

Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER



2017

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 5

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

Celebration Sunday is May 21

Congratulations 2017 Zion Graduates!

Taylor Antony

daughter of Jason & Jill Antony and Justin Kaus

Caleb Bocker

son of Jim & Mary Bocker

Bailey Burnett

daughter of Corey & Candice Burnett

Kasey Fredricksen

daughter of Jason & Nikki Fredricksen

McKenzie Glaubit

daughter of Troy Glaubit and Theresa Glaubit

Madison Graham

daughter of John & Jackie Graham

Seth Hartman

son of Andrey & Dawn Hartman

Brady Isebrand

son of Brian & Heather Isebrand and Deann Skinner

Leah Jones

daughter of Eric Jones and Jessica Jones

Dawson Knutson-Bunde

son of Dustin & Angie-Knutson Icks and Kory Bunde

Lexi Laborde

daughter of Steve & Val Laborde

Hunter Sohre

son of Russell & Cathy Sohre

Morgan Zumwalt

daughter of Matthew & Jennifer Zumwalt



Sunday School Celebration

Singing "Wiggle Worm" in Worship

Camp Scholarship Distribution

Congratulations to all Zion children who have received ZLCW Camp Scholarships! Seven children signed up for the "full blast" and one for the "half blast."

ELCA Youth Gathering Interest Meeting

After worship in the Youth Room



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Like any other organization on a mission, the church needs leaders who have been called and equipped for the work of ministry.

Within this congregation, we could not engage in God's call and mission in our community without those who offer their time and gifts as leaders, teachers, and volunteers. Zion has been blessed with very capable and dedicated leaders, especially those who serve as officers and members of our Ministry Teams. I'm grateful as well for those who step up for "task force" work such as our Narthex Design Team, the Constitution Task Force (now ended), and the newly formed Anniversary Committee. Please see Rod Isebrand's column (page 8) for a particular leadership need we have right now.

The wider ministry of our Church also depends on called and equipped leaders, and this is an area of great concern for us "baby boomer" pastors who are retiring at an accelerating pace. According to a recent report (*The Supply of and Demand for Clergy in the ELCA*) the church is facing a significant shortage of clergy as new seminarians graduate at only half the current rate of retirements. By 2019, there will be nearly 1,800 fewer clergy available to serve congregations than there were in 2010. While the number of congregations able to afford a full-time pastor on their own is also shrinking, there still aren't enough pastors to go around.

This issue, along with an awareness of the importance of leaders for healthy and vital congregations, means that leadership development is a top propriety for ELCA leaders at all levels. Raising up and training effective leaders is essential to the church's mission in these changing, challenging times.

It is for this reason that the ELCA Conference of Bishops has issued a call to prayer to the congregations and members of the ELCA, saying:

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into this harvest" (Luke 10:2). . . The harvest is, indeed, plentiful. We need more laborers, lay and rostered, to provide the ministry and leadership that will, by grace and in the power of the Spirit, assist the church in moving forward faithfully and energetically into God's unfolding future. Will you join us in prayer ... [in worship and] in your own personal and family prayers, asking the Lord of the harvest to raise up and send out laborers into the harvest? And will you consider becoming an answer to that prayer by inviting someone who seems to have appropriate gifts to consider becoming a pastor or deacon, or by prayerfully considering that call yourself?"

There are many forms of ministry in the church, and many gifts with which to perform them. Let us commit to praying that God will raise up laborers for the harvest that awaits!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Andrea

Let us pray: O God, you make your love known in Jesus Christ. We thank you for loving your church so much that you send the Holy Spirit into the hearts of children, women, and men so that they know themselves called to be pastors and deacons and leaders for congregations and the church. Bless your church with an abundance of leaders. And as we are bold to believe that you will raise up pastors, deacons, and leaders from this congregation, ready our hearts to nurture their faith, celebrate their call, and support their preparation for ministry. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Special Communion Schedule in May

This month we will celebrate Holy Communion on **May 14 and May 21**. Pastor Andrea will be away on May 7 attending the SE MN Synod Assembly, and members of Zion will be leading the Service of the Word that day.

Zion Lutheran Church Women

May 3:

Ruth Circle 6:30 p.m.

Miriam Circle 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Joyce Johnson

Bible Study: Barb Feder

Rebecca Circle 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Gail Peterson

Bible Study: Linda Hauge

May 4:

Martha Circle 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: LaVaun Morris (Crystal Seasons)

Bible Study: Jean Child

May 12 and 13:

May Garage Sale

May 16:

ZLCW Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

May 23:

Bible Study for Leaders 6:30 p.m.



The ZLCW will hold their annual garage/bake sale on Friday, May 12, from 4-7 p.m., and Saturday, May 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Most items at the garage sale will be available for \$5.00/bag, with many miscellaneous items individually priced. Set-up for the sale will take place Thursday, May 11, from 3:00-8:00 p.m. Donated items can be dropped off at the church on Wednesday, May 10, from 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. or Thursday, May 11, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Items should be in good condi-

tion; **no clothing items will be accepted.**

All baked items are welcome and should be dropped off by 3:00 p.m. Friday, May 12, or 8:00 a.m. Saturday, May 13, (Baked items will be graciously accepted during the sale, but please bring them as early as possible.) Items should be pre-priced. Thank you!

Yearly donation: For many years, each ZLCW member was contacted by their circle chair twice a year and asked for a donation of \$5.00 to support the ZLCW budget. The Board amended this practice and is asking each member for one \$10.00 donation at the time of the garage sale. Your circle chair should have or will be contacting you soon. Checks or cash should be marked as "ZLCW Donation" and will be accepted as soon as you are able. Thank you to all our members for your generosity in supporting the work of Zion and its women!

Hosanna National Day of Prayer (NDP) will be held on May 4, 2017 from 8:00 am—7:00 p.m. at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato. Events include: prayer in sanctuary throughout the day, walk to the Justice Center with NDP focus at noon, prayer stations prayer & celebration community gathering at 6:00 p.m.

Zion Sunday School News

Learning God's Word by Heart

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!

May 7 Regular Class

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

May 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*

May 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*

Wrapping up a Great Year!

We are getting close to the last day of Sunday School and hope that all of our students can join us for the last few weeks!!



Sunday, April 30: We will be delivering our May Day baskets to Crystal Seasons and will sing a couple of songs to the residents. **Meet at the church & we will walk as a group.** We will walk back to the church after our visit.

Sundays, May 7 and 14: Regular Sunday School & we'll be making something special for mom!

Sunday, May 21: This is the last day of Sunday School and time to celebrate! Bring the entire family for refreshments and to say thank you to all of the volunteer teachers! **Don't forget we are also singing during the service!**

**Thank you for making this
such a great year!**

SAVE THE DATE!



2017 Lake Crystal Community VBS

Sunday, August 6
through Thursday, August 10
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church



Happy Anniversary to
the following Zion
members celebrating
May anniversaries!

Robert & Janet Atkinson

Aaron & Heidi Bartelt

Terry & Vicky Chesney

Donald & Lois Davis

Eric & Grace Fjeldberg

Gary & Kristi Grindstaff

Kevin & Denise Hagge

Matt & Sara Halvorson

Ray & Donna Roesch

Mike & Patricia Sandstrom



Happy birthday to the
following members celebrat-
ing May birthdays!

James Abbott	Scott Larson
Jennifer Abernathy	Daniel Lowis
Kris Anderson	Rick Manke
Jill Atkinson	Judy Meyer
Aaron Bartelt	Ginny Midthun
Linda Beecher	Greg Mikkelsen
Paul Beinke	Morgan Moeller
Candice Burnett	Ryan Mueller
Tom Cooper	Andrea Myers
Lewie Fleming	Ronald Myers
Josh Friedrichs	Shawn Olson
Seth Gilman	Nathaneal Olson
John Graham	Renee Rollings
Kyle Hauge	Gary Sandstrom
Marsha Hawker	Eli Sandstrom
Alexandria Hughes	Norm Sieling
Dennis Hylen	Todd Sitting
Eric Isebrand	Dan Sohler
Deb Richmond-Johnson	Kathryn Torgerson
Jessica Jones	Kim VanRyswyk
Kelly Karels	



From a worship bulletin in Meridian, Mississippi:

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hymn: "God I So Good"

Invocation

Now there is an interesting approach to confession.



**Thank you to our Action
Team 4 leader
Deb Richmond-Johnson**
for assembling the
April worship
schedules!

June Newsletter Deadline

The June newsletter due date is Tuesday, May
23rd at noon. Please turn your information in by
this deadline! Thanks!

Team 5

May leaders

Todd & Becky Sittig

Team Members:

JoAnn Allen
Harold & Dorothy Barnick
Ann Blasing
Jean Childs
Larry Elg
Andrea Fjeldberg
Pat & Susan Gengler
Kristi & Gary Grindstaff
Marsha & Jerry Hawker
Dennis & Patti Hylen
Joyce Johnson
Christopher & Michelle
Kennedy
Shannon Magers
Sandra Meixell



Zion
**ACTION
TEAMS**

Walt & Lorraine Miller
Derek & Emily Olson
Doris Preston
Gary & Diane Sandstrom
Randy & Kristy Schultz
Jill & Kevin Sorenson
Brett & Kelly Streng
Mike & Heidi Thompson
Jay & Sheryl Utter
Dorothy Yarger
Tony & Heather Ziegler

Bible Quiz Answer:

Answer: B (See Acts 17:22)

zion youth news



Summer Mission Trip Update

Thank you to everyone who has supported our youth and their fundraising efforts. **Because of your generosity, we exceeded our fundraising goal!**

Please pray for Mission Trip youth and leaders as they continue preparing for their week of service and learning, that God will work through and in this experience to nurture these youth in faith!

St. Louis Participant Meeting

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. All trip participants are expected to attend. (You need to speak with Pastor Andrea if you're going to miss it!) **This is also the deadline for returning your paperwork** to Pastor Andrea. See you there!

Confirmation Update

Regular Confirmation Classes will be held on May 3, 10, and 17. Thanks for a great year!

Save the Date: Confirmation Sunday for current 8th graders will be **Sunday, October 15, 2017**

Confirmation Preview for Rising 7th Graders

Rising 7th graders and their parents are invited to an information session on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:00 p.m. This is a chance to get a head start on the fall, and answer your questions about what Confirmation is all about! Please RSVP to the church office.

VBS Volunteers Needed!

Save the date! VBS this year will be Sunday, August 6 through Thursday, August 10. Our neighbors at First Presbyterian will be hosting. Youth volunteers are needed to help our younger students have a GREAT week exploring the story of Jesus. If you're interested, please speak with Jennifer Fleming or Pastor Andrea.

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. We will meet in the Youth Room at 10:15.** Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!!

Why go to the Gathering?

Pastor Andrea recently wrote this reflection for a synod newsletter:

Which events have a place on the timeline of your faith? For me, the list includes the 1988 ELCA Youth Gathering in San Antonio. I still remember my sense of awe to be part of such a large crowd of youth as we worshipped and explored faith together. The speakers I heard, including Tshenuwani Simon Farisani (who spoke about the struggles of Apartheid in South Africa) and Tony Compolo (who ministered in the diverse inner city of

(continued on next page)

Philadelphia), opened my mind and my heart to greater understanding and compassion for the world around me. My sense of what it meant to be “church” exploded far beyond the walls of my home congregation. No wonder Meredith Massey, a youth leader from Houston, calls the ELCA Youth Gathering “A monumental experience that belongs on the timeline of your faith journey.”

More about the 2018 Theme:

The theme for the 2018 Gathering is “This Changes Everything.” Our primary scripture is Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” **Grace is a foundational part of Lutheran theology. This gift of grace, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as people realize they are enough.** We are enough because of what Christ has done for us, and we are called into the world to serve our neighbor and to share the good news.

The event logo is a visual representation of our theme and the 2018 Gathering experience. It incorporates the coming together of a mosaic to reflect the diverse host city of Houston. It also incorporates the idea that we are a church where all are imperfect and incomplete, yet we each belong and have an important place in God’s masterpiece. The cross at the center of the logo is the focus—it is God’s grace, through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, that changes everything for all people.

As young people struggle to find someone to become, somewhere to belong, and something to do, the Gathering seeks to be a ministry that helps define some of that, or at least open up pathways of discovery. Ultimately, we want youth to understand the fierce love that God has for them just as they are, and that by grace, through faith, they have been saved. **When young people (or a person of any age) truly claims this reality, it indeed changes everything.**

Sharing Shelf

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

Sharing Shelf needs for May include: cereal, vegetable oil, Hamburger Helper, boxed potatoes, boxed rice, crackers and toilet paper. The Sharing Shelf is located at the First Baptist Church, 312 South Oakland Street. Hours are Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m.– 6:30 p.m.



The Women of the ELCA Tenth Triennial Gathering will be held July 13—16 in Minneapolis, MN. The theme for 2017 is “All Anew”! Have your voice heard in determining activities and direction of the organization.

For more information contact the Church Office or go to www.womenoftheelca.org.

Zion Military Honor Board Donated

This board created and donated by Caleb Bocker, is located next to the new member photographs and Sharing Shelf wagon. The purpose is to display active duty military personnel, their branch of military, mailing addresses and how they are related to the congregation. You can pray for them and honor them as well as send them care packages or write them letters. These little things mean so much. Please contact Caleb Bocker at 507-995-5983 with questions or to add someone to this board. Thank you!

A Word from the President

Opportunity Knocks

If you were at Zion's Annual meeting in January, you probably know that we did not have an individual on our nominating ballot to fill the position of Council Secretary. So, I want to take some time to fill all of you in on what is going on presently with this position.

Mary Hutchens has served as our Council Secretary for over five years. She has been very dedicated while serving our congregation in this capacity. Mary indicated that she would like to resign from our Council, but said she would carry on until we found someone to replace her. The Nominating Committee contacted several candidates and I contacted several candidates who we thought would be a good replacement, but have not come up with anyone willing to accept this role.

My suggestion to the Executive Council and to the Council was to relieve Mary if someone from our Council would be willing to take the minutes on a temporary basis. The result of this suggestion is that an individual has stepped forward and is willing to do this for us.

Problem solved? Not exactly. We do need to fill this position. As it is now, the members of Zion are being represented by one less person on the Executive Council, one less person on the Council and one less person on the Personnel Committee. This is a very important member to have on all of these committees. This also means one less person representing all of our members here at Zion Lutheran Church.

So, here is where I am presenting an opportunity for all of our confirmed members, male or female, to step forward and offer your time and talents in regards to this vacancy on our Council.

I would gladly talk to anyone who would be willing to fill this position and explain the responsibilities that go along with being the Council Secretary. I know that we all are busy in our own lives, but I know from my own experience that it is possible to fulfill my responsibilities in my role at Zion and still keep my life in order in all of my busy-ness.

I am asking you to please prayerfully consider this op-

portunity. It is a great way, not only to serve our congregation, but to serve our Lord in a way that would be very fulfilling.

Please feel free to talk to me at church or give me a call at 507-380-3351.

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

Service Opportunity

Like to work behind the scenes? The Projection Team 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!

Spring Clean Up!

Everyone is invited to help out on Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 am—12:00 noon with spring clean up. This is a great way for confirmation students to earn service hours! Pizza will be served afterwards.



Financial Stewardship Fair

Sometimes a little information can help us make big progress toward our personal financial goals!

Zion's Finance and Stewardship Team invites you to a Financial Stewardship Fair on June 11, 10:15 a.m. to noon. This event will equip our members as good stewards of the gifts God provides. Our presenters will be community professionals with relevant expertise in financial matters. If you are interested, please RSVP on the chart in the Narthex, indicating the subjects that most interest you from the following choices: 1) Will Basics, 2) Estate Planning, 3) Charitable Giving, or 4) Investing Basics and Your Retirement.

The event will begin with brunch after worship. Participants will then be able to attend two brief workshops. We hope you will join us!

Caring Coins

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Caring Coins on April 9. A total of \$253.58 was collected and sent to Habitat for Humanity in Manakato. Thank you for your kindness in helping build affordable housing for our neighbors!

To date, your generous gifts toward Caring Coins have totaled \$1,127.87 in 2017. Thank you for these monetary gifts, as well for your continued generosity toward the Sharing Shelf.

During May, our Caring Coins will benefit the local GRACE Thrift Store. It's most likely that you've heard or read about the struggles this local business is experiencing at the present time. The most pressing need is funds to pay property taxes, which are much larger than they've been in the past, because of the loss of their non-profit status for local property taxes. (They are still considered a non-profit by the IRS, so your donation is still tax deductible.) Although GRACE was developed and has always functioned as a non-profit, this status was lost because of a change in the way Blue Earth County looked at their donation history and reporting. Adjustments are being made, but it will be two years before they can be requalified as non-profit. Until then, they are facing a much larger than expected tax bill. In addition, building repairs have been needed, further depleting their funds.

Our Caring Coins donation will be added to the generous support from the community they have already received and we are hopeful this will be enough to help get them through the next two years. There is another pressing need, which is volunteers to help sort, mark and price donations and existing stock. Volunteers can work as little or as much as they would like, be it weekly, monthly or occasionally. Please consider helping them in this way.

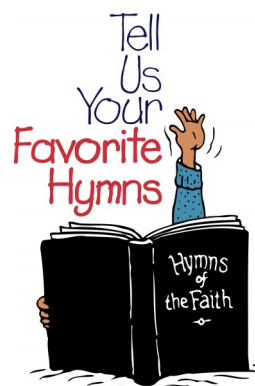
Prayer Chain Ministry

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in becoming part of our Prayer Chain Ministry. Mary will create an email group for those who prefer receiving the information in this manner. Several prefer a phone call and we will be asking one of you to initiate the phone calls within your group. Prayer is an important part of the ministry of Christians, both as individuals and as part of our faith community. If you would like to be part of this, please email Linda Isebrand at lindaisebrand@gmail.com.

A Summer of Favorites!

Our summer worship services will feature Zion's favorite hymns! You'll be invited to nominate your own favorites during worship services on May 7 and 14. You can also email nominations directly to the church office.

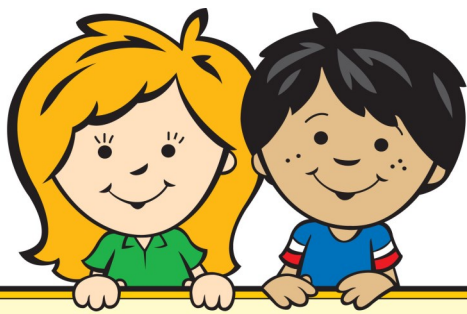
All submissions due by Sunday, May 28. Thanks!



As you are all winding down for the summer months, we take this time to give a few big "Thank You's" to our musical support groups that have blessed us with music at worship services. Thank you to the choir for leading all of the music. Thank you SonRise for the wonderful contemporary music each month. Thank you Sheldon Meyer and the Zion Brass ensemble !

Thanks to all of the Sunday School teachers and volunteers!

We'll be looking for you all again this fall!



KIDS PAGE



Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree — or give it as a Mother's Day gift.

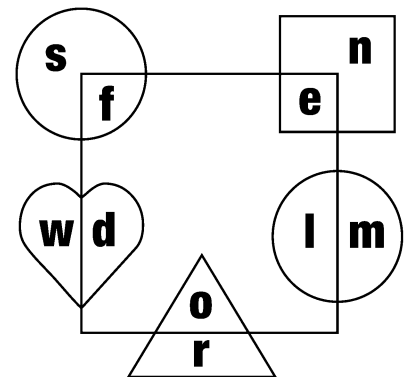


GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



"Consider how the wild

grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even

in all his splendor was

like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV

Answer: "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV

BIBLE QUIZ

Acts 17 describes Paul speaking about God to the people of Athens in front of — incredibly! — a site that still exists. What is that site?

- A. The Panathenaic Stadium
- B. The Areopagus
- C. The Acropolis and the Parthenon
- D. The Temple of Hephaestus

Answer: See Page 5



Income	March 2017	YTD	March 2016	Change (+/-)	A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.
Offerings	15,388.06	42,991.14	14,824.40	563.66	
Non-Benevolence	1,895.00	5,295.00	2,330.00	(435.00)	
Building Fund	6,823.00	12,643.15	5,717.60	1,105.40	
Memorial Fund	0.00	135.00	0.00	0.00	
Special Projects	972.16	1,859.29	1,441.10	(468.94)	
Scholarship Fund	0.00	10.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	
Total	25,078.22	62,933.58	26,313.10	(1,234.88)	

Ministry Expenses	March 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	8,954.52	11,096.60	(2,142.08)	28,771.70	33,289.81	(4,518.11)	
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	3,332.98	3,374.98	(42.00)	7,981.64	10,124.94	(2,143.30)	
Education, Mission, Related Costs	188.17	1,583.34	(1,395.17)	686.11	4,750.02	(4,063.91)	
Supplies	1,638.43	1,262.52	375.91	3,823.34	3,787.56	35.78	
Synod Mission Support	1,037.78	1,140.00	(102.22)	2,481.11	3,420.00	(938.89)	
Total	15,151.88	18,457.44	(3,305.56)	43,743.90	55,372.33	(11,628.43)	

Budget Cashflow	March 2017	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	(General Offerings & Non-Benev) "What is our net cashflow for the year for our ministry expenses?"
Income available	17,283.06	18,457.44	-1,174.38	48,286.14	55,372.32	-7,086.18	
Ministry Expenses	15,151.88	18,457.44	-3,305.56	43,743.90	55,372.33	-11,628.43	
Net (+/-)	2,131.18			4,542.24			

Building Fund	March 2017	YTD	"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Building Fund?"
Income	6,823.00	12,643.15	
Payments	(4,233.23)	(12,005.23)	
Interest	2.26	6.11	
Current Balance	10,668.23		

Balances	March 2017					
General Checking	1,256.68					
Memorial Fund	6,179.22					
Non-Benevolence	775.36					
Special Projects	1,603.61					
Choir	0.00					
Scholarship	6,186.88					
Line of Credit	9,100.00					
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	(475,484.78)					

	Attendance		Communion	
March	2016	2017	2016	2017
Week 1	115	143	107	111
Week 2	128	110		
Week 3	142	110	50	91
Week 4	316*	147	152*	

*Easter Sunday
2016

Zion Lutheran Church
**“To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words
and Actions”**
Council Meeting Minutes / March 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 (Kristi Grindstaff): Kristi shared a prayer
2. Approve Agenda (this would be the time to add items not listed that you would like included):
No Building and Grounds report; Remove 5.a. – covered under Reports; Remove 5.c. – covered under Reports; Add 6.d.: Renew Event, Pastor Andrea; Add 6.e.: Audit Guidelines, Doug Midthun
Motion to Approve: Linda Isebrand; Motion Seconded: Sue Gengler; Motion Passed
3. Thank-You Notes: Rod shared a thank you for a donation from Lutheran Social Services; Rod said thank you to those who provided food and worked at last Wednesday’s Lenten suppers
4. Reports (Consent Agenda Format):
Motion to Approve: Matt Christianson; Motion Seconded: Melanie Smith; Motion Passed
 - a. Pastor’s Report: Upcoming timelines: April newsletter deadline: Tuesday, March 21 noon; Lenten services: Wednesday Fellowship (5:30) and Worship (6:45) continue through April 5; Thursday, April 13: Maundy Thursday (6:45 worship); Friday, April 14: Good Friday (6:45 worship); Sunday, April 16: Easter Sunday (8:00 and 10:00 am worship, 9:00 brunch); March 26: New Member Sunday; April 24-30 (Monday through Sunday): Pastor away for CE and vacation. An updated schedule of 2017 newsletter due dates was shared. Pastor has started one-on-one meetings with all of this year’s officers and ministry team members to get better acquainted and to listen to their perspective on how things are going at Zion and in their area of ministry. Zion will host the monthly Minnesota River Conference on May 16, the meeting begins with coffee fellowship at 9:30 a.m., and lunch is served at 11:30 a.m.
 - b. Secretary’s Minutes: February 15, 2017
 - c. Statistical Reports: See written reports
 - d. Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team (*Doug Midthun, Matt Lantz, Gary Sandstrom):
New set of audit guidelines discussed and will be presented to the Council, see 7.e. A listing of duties and acknowledgement of all that Kari performs for Zion was shared. Discussion was held regarding legacy funding and how to approach potential donors. Envelope duties were discussed and Gary informed that Steve and his committee is taking care of envelopes. Will talk with Mary about inputting last Sunday in March giving right away so we can begin pledge to actual analysis.
 - e. Social ministry Team (Carol Dunker, *Linda Isebrand, Judy Meyer): Food for Friends will be served on April 18 at the Salvation Army. Funds received in March will be used to purchase the groceries, with carryover dollars used to supplement if necessary. Linda will purchase the food and all members of the team will prepare the meal at the Salvation Army location. Caring Coins for the ECHO Food

Congregational vitality survey results were shared with a comparison of the 2 year’s survey of Zion members. These details are in preparation for submitting the annual “parochial report” to the synod. The revised Constitution and Bylaws will be available for distribution soon, and will be submitted to the Synod for review/approval, and placed in the church office archives. Two of the amendments will be ratified at the January 2018 annual meeting, with another review and update after the ELCA amends the *Model Constitution for Congregations* in 2019. An update on Stewardship for all Seasons was shared, a Cohort meeting was held on March 6 that included the importance of sharing ‘outcome stories’ to continue inspiring and motivating current givers and to help invite non-givers to become more engaged in the financial life of the congregation. Information was shared on how to do a ‘special giving appeal’ for large projects outside of the budget and fall appeal process. See 7.d. for new members’ details. Prayer concerns were shared.

Shelf were received on March 12th, with donations of \$292.16. The next Caring Coins Sunday will be April 9, with monies collected sent to Habitat for Humanity. A total of \$894.29 has been collected for Caring Coins this year. Discussion on updating the Prayer Chain Ministry, discontinue the brochure and instead send a weekly email from the church office, which allows an update to members as needed. The general information from the brochure will be included in each week's message. Email is preferred, but members who do not have email will be contacted by phone. An insert will be included in the bulletin April 2 and 9; members can also send their contact information directly to Linda. Social Ministry and the ZLCW will collaborate in the support of REACH, a drop-in shelter for homeless youth supported by LSS. We selected either May 14 or June 11 as a date for a speaker from LSS to bring the message to our congregation. REACH will be our Caring Coins focus, depending on which Sunday is available to them. We will also consider using this month to collect other items needed by the shelter.

- f. Youth Ministry Team (Kris Anderson, Jennifer Fleming, *Susan Gengler): Susan Gengler will be the chairperson of the Youth Ministry Team and team members will alternate who attends the council meetings. Pastor Andrea discussed the bylaws of the Youth Ministry Team with the members. Team will be sponsoring a Book Fair on March 12 and 19, with the books focusing on titles for children aged 10 and under. The team will assist the confirmation students with the Lenten Supper on March 29. Jennifer Fleming will represent Zion by attending the VBS meeting on April 25 at First Presbyterian.
- g. Membership & Outreach Ministry Team (*Steve Marshall, Beth Paumen, Doug Winter): Discussion on contacting members that haven't attended church for a while. Still determining what the correct amount of time should be. Marsha Larson is willing to work with Doug, who has volunteered to knock on doors. He feels face-to-face is the best way to do it. He will also take/deliver envelopes at that time. Asking all Action Team leaders to contact members on their

teams who have not volunteered to do any task. So far, the Lenten Suppers have gone very well. There were around 125 people served on Ash Wed with the money going to the youth trip to St Louis. About 100 people were served on March 8, with funds going into the general fund. Discussed the best way to deliver the rest of the envelopes that haven't been picked up yet. Will go through the membership list.

- h. Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (Phil Bachman, Kristi Grindstaff, Karen Granger): Discussed the results of the action team survey that had been sent out to team leaders. The common issue was contacting people and getting responses back from emails or phone calls. It was decided to distribute a form to get current contact information at the April 9th service. The narthex committee seems to be progressing; good comments from the surveys were received. Need to work on written procedures for the head ushers so that they have clarification on their duties. Pastor Andrea will meet with them to start the process.
- i. Building & Grounds Ministry Team (Mike Bottin, *David Hoffer, Brett Streng): Working on lock in first stall in women's bathroom.
- j. Treasurer's Report: General Checking: \$964.23; Memorial Fund: \$6,177.24; Building Fund: \$10,666.44; Non-Benevolence: \$979.80; Special Projects: \$892.73; Available to Pay Bills and Payroll: \$15.57; Overdue Bills: \$578.96; Current Bills: \$3,128.68; Line of Credit: \$9,100.00.

*Ministry Team Chairperson

5. Ministry Team Reports

- a. Worship, Music and Adult Ed Ministry Team (none)
- b. Building & Grounds Ministry Team: see 4.i.
- c. Treasurer's Report (none)
- 6. Old Business
 - a. New Corporate Name for Zion: Zion Lutheran Church of Lake Crystal, Minnesota, The name is completed. Chris Kennedy, Attorney, is helping to get notices posted in the local paper about 'assumed name' and with county records to get the name changed on title records. There is a renewal date from the State of Minnesota every 2 years. Rod is working with Chris Kennedy to

change the name. The name contracts, but will be updated when renewed. This does not affect the Federal ID number. The name change will be made in the Constitution at the next Annual Meeting.

- b. Council Secretary Update: Rod proposed to Executive Council to use a temporary secretary from Council members, Linda Isebrand offered. Rod will continue working with Nominating Committee to fill this position. Motion to Approve: Executive Council to Council; Motion Seconded: Doug Midthun; Motion Passed
 - c. Zion's 125th Anniversary Progress: Steve Marshall reported on first meeting. Discussed setting a date or multiple dates for events in this coming year, will involve Council in decisions. Some suggestions: September or October pot-luck, catered dinner (paid by the church)/ consider selling tickets in order to get a head count, archive table for a month, ask former pastors to attend. Pastor Charles Christianson is willing to preach, Rod will contact Pastor Glen Taibl. Ask Bishop to preach (except Reformation Sunday). Consider creating a booklet of past 25 years. Steve Marshall and Diane Sandstrom will co-chair to begin the process.
 - d. Renew Event, Pastor Andrea: Beth Paumen, Rod Isebrand and Pastor Andrea attended. Focus was on having difficult conversations and training facilitators to have difficult conversations.
 - e. Audit Guidelines, Doug Midthun: Developed audit guidelines. Concern on Metro Sales bill, as it fluctuates with use of color copies. Special Projects funds go to General Fund then are disbursed for expenses; suggest opening a new, separate account. Rod will start this process at the bank. Council is asked to review the procedure/guidelines for approval at April meeting.
7. New Business
- a. Mary's Work Schedule: A request for job flexibility was shared; with slower work requirements in summer and many more events during fall and winter. Same number of hours overall, no increased cost, extra hours worked

will be added to PTO. Will start this summer and review this schedule change in the fall.

Motion to Approve: Executive Council to Council; Motion Seconded: Steve Marshall; Motion Passed

- b. Membership Team Action Team Concerns: Steve suggested Action Team leaders contact people who normally do not sign up to serve during the month in order to be involved. Better to be invitational rather than confrontational. Per Worship and Music Team, Pastor noted a survey of Action Teams and concern on not having current phone numbers or emails of all members. Steve reported on concerns on membership, envelopes and directories that have not been picked up. Doug Winters volunteered to contact these people in order to update membership list. A 10% discount is available if envelopes are ordered now, could save \$5.00 per envelope (31 have not been picked up); will not place an order at this time.
- c. Approval of New Members: March 26, per Pastor's Report: Motion to approve applications for confirmed membership as new members: Jim and Jean Johnson; April and Chris Neal, Mya, Paige and Casen; and Kristee Richards, Carter, Jack and Lucy; and Jordan Ziegler and Jennifer Friday as reactivated and new members: Pastor Andrea; Motion Seconded: Doug Midthun; Motion Passed

Adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Mary Hutchens

Growing in Faith is Fun!

Some of our younger Sunday School students were recently asked, "What is your favorite part of Sunday School?" Here are a few of their answers:

- * "Bells & singing" - Callie Mueller
- * "Coloring" - Andrew Isebrand
- * "Cookies" - Payton Lowis
- * "Ummmm ... I don't know.... I guess I like all of it." - Jasmine Fleming
- * "Playing the bells" - Aaron Isebrand
- * "Putting the words in the blanks of the lesson." - Julia Streng



THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



LEADING TOGETHER: WHAT IS IT?

By Rev. Emily Carson carson@semnsynod.org

The people of Juba, South Sudan will have access to health care because of your generosity! In 2016, the people of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod contributed nearly \$66,000 to the new Lutheran Center which is home to a community center, worship space, and clinic. This work was accomplished by financial gifts made through Leading Together, the synod fund that individuals and congregations give to in order to contribute directly to the developing of leaders, equipping of congregations, and accompanying of global partners.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is transforming lives in South Sudan, Colombia, Tanzania and right here in southeastern Minnesota. The ministry of the synod is accomplished through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the generosity of our 174 congregations and 121,000 members.

There are two primary ways the ministry of the synod is funded: mission support (dollars from congregations) & Leading Together (dollars from either individuals or congregations). One way your congregation makes financial contributions to the synod is through something called mission support. The leadership of each congregation discerns together what dollar amount they feel called to share with the synod. These dollars are very impactful because together as the 4 million members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we do so much more than we can do alone!

Congregations contribute their mission support dollars according to whatever schedule is most convenient for them: monthly, quarterly, or annually. Approximately 48% of the mission support dollars that come to the synod go directly to support the ministries funded through the churchwide expression of our denomination, the ELCA. These dollars support important work nationally and abroad! The portion of mission support that stays within the synod supports all the core aspects

of our functioning including (but not limited to) call process, candidacy, rostered minister support, and faith formation.

Recognizing the need to build sustainable and expanding revenue streams in order to increase our impact, the leadership of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod felt compelled to explore new ways to empower individuals and congregations to give! Leading Together is the synod fund that individuals and congregations can give to in order to contribute directly to the developing of leaders, equipping of congregations, and accompanying of our global partners. 100% of these dollars go toward supporting specific initiatives identified by the synod. The people of the synod are generous! Leading Together provides another avenue for people to express that generosity.

In 2017, Leading Together dollars will be directed toward three main areas: (1) identifying 35 new candidates for ministry over the next three years, (2) equipping congregations including the launching of the Small Church Vitality Project to empower the synod's smaller congregations, and (3) supporting Rev. Wal Reat, ELCA Missionary to South Sudan. More details about this year's focus areas are available online at <http://semnsynod.org/leading-together>.

Thank you for your congregational or individual financial gifts in support of God's work through the Southeastern Minnesota Synod! Mission support dollars and Leading Together dollars are a crucial way we collectively respond to the Spirit's call in this time and place. To learn more, email Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Pete Reuss (reuss@semnsynod.org), visit <http://semnsynod.org/leading-together>, or call 507-280-9457. PS: The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly offering dollars on May 6-7 will be directed toward Leading Together in support of identifying 35 new candidates for ministry. Bishop Delzer encourages all congregations to take up a special offering to send along with voting members to this year's assembly.

Zion Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

The office is closed on Friday.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

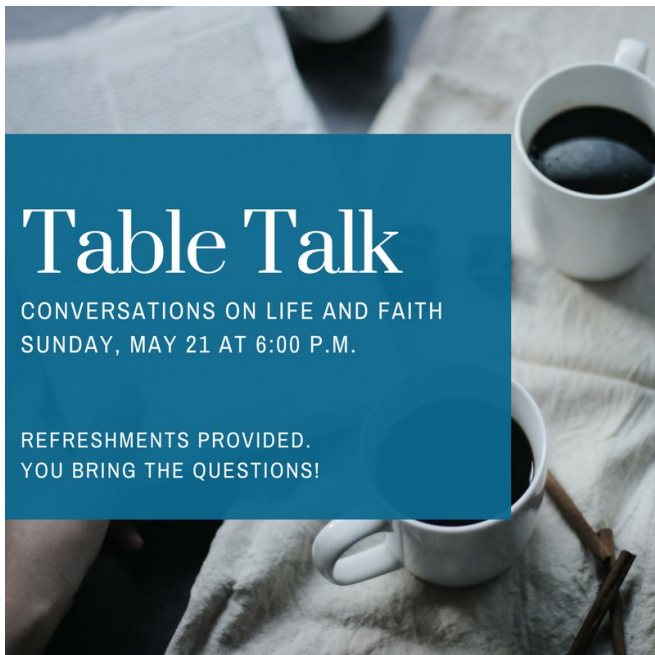


Table Talk

CONVERSATIONS ON LIFE AND FAITH
SUNDAY, MAY 21 AT 6:00 P.M.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.
YOU BRING THE QUESTIONS!

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

Did you miss the Sunday
service?

Sunday worship services
replay on Channels 7 and
10 on Wednesday morn-
ings 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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