

Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER



December

2016

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 11

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

2017 Leadership Nominations

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

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

Celebrate Christmas With Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 18:

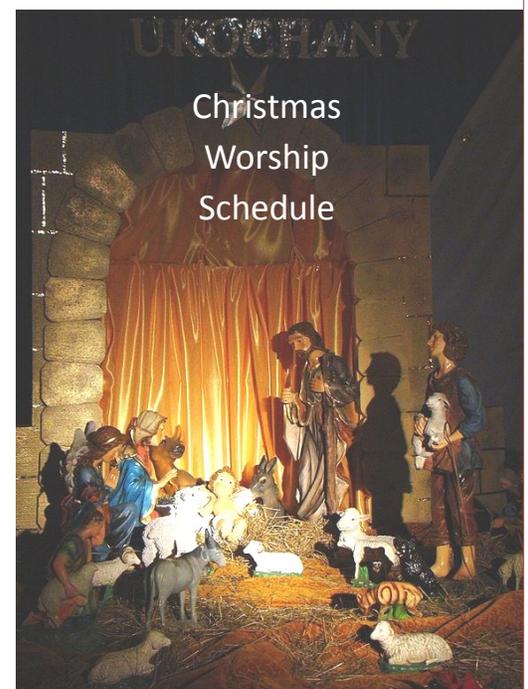
Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:45 a.m.

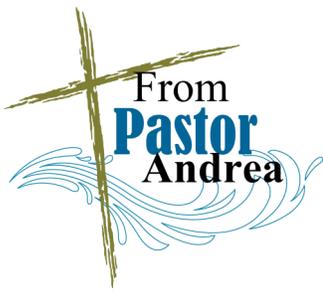
Saturday, December 24:

Manger Service: 5:00 p.m.
Traditional carols and readings, with special music from the Adult Choir.
Candlelight Contemporary Service with Communion: 10:00 p.m.
Contemporary music and carols with SonRise and a candlelit Silent Night

Sunday, December 25:

Christmas Day Service of Lessons & Carols: 10:00 a.m. (special time)
Sing all the traditional carols and hear how scripture's promises have been fulfilled in the Christ child!!





The month of December ushers in a busy season of Christmas parties and family gathering. This year, it's safe to say that alongside the usual themes of catching up on children and grandchildren, jobs, and retirements, talk will turn to current events, the state of policies, and our hopes (or fears) about the future.

I confess that there have been times (including this year) that my family has formally declared the topic of politics as “off limits” at family gatherings. As much as we love one another, talk about taxes, unions, and policies brings out the worst in us, instead of the best.

What if, instead of treating certain topics as “off limits,” we used the relative safety of family gatherings as a place to practice the lost art of “civil discourse”? What if we modeled, in our actions, that it is possible to disagree with one another while also speaking to and about them with respect and fairness?

What if we embraced this as a central element of our Christian witness?

Ed Stetzer, the executive director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism, recently wrote, “For the sake of the Kingdom of God and the good of the world, Christians are called to lovingly engage people as Jesus did.” He then provided these simple and practical suggestions, rooted in the scriptures, for how we might enter into that loving engagement:

1. Practice the golden rule.

“Whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them.” (Matthew 7:12)

It's unfortunate that one of the most practical and powerful teachings in Scripture is often too quickly said and too rarely practiced. When love for neighbor is genuine and deeply felt, it changes not only what we feel for others, but also how we treat others.

What if we looked at those we disagree with through the eyes called to bear burdens, to be

concerned for them more than ourselves?

Don't we want to be understood? Don't we want our positions honestly considered? Too often we think of others' views in the worst way and demand others take our views in the best way. That's hypocrisy. Without love, we are just “clanging cymbals” (1 Corinthians 13:1). Love is the fuel for disagreeing without being disagreeable. Love elevates our dialogue and seeks the greatest good.

2. Be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.

This may be one of the best ways to explain what the golden rule looks like in an actual conversation, and it comes from the epistle of James 1:19. As we engage with those who have different views, we should focus on listening. Too often, we engage by preparing our responses while others are still laying out their case. We can do better by listening well. It not only makes us respond better, but it shows respect.

Good listening leads to good understanding, and good understanding leads to good and accurate responses. When others do respond, we should refuse to get easily angered and offended. We take the words of others in the best way possible and focus on the discourse.

The power of our words, for good or harm, is also reflected in Martin Luther's explanation to the 8th commandment in the Small Catechism:

“We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”

It is my earnest hope that as we gather to celebrate Christmas this year, our words and the way we engage conversations will be a loving witness. As we praise the one born to be the Light of the World, may we let our own light shine, so that, “They will know we are Christians by our love.”

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Andrea

Zion Lutheran Church

December 1:

Martha Circle Luncheon at Crystal Seasons

December 7:

-Ruth Circle meets 6:30 pm

-Rebecca Circle meets 7:00 pm

Hostess: Judy Meyer

Bible Study: Karen Myers

-Miriam Circle meets 7:00 pm

Hostess: Barb Feder

Bible Study: Joyce Roberts

December 20: (note new date)

Bible Study for Leaders 6:30 pm



Thank you to those who attended the ZLCW's Annual/Thank Offering meeting and to those who prepared the food. The format, which included brunch rather than a program, seemed to work well for the 23 women who attended. Thank you to Kay Carlson and Kathy Lewis for planning the event!

Reports were received from the officers, Tri-Mission, Luther Memorial Home Auxiliary and each of the circles. Officers elected for 2017 include Nikki Lewis, president; Joyce Roberts, president-elect; Linda Isebrand, secretary; Mary Williams, treasurer; Kay Carlson and Diane Sandstrom, Tri-Mission; Janette Abraham, Linda Isebrand and Joyce Johnson, LHM representatives; and Jamie Christianson and Kathy Lewis, Nominating Committee. We also approved the 2017 budget and revisions to our constitution. All board members, along with circle chairs, should have a copy of the new constitution. If any other ZLCW members would like a copy of their own, please contact Mary in the office.

Thank you to Jamie and Kathy for your service to the ZLCW, as well as to Diane Sandstrom for agreeing to join the board. We are still in need of a vice president for 2017 and are hopeful that someone will prayerfully consider this opportunity and come forward. The work is easy and fun, and the time commitment is minimal, perhaps 1-2 hours each month.

The board will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be January 17, 2017. Thank you to everyone for the faithful work completed in 2016.



Zion is seeking funds for the purchase of Christmas Poinsettias. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to Zion and put "Poinsettia" in the memo line.

Thank you!



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!

December

4 & 11 Christmas Program Practice

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

25- Christmas Break No Class

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

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

January

1 Christmas break -no class

8 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "Love each other as God loves you." "Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you." John 14:27

15 Regular Class

Bible Verse: Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you." John 14:27

22 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31.

29 Regular Class

Bible Verse: "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 4:26.

Sunday School Christmas Program:

The Sunday School Christmas program will be held during the church service on Sunday, December 18th at 10:45 a.m. **STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE 20 minutes before the program and meet in the Social Hall.**

The Sunday School Program this year is called, The Christmas Window. (Adapted from "A Christmas Window" at <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/dovecot/Pages/ChristmasIdeas.htm>) and takes a deeper look into the meaning of Christmas and what Christmas means to us as followers of Christ. It is filled with songs, Bible readings and a great Christmas message!



Save the Date and Get Recharged!

Attention parents, Sunday School teachers and anyone who loves the kids of Zion!

You're invited to RECHARGE, a 1-day conference designed to inspire and equip church volunteers and leaders doing ministry with children and youth.

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

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

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



Happy Anniversary to
Gary & Kelly Karels,
celebrating their December anniversary!

ATTENTION!

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



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

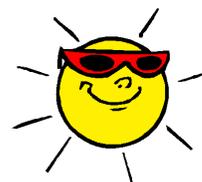
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Barbara Anderson | Chloe Lantz |
| Leah Anderson | Cheryl Lantz |
| Lohr Anderson | Gus Larson |
| Blane Anderson | Heather Lee |
| Karl Anderson | Todd Manke |
| Dorothy Barnick | Richard McDonald |
| Lorrin Beecher | Lynda Menne |
| Nickolaus Beinke | Lorraine Miller |
| Corey Burnett | Beth Paumen |
| Ben Copeland | Brooke Pockrandt |
| Anna Feder | Rachel Sandstrom |
| Theresa Glaubitz | Misty Hutchens |
| Kelle Goeringer | Brianna Sittig |
| Carter Greenough | Tim Smith |
| Denise Hagge | Brad Snow |
| Jim Halvorson | Julia Strenge |
| Justin Hruby | Rhonda Teigen |
| Todd Jacoby | Patricia Thompson |
| Roger Jones | Brayden Thompson |
| Jaci Jordan | Dean Tibbetts |
| Gavin Knutson-Icks | Sheryl Utter |
| Cole Kottke | Larry Walters |
| Noah Lantz | Jennifer Zumwalt |



Thank you to our Action Team 7 Leaders Rod & Linda Isebrand for assembling the November worship teams!

January Newsletter Deadline

The January newsletter due date is **Thursday, December 22 at noon**. Please turn your information in before this deadline! Earlier is great! Ministry Teams, we would love to hear what you are working on.



Snow Birds: Please let the office know what dates you expect to depart and return this winter as you head south to the warm country!

Doing so will insure you continue to receive all Zion information and newsletters! Thanks!

zion youth news

Serving St. Louis
June 24-30, 2017

Summer Mission Trip Update

We've got a great group of **eleven** youth signed up to be a part of this trip:

Kendall Anderson (9), Taylor Antony (12), Cally Burnett (8), Cassie Carlson (9), Alexis Cloyd (8), Emilee Cloyd (9), Clara Gilman (10), Reese Goeringer (9), Adrian Schmalzriedt (9), Kaitlyn Stromswold (9), and Abby Teigen (9).

Yep - that's ALL girls!

Our Adult Leaders will be: Pastor Andrea Myers, Michele Langer, and Kelle Goeringer.

Stay tuned for information about upcoming fundraising events! Your financial support is welcome at any time - simply make a gift to the Zion Youth Fund and mark it, "St. Louis."



Zion students in Christ Chapel at Gustavus Adolphus for Winter Warm-Up

Winter Warm-Up Recap!

Zion Confirmation Students were inspired to stand up and speak out for others during this year's Winter Warm-Up on November 16. The event them was focused on Proverbs 31:8-9: *Speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers. Speak out for justice! Stand up for the poor and destitute!* The night featured three speakers:

Pastor Salim Kaderbhai described what it's like to live in Minnesota as an immigrant, former Muslim, black man. He shared with the youth some of the hurtful things his young children have heard from other students in school in recent months. Reminding the youth that their words have power, he urged them to picture his sons when they speak out against prejudice and religious discrimination.

Mr. Jamie Nabozny shared his personal story and how he was beaten and harassed in middle school because he was gay. Jamie later won a Landmark Lawsuit in Federal court that establishes that all young people including those who are LGBT deserve a safe educational experience. Today, Jamie and his spouse Bo are adoptive parent to two Hispanic boys. He shared his concern for them in the current political climate. Describing the courage it took to stand up and fight his court battle, he urged the students to take courage and stand up for others.

Finally, **Rozella White** gave an energetic and inspiring talk that introduced the students to the idea of "intersectionality." Rozella describes herself as black, Puerto-Rican, female, and Christian. Living at the intersection of these identities, she recognizes the power of her voice to speak to and speak up for those of different minority groups. She also sees speaking up for others as an essential part of her life as a Christian. She closed the night by inviting our students stand up and led them in declaring:

I will stand up!

I will speak out!

I will love others!

I will live like Jesus!

A Word from the President

Stewardship for the World

I wanted to share with you the big picture that revolves around our stewardship fund appeal.

Last year, Zion Lutheran gave approximately \$14,000.00 to our SE MN Synod which is equivalent to 9% of our offerings that go towards our general budget. In addition to our Mission Support to the SE MN Synod, Zion also contributed \$4,000.00 total to Green Lake Bible Camp, Good Earth Village, Lutheran Social Service and Lutheran Campus Ministry-Crossroads-MSU. We all can be proud of these additional monies that we give to help support these very important ministries.

Our Mission Support that is given to the SE MN Synod is just a small portion of the ELCA's overall budget. Worldwide, ELCA members gave \$1.75 billion in unrestricted offerings to support God's mission and ministry in the 2015 calendar year. \$47.1 million went for responding to local and worldwide ministry opportunities. \$50.8 million was stewarded by the ELCA's 65 synods and \$1.65 billion was used by the 9,300 ELCA congregations to support their work and ministries in their communities. You can see that the dollars that Zion gives is a very small proportion of the total dollars used to maintain all of these programs for local, national and worldwide ministries. Collectively, the total dollars contributed add up to substantial amounts that can be used for some major projects.

Zion's Council is challenging our members to step up your financial support to help expand some of our ministries. During this fund appeal, I would ask all of you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving level to help reach our goals which will reach out to not only our members, but to people all over the world to help spread the Good News!

One in Christ,
May God's peace be with you all,

Rod Isebrand
President

A Special Invitation from Pastor Andrea

Ronald and I invite you to our home for a come and go open house. Come see our home decorated for Christmas and meet members from Epiphany Lutheran in Eagle Lake. We hope to see you there!

Sunday, December 11
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
902 Lakeview Court
Lake Crystal

Team 9 **Leaders:**

December:
Joyce Roberts
Steve & Judy Marshall



Team Members:

Brent & Susan Anderson	Jessica Jones
Joe Atkinson	Herb Kraus
Brenda & Warner Beckmann	Gail Larson
Crystill & David Boomgarden	Patty & David Lee
Jim Brockner	Karen Myers & Doug Midthun
Chelsea & Ben Copeland	Christine & Craig Nelson
Laura & Edward Erickson	Gail & John Peterson
Theresa Glaubitz	Rachel Sandstrom
Darlene & Jim Halvorson	Stacy & Jeff Saucier
Nancy Hanson	Norm Sieling
David Hoffer	Dorene & Jay Spencer
Lisa & Todd Jacoby	Victoria Thorson
	Elisabeth & Andy Teigen
	Sara & Larry Walters

Caring Coins

The Social Ministry Team has designated the Lake Crystal Ministerial Association as the recipient of December's Caring Coins collection, scheduled for Sunday, December 11. The member churches of the Ministerial Association are Abundant Life Christian, Cornerstone United Methodist, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Holy Family Catholic, Our Savior's [Butternut] and Zion Lutheran. Ministerial funds are most commonly used to provide limited emergency support in the form of vouchers that can be used for gas or groceries. Vouchers are approved and distributed by the pastors to local residents and travelers. The Ministerial Association also helps organize the community VBS program and LCWM's Baccalaureate Service in May. As usual, checks can be made to Zion, with 'Ministerial Association' written in the memo line. Thank you for your donation.

Social Ministry News

The Social Ministry would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously for Operation Christmas Child, both during our October Caring Coins collection and in the weeks since. We collected a total of \$663.35 in donations. The additional \$250 dollars from Thrivent allowed us to purchase enough items to fill 54 boxes. An additional nine boxes were brought by some of our families, so a total of 63 boxes were delivered to the drop-off site on Wednesday, November 16. We had initially reserved \$350 dollars to cover the shipping costs of 50 boxes, but received enough in donations to cover the extra 13 boxes. Thank you to Sandy Friday for assisting with the shopping, and thanks to all of you for your generosity in supporting this mission to brighten the life of a child somewhere in the world!



Recycle Your Lights!

Do you have old or non-working Christmas lights? Don't toss them into the garbage! Instead, bring them to church and place them in the tote that will be available for that purpose beginning November 27. The tote will be emptied on a regular basis with all donations taken to MRCI in Mankato where they provide work for workers with disabilities. The tote will be available until January 15.



Sharing Shelf

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

Needs for December include: tuna, peanut butter, sugar, flour, oil, jam/jelly and Mac-n-cheese.

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



ELCA Good Gifts:

A Simpler Way to Give

What gift can you get for the person who has “everything”? How about some bees, a stove, or a goat?

These are just a few of the fun gifts you can purchase through the “Good Gifts” program of ELCA World Hunger. Honor teachers, friends, your pastor, or relatives with a gift that doesn’t have to be dusted, but instead provides sustainable help for a family in need. Those bees will not only pollinate crops, the beeswax can be transformed into soap and candles to create a small, sustainable business. That energy-efficient cook stove will save the time and labor of collecting firewood, as well as protect vital natural resources. That goat will provide nutrition for children and their families, and as their offspring are shared with other families goats can rapidly transform a community.

To browse for these and other Good Gifts (for as little as \$10), visit www.elca.org/goodgifts

The gift may be hard to wrap ... but it will do a world of good!

Practicing Random Kindness

Back in 1993, Random Acts of Kindness went viral. It seems the world was ripe for a little bit of kindness. There were lots of scary things happening or being discussed: Branch Davidians, floods, the Rodney King trial, wildfires, Lorena Bobbit, the first World Trade Center bombing, Arthur Ashe dying of AIDS, River Phoenix's overdose, Don't Ask/Don't Tell went into effect, and Y2K is mentioned for the first time. Into these challenging times comes an idea originally scrawled on a placemat: *Practice Random Acts of Kindness and Senseless Beauty*. That idea took off and people began finding ways to improve the lives of others with whom the crossed paths: paying tolls, buying coffees, holding doors and simply smiling!

Kindness is a virtue. Colossians 3:12 reminds us that "You are the people of God; He loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, KINDNESS, humility, gentleness, and patience" (GNT). What would change in your environment if everyone around you practiced random acts of kindness? As one of the qualities of those who follow Christ, it is a faith practice.

Source: Julie Klock, a member of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod's Faith Formation Network

Plan Ahead:

New Year's Day Worship
Sunday, January 1
9:00 a.m.



Christmas in Christ Chapel 2016

Ubuntu, Jesu: From the Cradle of Humankind to the Ends of the Earth

December 2 at 7:30 p.m.

December 3 and 4 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Christ Chapel

The African notion of “Ubuntu” affirms that a person is a person through other people, or “I am because we are”.

To proclaim “Ubuntu, Jesu” links the nativity narrative to all of life, with the “Cradle of Humankind” as both the birthplace of humanity in Africa and the manger of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Tickets for the Christmas in Christ Chapel service (\$30) and for the traditional Christmas Buffet (\$25) are now available. You may also reserve tickets online at gustavustickets.com or by phone (507-933-7520). Credit card payment is required for phone and online orders. Tickets are non-refundable.

Watch the Live Stream

Saturday, December 3: Coverage starts at 7:15 p.m. More than 1,100 attend each of the five services at a Christ Chapel. In 2014 and 2015 over 5,000 people viewed the worship service via live stream.

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 the church voicemail greeting.



Know a College Student Who Loves Like Jesus?

The first applications are arriving for Good Earth Village 2017 summer camp counseling staff. This unique community of young people take on a gigantic mission each summer. They look after, teach, grow with, feed, and inspire youth with faith and servant hearts. From the tedium of teeth-brushing to the glory of Capture-the-Flag, camp staff create open space for all campers to thrive. Campers play fun games that make the words of God come alive, and sing sacred songs around a campfire. All of this is possible, because thirty five college-age summer staff sign up for modest pay and rustic living to take part in this wonderful mission. Good Earth Village is scouring Southeastern Minnesota for those excellent leaders. Have you seen some in your community? Send them to:

goodearthvillage.org/employment or contact Ben (507) 346-2494, ben@goodearthvillage.org

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries is also hiring! Visit www.gllm.org to learn more, or call 320-796-2181.

This is Most Certainly True? There's an App for That!

Did you know that you can download Martin Luther's Small Catechism in a free and easy-to-use app? It's been a perfect fit for our confirmation students as they've been studying the catechism this year.

It's also perfect for anyone who wants easy access to Martin Luther's guide to the basics of Christian faith for personal devotions or study.

Luther's Small Catechism from Augsburg Fortress is available from the Apple iOS App Store and on Google Play. Content from the Study Edition is also available as an in-app purchase.





THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA
SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



A Transcript of the Post-Election Video Message of Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

We had an election on Tuesday. Many of us woke up the next day with a sense of joy. Many of us woke up the next day with a sense of sorrow. After this long and divisive campaign, many of us woke up feeling weary. But we all woke up in the same country.

No human candidate can guarantee our life or our future. That is work that God has done through the death and resurrection of Jesus. And in baptism we are joined to Christ in that same death and resurrection.

So what do we do, dear church? Three things.

Remember that all human beings are created in the image of God. Even the ones who didn't vote for your candidate.

Pray: for our country, for those elected, for understanding.

And then we get back to work doing the things the church has always done. Welcome the stranger. Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Visit the sick and those in prison. Work for justice and peace in all the earth.

All in the name of the one who is our hope, our life, and our peace. Jesus, who has set us free to serve the neighbor.

A Message from Rev. Steven Delzer, Bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

It seems that the election on Tuesday pointed out the reality that our nation is more divided than many thought. As I've reflected on how to respond, the words that come to mind for me are from a hymn (ELW 720) we sang in the closing worship of our The-

ological Conference:

Verse 1:

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain:

*We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

Verse 2:

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and blindness will be no more.

(Refrain)

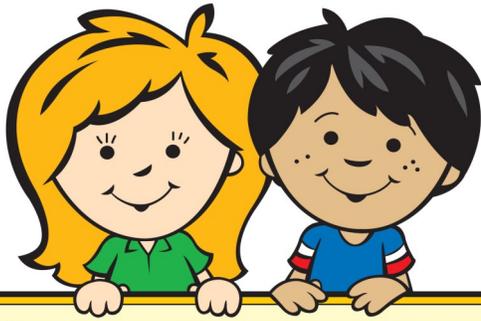
Verse 3:

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.

(Refrain)

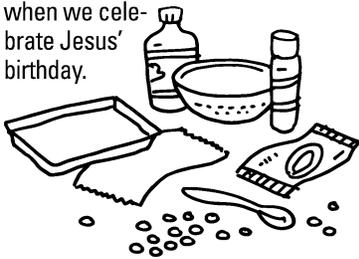
In the days ahead, may we continue to declare the good news of God's love and care for all people as seen in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Light of the World. And trusting in the leading of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to pray: "God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen" (Prayer 285 from ELW Pastoral Care).



KIDS PAGE

birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

What you do:

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.

PUZZLE

The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition. What very special gift has God given to you?

Directions: Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.

Puzzle pieces include:

- life in
- but the
- our Lord.
- Romans 6:23, NIV
- gift of God
- For the
- of sin is
- Christ Jesus
- is eternal
- wages
- death,

Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

BIBLE QUIZ

How many wise men followed a star to Bethlehem to worship Jesus?

- A. two
- B. three
- C. four
- D. We don't know because the Bible doesn't say.

Answer: See Page 15



Report for: October 2016

Income	October 2016	YTD	Oct 2015	Change (+/-)	
Offerings	13,571.86	121,380.49	10,128.04	3,443.82	A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.
Non-Benevolence	1,265.00	20,137.13	1,550.00	(285.00)	
Building Fund	5,199.09	40,031.04	5,073.00	126.09	
Memorial Fund	0.00	280.00	30.00	(30.00)	
Special Projects	614.57	4,199.02	301.42	313.15	
Scholarship Fund	725.00	4,495.00	140.00	585.00	
Total	21,375.52	190,522.68	17,222.46	4,153.06	

Ministry Expenses	October 2016	Monthly Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	
Salaries and Related Costs	9,756.64	10,709.33	(952.69)	95,804.76	107,093.33	(11,288.57)	"How do our ministry expenses compare to what we planned for in the budget?"
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	1,223.08	2,641.67	(1,418.59)	21,777.35	26,416.66	(4,639.31)	
Education, Mission, Related Costs	530.07	1,250.00	(719.93)	6,820.31	12,500.00	(5,679.69)	
Supplies	1,215.57	1,245.83	(30.26)	11,549.91	12,458.34	(908.43)	
Synod Mission Support	0.00	1,042.50	(1,042.50)	8,645.12	10,425.00	(1,779.88)	
Total	12,725.36	16,889.33	(4,163.97)	144,597.45	168,893.33	(24,295.88)	

Budget Cashflow	October 2016	YTD	
Income available	14,836.86	141,517.62	(General Offerings & Non-Benevolence)
Ministry Expenses	12,725.36	144,597.45	"What is our net cashflow for the year for our ministry expenses?"
Net (+/-)	2,111.50	-3,079.83	

Building Fund	October 2016	YTD	
Income	5,199.09	40,031.04	"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Building Fund?"
Payments	(3,891.00)	(41,480.10)	
Interest	2.12	20.73	
Current Balance	13,264.81		

Balances	October 2016	Attendance		Communion		
		October	2015	2016	2015	2016
General Checking	1,199.28					
Memorial Fund	6,029.20					
Non-Benevolence	214.22					
Special Projects	1,425.19					
Choir	28.83					
Scholarship	6,146.78					
Line of Credit	9,100.00					
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	(484,831.53)					
		Week 1	158	144	115	110
		Week 2	159	129		
		Week 3	108	135	82	119
		Week 4	148	162		
		Week 5	N/A	179		133

Zion Lutheran Church Council 2016

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

Matt Christianson, Vice President: Executive, Social and Youth

Mary Hutchens, Secretary: Executive, Membership

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

Dave Hoffer: Building and Grounds

Doug Midthun: Finance and Stewardship

Kathy Fleming: Membership and Outreach

Linda Isebrand: Social Ministry

Sheldon Meyer: Music & Adult Education

Becky Sittig: Youth

Zion Lutheran Church “To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words and Actions” October 19, 2016

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

GUEST: Beth Paumen, Steve Marshall, Gary Sandstrom.

1. Opening Devotions: Matt Christianson opened with a reading and prayer.
2. Approve Agenda: Rod clarified agenda with changes. Motion to Approve: Linda Isebrand; Motion Seconded: Matt Christianson; Motion Passed
3. Thank-You Notes? Linda Isebrand has blank cards with a picture of the church that can be used as thank-you notes. Need envelopes. See Mary Gilman if you would like to use one of these cards.
4. Reports (Consent Agenda Format): Motion to Approve: Pastor Andrea; Motion Seconded: Linda Isebrand; Motion Passed
 - a. Pastor's Report: Barb Feder, Janette Abraham, Linda Isebrand, Marsha Larson and Phil Bachman served lunch at Crossroads on October 18. Rod clarified about tempered or plain glass to cover the table in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Dave Hoffer / Steve Hennager for the repair work. Prayer concern, per Rod Isebrand, former painting partner. November newsletter deadline is Thursday, October 20 at noon; 3rd Grade Bi-

ble distribution on October 30; classes with students & parents will be October 30, November 6 and 13.

- b. Secretary's Minutes: September 21, 2016
- c. Statistical Reports: see handouts
- d. Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team (*Doug Midthun, Matt Lantz, Gary Sandstrom): Gary reported no meeting.
- e. Social Ministry Team (Dawn Hartman, Carol Dunker, *Linda Isebrand): Linda reported the October Caring Coins donation for Operation Christmas Child totaled \$299.57 + carryover of \$27.78; plans made for shopping and packing boxes, to be delivered about November 15; Food for Friends was served on October 8 to 79 persons, with help of new volunteers, including young people – food was prepared by the Social Ministry; Linda will contact Jody Maurer regarding the update to the Prayer Chain Ministry.
- f. Youth Ministry Team (*Becky Sittig, Kristy Schultz, Jennifer Fleming): Looking to do Feed My Starving Children at Hosanna on November 11 or 12; may participate in coed sports with other churches; working on Christmas program ideas; still looking for help with Sunday School.
- g. Membership & Outreach Ministry Team (Beth Paumen, *Kathy Fleming, Steve Marshall): Steve reported on review of proof of directory and response will be sent to Life Touch.
- h. Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (*Sheldon Meyer, Phil Bachman, Kristi Grindstaff): Discussion held on how Zion is reaching out to community; musical prayer-response 'O God, We Call' is very meaningful; Narthex Design task force members are Barb Feder, Joyce Roberts, Karen Granger, Cindy Jacques, Linda Isebrand, Sandy Friday, Steve & Judy Marshall, Pastor Andrea Myers and the Worship and Music Committee who have created a 3-parts list of responsibilities: structure, responsibilities and general priorities; continuing to educate camera team; will be sponsoring a Reformation 500 bookstore on October 9 & 16; discussion on possible activities celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.
- i. Building & Grounds Ministry Team (Brett Streng, *David Hoffer, Mike Bottin): Dave reported on work to fix water fountain, with Steve Hennager; getting quotes for glass top on table in Fellowship Hall; installing gutters on west side and adding fill to slope away from church;

working on elevator issue.

*Ministry Team Chairperson

5. Old Business

- a. Stewardship for All Seasons Update: Temple talks (and information shared about the Appeal) will be held on Sunday, October 30, November 6 and 13. Council members will be asked to share their statement of intent at the Council meeting prior to Sunday, November 20, to serve as role models for the congregation.
- b. Constitution Review Update: Linda reported on proofing of Constitution. Reviewing by-laws and incorporating them after voting. Revised Constitution needs to be received by Council 60 days prior to Annual Meeting and the congregation notified electronically prior to the Annual Meeting in January.

6. New Business

- a. Zion's 125th Anniversary 2017 (Need Committee): Volunteers will plan 2 or 3 events throughout the year; discussion again in January.
- b. 2017 Portico Health Benefits Recommendation: Need recommendation of plan by end of October. In the past, Zion used the Gold Plan or equivalent to this plan. Motion to Approve to stay with Gold category: Jim Halvorson; Motion Seconded: Dave Hoffer; Motion Passed
- c. Worship Attendance Trends: Pastor shared a comparison chart of attendance for 2014, 2015 and 2016; discussion was held about society changes that affect Sunday morning attendance.
- d. Narthex Design Project: Team members working under Worship and Music Team. Purchases will hopefully be paid through the budget as funds become available. Donations will be accepted for the project, not accepting individual purchases. All requests for purchases will be presented to the Council before buying. Motion to nominate the following members: Barb Feder, Joyce Roberts, Karen Granger, Cindy Jacques, Linda Isebrand, Sandy Friday, Steve & Judy Marshall, Pastor Andrea Myers and Worship and Music Committee: Sheldon Meyer; Motion Seconded: Pastor Andrea, Motion Passed. A list of priorities was shared. Motion to Approve Priorities: Linda Isebrand; Motion Seconded: Sheldon Meyer, Motion Passed.
- e. End of Year "to do" (Budget Planning & Annual Reports): Budget meeting will be held on November 9, include Executive Council and Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team. Rod shared a copy of the 2016 budgets to be reviewed at individual Team meetings. A list of expenses through October will be shared

with the Team leaders. Give suggestions of Team budgets at the November 16 meeting.

- * Reports for Annual meeting are due by January 10, earlier would be better.
 - * Personnel reviews to be completed by Executive Committee in November. Nominating Committee meeting will be called soon.
7. Treasurer's Report: General Checking: \$511.67; Memorial Fund: \$6,028.18; Building Fund: \$10,240.75; Non-Benevolence: \$99.01; Special Projects: \$1,324.98; Available to Pay Bills and Payroll: \$610.68; Overdue Bills: 0; Current Bills: \$2,842.22; Line of Credit: \$9,100.00.
8. Adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Mary Hutchens

November:
Baptism
Croy Charles Friday



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!

Bible Quiz Answer: D (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

Zion Lutheran Church

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Presort STD
US Postage
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zioninfo@zionluthlakecrystal.org

pastor@zionluthlakecrystal.org
zionluthlakecrystal.org

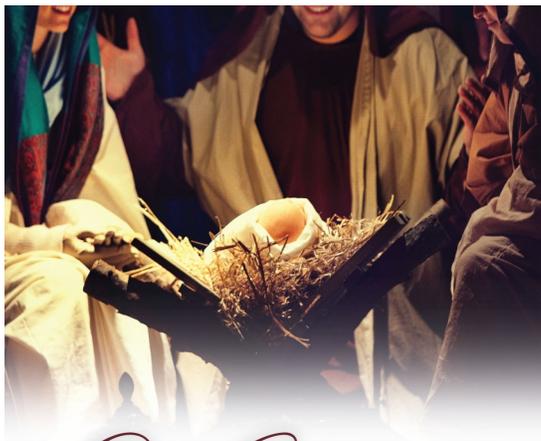
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

The office is closed on Friday.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



O Come
**Let Us
Adore Him**

Sunday Morning

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

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

Our Mission Statement



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

Zion Lutheran Church
211 East Robinson Street
Lake Crystal, MN 56055

Pastor

Rev. Andrea Myers

Office Manager

Mary Gilman

Choir Director

Linda Isebrand

Organist

Sheldon Meyer

Custodians

Bob and Barb McDonald

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