, health care and education for its community, said Stephen Deal, ELCA regional representative for Central America.

The ELCA has invested in the ministry of St. Augustine by accompanying leaders within the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILAG in Spanish). *Cardenas and other ILAG pastors receive theological and evangelism training at retreats funded by Mission Support.* For him, the opportunity to connect and grow together has been a great gift.

“[Hope] has been the thing that has supported us the most,” Cardenas said. “And that is what I have been able to share with my fellow pastors, especially in the retreats.” In his own ministry journey, a serious health condition nearly left Cardenas blind and delayed his pastoral training by over eight years.

Despite challenges to his health and the community, Cardenas has kept his vision fixed on God. For all who visit or pass by St. Augustine, he hopes that “when you look at the church, you remember that God is with you always, and you can do anything with God at your side.”

To find a video story about the ILAG, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA.



St. Augustine serves its community through ministries that connect members with sustainable livelihoods, health care and education. Your Mission Support gifts assist Cardenas and other leaders in the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala in their evangelism.

Happy Anniversary:

Greg & Janette Abraham
Allan & Mary Hutchens
Michael & Beth Paumen



March (Team 5)

Leaders: Rod & Linda
Isebrand 726-6167

Members:

Lisa Barden
Dorothy Barnick
Dave Boomgarden & Crystill Lorenzen
Jean Childs
Lori Ebagary
Larry Elg
Eric & Grace Fjeldberg
Philip & Rhonda Fjeldberg
Jackie & John Graham
Matthew & Tammy Greenough
Roberts & Linda Hauge
Jerry & Marsha Hawker
Bob & Teri Hobart
Adam & Mackenzie Jones
Eric Jones
Diane Klinkner
Gail Larson
Daniel & Nikki Lewis
Rick & Charlene Manke
Todd Manke
Mark & Judy Meyer
Amy Montgomery
Verone Nelson
John & Gail Peterson
Don & Byrene Schmidt
Todd & Becky Sittig
Jon & Michelle Stordahl
Patty & Mike Thompson
Dwayne & Jessica Thormodsgard
Dorothy Yarger

Joy Abraham
Luanne Anderson
Jason Antony
Heidi Bartelt
Warner Beckmann
David Boomgarden
Jim Bocker
Mary Bocker
Elfredia Deopere
Larry Elg
Nancy Ellanson
Kylie Feder
Pat Gengler
John Greenough
Linda Heydt
Allan Hutchens

Dustin Icks
Travis Jordan
Charlene Manke
Judy Marben
Nolan Meyer
Matthew Nuytten
Ardis Schmidt
Rebecca Sittig
Melanie Smith
Cathy Snow
Robby Sorensen
Scott Spencer, Jr.
Michelle Stordahl
Kelly Strenge
Clarence Thompson
Dorothy Yarger



Thank you to all volunteers to Zion. All volunteers are needed and appreciated, regardless of how you volunteer. Thank you for sharing with your Zion church family!!

Report for: December 2019

Income	Dec 2019	YTD	Dec 2018	Change (+/-)
Offerings	19,544.70	172,291.51	19,165.47	379.23
Non-Benevolence	2,017.00	26,136.00	1,647.00	370.00
Building Fund	3,727.93	55,362.78	4,785.00	(1,057.07)
Memorial Fund	10.00	1,075.00	864.60	(854.60)
Special Projects	1,336.00	12,443.57	415.58	920.42
Scholarship Fund	0.00	4,080.00	15.00	(15.00)
Total	26,635.63	271,388.86	26,892.65	(257.02)

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

Ministry Expenses	Dec 2019	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)
Salaries and Related Costs	10,876.61	11,369.33	(492.72)	129,838.00	136,432.06	(6,594.06)
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	2,055.70	2,741.66	(685.96)	32,560.94	32,900.00	(339.06)
Education, Mission, Related Costs	358.53	741.66	(383.13)	6,867.48	8,900.00	(2,032.52)
Supplies	1,554.83	1,320.83	234.00	15,257.59	15,850.00	(592.41)
Ministry Initiatives	0.00	726.66	(726.66)	150.00	8,720.00	(8,570.00)
Synod Mission Support	4,323.15	1,815.00	2,508.15	20,032.67	21,780.00	(1,747.33)
Total	19,168.82	18,715.14	453.68	204,706.68	224,582.06	(19,875.38)

Budget Cashflow	Dec 2019	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)
Income available	21,561.70	18,715.14	2,846.56	198,427.51	224,582.06	(26,154.55)
Ministry Expenses	19,168.82	18,715.14	453.68	204,706.68	224,582.06	(19,875.38)
Net (+/-)	2,392.88			-6,279.17		

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

Building Fund	Dec 2019	YTD
Income	3,727.93	55,362.78
Payments	(3,891.00)	(55,410.00)
Interest	2.06	25.99
Current Balance	8,741.14	

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

Balances	Dec 2019
General Checking	3,626.23
Memorial Fund	3,885.11
Non-Benevolence	626.88
Special Projects	6,773.24
Scholarship Savings & CD	10,088.85
Line of Credit	10,574.85
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	(367,538.74)
Youth Checking Account	5,700.00

	Attendance		Communion	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
December	58	89	58	75
Week 1	58	89	58	75
Week 2	135	116		
Week 3	54	48	144	113
Program	148	142		
12/24 5pm	288	208		
12/24 10pm	94	85	57	62
Wk 5	89	57		

Zion Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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Church website:

www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

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Sunday Morning

9:00 am Worship

Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays of
the Month

10:05 am Sunday School

Listen to sermons at www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday (8-4)

Tuesday (8-12)

Wednesday (8-4)

Thursday (8-4)

The Office is closed Friday.

Phone: 507-726-2849

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

SonRise

Myron Sandstrom

Mark Friday

Mike Thompson

Clarence (Clyde) Thompson

Custodians

Bob and Barb McDonald