

Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER



2016

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 6

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

2016 Summer Mission Trip

This month, the following Zion members will travel to Minneapolis on June 19-22 for “Urban Immersion,” a program that helps us to learn about and serve communities struggling in poverty:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Youth: | <i>Adrian Schmalzriedt</i> |
| <i>Cassie Carlson</i> | <i>Kaitlyn Stromswold</i> |
| <i>Parker Hoffer</i> | <i>Abby Teigen</i> |
| <i>Clara Gilman</i> | Adult Leaders: |
| <i>Courtney McDonald</i> | <i>Andy Teigen</i> |
| <i>Hailey McDonald</i> | <i>Pastor Andrea Myers</i> |

Here are two important ways you can support our youth in their ministry:

Burger Basket Fundraiser: Come to The Lakes (151 W. Humphrey) for Burger Baskets on Wednesday, June 1, from 4-8pm. For each basket sold, our Zion Youth will receive \$3.50 toward our fundraising goal of \$300. If you’d like to financially support the trip, but can’t make it to The Lakes, you’re welcome to make a donation directly to the Zion Youth Fund marked “Summer Mission Trip.”



Commissioning for Service: During worship on June 19 we will bless the trip participants and commission them for their ministry of service and learning!

Mark your calendars: Trip participants will share their experiences with the congregation during worship on July 10. Don’t miss it!

LCWM
Baccalaureate

2016

Wednesday, June 1
7:00 p.m.
LCWM Cafetorium

Sponsored by the Lake Crystal
Ministerial Association



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We've entered that busy season of comings and goings that fills the warm summer months. Many of you will be on the road in the weeks ahead, attending family celebrations, driving kids to camp, or spending weekends camping. Wherever your travels might take you, remember that **Jesus goes with you!**

One fun way for us all to remember this is by taking along our newest travel companion—**Flat Jesus!**



During the Children's Message on Celebration Sunday (May 22), I introduced our children to Flat Jesus, a paper doll that kids (and adults!) can cut out and color. If you missed worship that day, you

can pick up your own Flat Jesus in the church Narthex. You can also download him from our church website!

This summer, take Flat Jesus everywhere with you! He travels well by car, plane, via mail, and even digitally! When Flat Jesus arrives at his destination, photograph & document his adventures. Then email pictures to me:

pastor@zionluthlakecrystal.org Or, send by text to **507-402-1114**. Be sure to include your name and provide some details about your adventure!

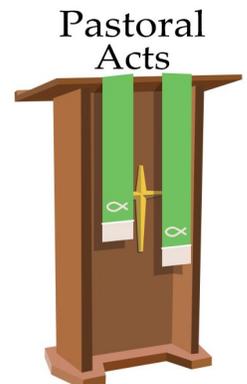
In the weeks ahead, we'll share the adventures of Flat Jesus on our Facebook page and church website. You can also watch for Flat Jesus during announcement during worship this summer! This should be a fun way to keep in touch with our church family and should certainly be a conversation starter as you introduce Flat Jesus, and talk with family and friends about what you and Flat Jesus experience together!

Want to share the fun? Pick up an extra Flat Jesus to send to a friend or family member to take with them everywhere they go. Write them a short letter asking them to talk lots of pictures and email them to you and to me!

Take Flat Jesus with you wherever you go this summer, and see what happens! I can't wait to hear about your adventures!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Andrea

<p><u>May</u></p> <p>Confirmation: 17</p> <p>New Members Received: 5</p>
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For June

Team 3

Leaders:

Dave & Kay Carlson

Team Members:

- Milton & Joycelyn Abraham
- Jason & Jill Antony
- Phil Bachman
- Paul Beinke
- Beth Dostal
- Nathanial & Anna Feder
- Mark & Sandy Friday
- Karen Granger
- Andrey & Dawn Hartman
- Alexandria Hughes
- Arlen Karau
- Fred & Diana Lantz
- Daniel & Nikki Lewis
- Robert & Barbara McDonald
- Greg Mikkelson
- Kelvin & Regina Olson
- Lyle & Ilene Phelps
- Mari Kay Resner
- Renee Rollings
- Donald & Byrene Schmidt
- Lois & Dan Sohler
- Charles & Karen Stoll
- Patricia Thompson
- Steve & Susan Trnka
- Mary Williams

Thank you to our Action Team 1 Leaders

for assembling the May worship teams!

Greg & Janette Abraham and Mark & Judy Meyer



Zion Lutheran Church Women



June 1

Ruth Circle	6:30 p.m.
Rebecca Circle	7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Gail Peterson
Bible study: Mary Williams

Miriam Circle 7:00 p.m.

Hostess: Joyce Roberts
Bible Study: Linda Isebrand

June 2

Martha Circle 2:00 p.m.

Hostess: Fran Jurs @ Crystal Seasons

Bible Study: Jean Childs

June 21

ZLCW Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

June 28

Bible Study for Leaders 6:30 p.m.

ZLCW News

In May, the ZLCW handed out over \$2,500 in camperships for ten kids that are attending church camp this summer! Abby Teigen and Kendall Anderson are going to Good Earth Village in Spring Valley. Owen, Jacob, and Lauren Cooper, Nicholai and Lucas Christianson, Ryder Antony, Adaline Hoffer and Sarah Van-Ryswyk are going to Green Lake Camp in Spicer. Congratulations to the ten campers!

Calling all music lovers!! Please join us for the Community Band Picnic and Social at Zion on June 22nd. We will have BBQ and hot dog meals and wonderful homemade desserts starting at 5:30 p.m. The band will play after dinner. Bring the family and skip cooking for a night while you enjoy some fellowship and music.

Save the date: Tour of Tables is October 22nd. Our entertainment this year is a music group you won't want to miss! Save the date and don't delay getting your tickets. They will be on sale in just a few short months. More details to come soon!

A Word from the President *Zion's Ministry in Action*

In the last several issues of the Messenger, I have emphasized the importance of our members' giving to help out with our financial commitments. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information on how you can sign up for Simply Giving as a way to contribute regularly (page 9). We've also included a copy of the letter from the Finance & Stewardship team (page 14) about the Summer Giving appeal, which was previously published as an insert in the May 22nd Sunday bulletin. All together, we, as members of Zion are committed to a budget that was approved by the congregation at our Annual Meeting. I ask you to prayerfully consider anything that you can do to help out financially above what you are contributing now. Now, enough about money!

I want to write about our Church Council. I had not been involved with the Church Council since about 1999. When I volunteered to be the Vice President two years ago, I was skeptical about how much I wanted to be involved. It is a commitment that included four years (two as VP and two as President). I have to tell you that it has been a very rewarding experience. I was away from all of it long enough that I had forgotten what we at Zion do as a caring community.

I am so impressed with our Social Ministry Team. They have so many causes that they work on and you need to know that everyone helps out with money, food or time volunteered. They have a busy schedule.

Our Finance & Stewardship Team is in the midst of organizing a pledge drive for our whole congregation that is called Stewardship for All Seasons. We are working with our SE MN Synod who will help us be successful in this new stewardship approach, one we have not practiced for many years. I want to thank Gary Sandstrom for stepping up to be our team leader for this important effort.

The Membership Team is in the middle of organizing a new pictorial directory for our congregation. I have to admit that there are many new members that I do not know and this new directory will help us recognize them and remember their names.

The Youth Ministry Team just wrapped up another year of Sunday School and is in the process of organizing VBS for this summer. We want to thank Gina Cooper for her years as Sunday School Superintendent and also thank Jamie Christiansen and Chelsea Copeland for stepping up to replace her.

I will cover the rest of our teams next month. For now, I want you to know that we have very dedicated individuals on our Council that make us function efficiently. The next time someone contacts you about being a part of our Council or being a member of one of our Ministry Teams, I hope that you will be able to step up and be a part of our efforts.

May God's peace be with you all.

Rod Isebrand, President

Zion Lutheran Church

Singing our Favorite Hymns

This summer's worship will include many of the "favorite hymns" that you nominated in May. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Here are the favorites we'll be singing this month:

June 12: ***Great is Thy Faithfulness***

June 19: ***Here I am, Lord***

June 26: ***Precious Lord, Take My Hand***

~~oops!~~

From an e-newsletter:

FREE WEBINAR AVAILABLE
A leading cause of death among teens,
this webinar provides ...
you'll discover how to spot signs of

This program sounds rather dangerous!

Sharing Shelf

The Lake Crystal Food Shelf has been renamed The Sharing Shelf. You can make food donations to The Sharing Shelf by putting non-perishable, unopened items (not past expiration date) in the red wagon in the narthex. The board posted by the wagon shows items most needed that month. Watch for changes and updates. This month the need includes: cereal, pancake mix, peaches, pasta and peanut butter. Each month a volunteer from Zion delivers this food offering to the First Baptist Church. Thanks Cheryl Lantz for serving in May. The June volunteer is Deb Richmond-Johnson. The Sharing Shelf is located at the First Baptist Church, 312 South Oakland Street. Hours are Wednesday evening from 6 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Team would like to express their appreciation to the congregation for the generosity of their donations to our Caring Coins Ministry. Since January, you have donated \$1,393.64 toward ELCA World Hunger, Sharing Shelf (formerly Lake Crystal Food Shelf), Madelia Strong!, ECHO, Habitat for Humanity and Welcome Manor Family Services. You are truly demonstrating, "God's Work, Our Hands" through these gifts!

There will be no Caring Coins collection in June or July. At this time, we anticipate our recipients for the rest of the year will be Crossroads Campus Ministry, Backpack Food Program, Operation Christmas Child, ELCA World Hunger and the Lake Crystal Ministerial Association. Donations are generally collected on the second Sunday of each month and information about these organizations is provided in the newsletter and bulletin.

Thank you to everyone who worked or donated cash or bars/cookies for Food for Friends on April 23 and May 28. The May day was an extra commitment, in response to a need from Centenary Methodist Church in Mankato, who is expanding a breakfast program at their facility.

Our next Food for Friends date will be in the fall. Thank you from the Social Ministry Team! Carol Dunker, Dawn Hartman and Linda Isebrand.

In Case of Emergency

Life events such as illness, accidents, or death don't happen on a schedule. If you (or a family member) face an emergency and are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Andrea on her cell phone: 507-402-1114. This number is also included in the church office's voicemail greeting. Please note that we do not check the office voicemail outside of regular hours, so any message left after 3:30 pm (Monday-Thursday), or on Friday may not be picked up until the next regular office day.

The Quilters Mission Circle

This group is looking for more quilters to join them on Tuesday mornings. You do not need to be an experienced "quilter" to join and have fun. If you can tie a knot, we can use you! Quilts are given to graduates as well as sent to foreign countries where the need is great.

This is a great opportunity to socialize, have fun and give back to those in need. If you are available on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 —10:30 am or any time in between, please join us.

Annual Quilt Review & Auction Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer July 22 & 23

Quilts and silent auction items can be delivered to the camp from now through July 16th.

Quilt Review is Friday, July 22 from 5 pm—8 pm and Saturday, July 23 from 9 am—10:30 am. With the live auction beginning at 11:30 am on Saturday, July 23.

View and bid on quilts online at www.gllm.org beginning ten days prior to the auction.

Friday supper and Saturday lunch will be available on site.

**Summer Bible Study:
Lectio Divina
No Experience Required!**

Summer is a season for growth and trying new things! Pastor Andrea invites you to grow with God this summer by trying a new Bible study that is perfect for all ages and experience levels. Each 45-minute session will invite you into a quiet and prayer-centered encounter with God's Word. The focus each week will be the gospel lesson for the following Sunday's worship. Because each week stands on its own, you have the flexibility to join whenever your schedule allows. No advance preparation is required; just bring your Bible!

We will meet on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. in **Room 21** (upstairs by the elevator) on the following dates:

June 6: Luke 7:36-8:3

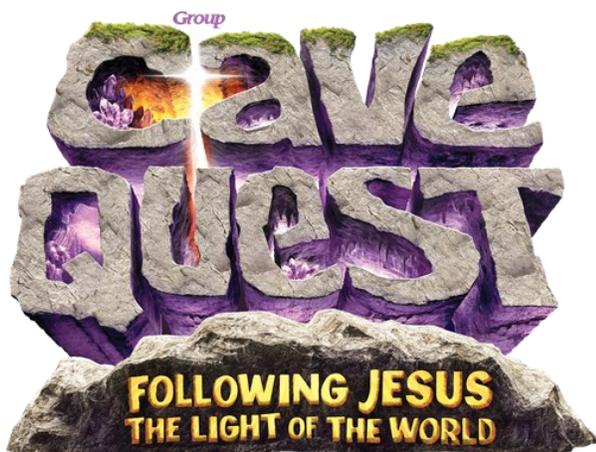
June 13: Luke 8:26-39

June 20: no meeting

June 27: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

If you're interested in this kind of study but the day or time doesn't work for you, please contact Pastor Andrea to discuss other options. Thanks!

**SAVE THE DATE:
Community VBS: August 1-4, 2016
Hosted by Zion Lutheran Church**



Did you know?

We've hit a new milestone on Zion's building mortgage! As of the end of April, the principal is now \$496,346.72, under the half-million mark!

Our building provides a comfortable and safe home for our ministries. From Sunday School classes to worship, from hosting community groups like the Girl Scouts to the G.R.A.C.E. Thrift Store Board, our building is a vital resource for making an impact in our community.

Thank you for your financial gifts to the Building Fund. We're especially grateful to those families who made an intentional 3-year giving commitment for 2015-2017. Your generosity has kept the Building Fund balance in a healthy position, allowing us to pay an extra \$2,570.10 toward the loan principal so far this year. Thank you!

Moondogs Faith Night

Zion will once again be attending the MoonDogs Faith Night event on Sunday, July 31 when the Mankato MoonDogs play the Waterloo Bucks

Watch for a sign up sheet to be posted in the narthex in the near future!



ELCA Advocacy Action Alert

The ELCA is committed to fighting childhood hunger. That commitment, rooted in the baptismal call to care for our neighbors in need, is why we as a church have advocated for a strong renewal of the Child Nutrition Programs that are critical to the health and wellbeing of children and families throughout our nation.

ELCA Advocacy opposes the recently-introduced U.S. House of Representatives "Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016, (H.R. 5003)," that rolls back many years of successes in feeding millions of hungry children. It substantially reduces access to school meal programs impacting some of our most food insecure communities.

Some of the worst provisions of this legislation would:

- Reduce the number of schools that are eligible to implement community eligibility (high poverty schools which provide free meals for all of their students).
- Raise barriers and more red tape to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.
- Roll back science-based nutrition standards for schools
- Create additional requirements for schools and low-income families, jeopardizing access to school meals for thousands of students.

Our nation's Child Nutrition programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), which provides nutritious food, education, and access to health care for millions of low-income new mothers and infants; as well as the National School Lunch Program and the Summer Food Service Program, both of which guarantee that millions of low-income children have access to healthy food throughout the year.

Many of our nutrition partners agree, this legislation takes away access to healthy nutritious breakfasts and lunches they need to learn and grow.

Please urge your members of Congress to oppose the Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016 (H.R. 5003) today at the ELCA Action Center!

Have You Made Your ZLCW- Donation?

Perhaps you're a parent of a student who is going to summer Bible camp. Or, perhaps you're one of our members who is excited about the increase in the number of students attending over the past few years. Either way, we have ten students going to camp this summer! Camp is expensive and the ZLCW wants to ensure that no student is unable to attend because of cost. For that reason, we donated a total of \$2,520 to our campers and their families for the summer of 2016! A portion of this money was received through our yearly events (Tour of Tables, Garage Sale and Community Band Picnic and Social) or through Lenten suppers hosted by the ZLCW or the Men's Group. Thanks, Guys!! Through these fundraisers, the ZLCW was able to pay more than half the cost of Bible camp for each of the ten students!

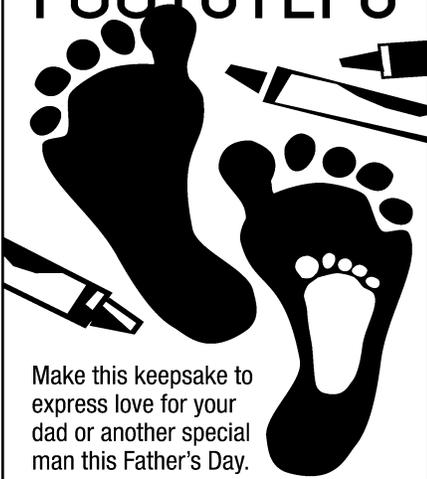
Donations from the ZLCW members themselves are another very important source of income that supports our campers, as well as our regular budget. Each member should have been contacted by their circle chair and asked to make a yearly \$10.00 gift to support our budget. If you've made that, we sincerely thank you. If you've forgotten or just haven't gotten around to getting it in, please take time to do that as soon as possible. Checks should be payable to ZLCW, with "donation" written in the memo. If you're giving cash, please clearly mark the envelope or add a Post-it Note. Donations can be given during the worship offering, sent by regular mail or dropped off at the office during regular church hours. Our sincere thanks to our members for their generosity in supporting the mission of the ZLCW!





KIDS PAGE

In my FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS



Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

What you need:

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint

What you do:

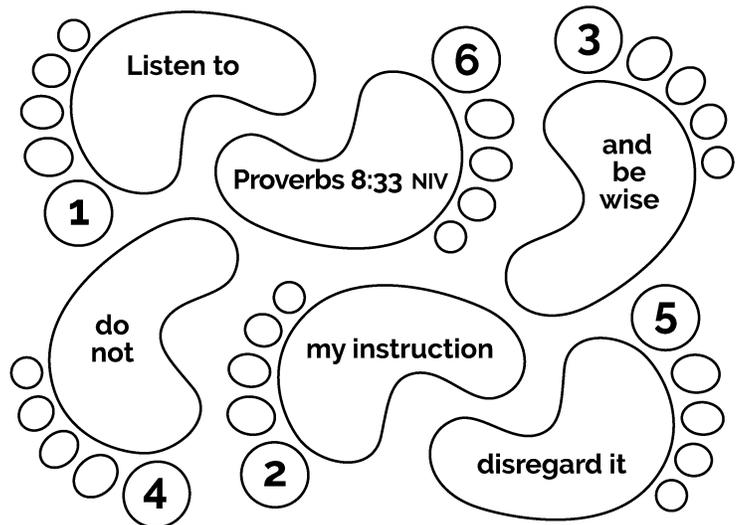
1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same one) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.



FOLLOW OUR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

In the book of Proverbs, a father urges his son to listen to his wisdom, which he received from his heavenly Father.

Directions: Starting at 1, follow the footsteps and write the words in order on the blanks below.



“ _____ ;
_____ .”
_____ : _____

Answer: "Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it."

BIBLE QUIZ:

Of the 66 books in the Protestant Bible, 39 have people's names as titles. Some names indicate the person credited as author — for example, Matthew; others name the book's main character — such as Ruth. How many books are written to the person named in the title?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 13
- D. 21

Answer on Page 13



zion youth news

2016 Summer Mission Trip

All trip participants are required to attend our last **Getting Ready Meeting** on Sunday, June 12, at 10:15 a.m. Bring a parent! We will be going over trip details, reviewing our trip covenant, and distributing t-shirts.

We will depart from Zion on Sunday, June 19 at 3:00 p.m., and return to Zion by noon on Wednesday, June 22.

Youth VBS Volunteers Needed!

Mark your calendars and join the fun as we host Community VBS at Zion August 1-4. Youth volunteers are needed to help our younger students have a GREAT week exploring the story of Jesus. If you're interested, please talk with Becky Sittig or Pastor Andrea.

Simply Giving Sign-up: Easier Than Ever



Electronic giving through *Simply Giving* is a great way to keep current with your offering during the comings and goings of summer. It's also a great way to provide

your congregation with steady cash-flow to support our year-round ministries!

With our new Zion website, you can reach the sign-up area for *Simply Giving* with just three steps!

First, go to the website:

www.zionluthlakecrystal.org and navigate to the "Giving" page.



Second, click on the blue "Give Now" button.



This will open a new page where you can establish or update your *Simply Giving* donations via your bank account or credit card.

If you're a first-time user, create an online profile and you can log in to make changes at any time. To change an existing donation, please contact Mary in the church office for assistance.

You can also make one-time donations (such as Memorial gifts) through this page!

We hope you will join more than 40 Zion families already enrolled in this great giving option!

Report for: April 2016

Income	April 2016	YTD	April 2015	Change (+/-)	A summary of income for all sources, and any change from the previous year.
Offerings	12,319.77	51,847.75	13,298.36	(978.59)	
Non-Benevolence	2,095.00	6,940.00	2,025.00	70.00	
Building Fund	2,793.00	14,717.80	5,677.00	(2,884.00)	
Memorial Fund	65.00	90.00	0.00	65.00	
Special Projects	735.98	2,639.35	20.00	715.98	
Scholarship Fund	150.00	2,700.00	120.00	30.00	
Total	18,158.75	78,934.90	21,140.36	(2,981.61)	

Ministry Expense	April 2016	Mo. Budget	Variance (+/-)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)	"How do our ministry expenses compare to what we planned for in the budget?"
Salaries and Related Costs	9,748.36	10,709.33	(960.97)	38,248.91	42,837.32	(4,588.41)	
Utilities, Maintenance, Other	2,519.88	2,641.66	(121.78)	9,171.64	10,566.64	(1,395.00)	
Education, Mission, Related Costs	813.59	1,150.00	(336.41)	3,634.59	4,600.00	(965.41)	
Supplies	488.63	1,245.84	(757.21)	3,657.59	4,983.36	(1,325.77)	
Synod Mission Support	2,373.23	1,042.50	1,330.73	4,601.95	4,170.00	431.95	
Total	15,943.69	16,789.33	(845.64)	59,314.68	67,157.32	(7,842.64)	

Budget Cashflow	April 2016	YTD	"What is our net cashflow for the year for our ministry expenses?"
		(General Offerings & Non-Benevolence)	
Income available	14,414.77	58,787.75	
Ministry Expenses	15,943.69	59,314.68	
Net (+/-)	-1,528.92	-526.93	

Building Fund	April 2016	YTD	"What is our net cashflow for the year for the Building Fund?"
Income	2,793.00	14,717.80	
Payments	(3,891.00)	(18,134.10)	
Interest	1.97	9.05	
Current Balance	11,285.89		

Balances	April 2016	Attendance				Communion	
		2015	2016	2015	2016		
General Checking	(1,616.12)						
Memorial Fund	5,833.11						
Non-Benevolence	91.13						
Special Projects	1,560.62						
Choir	310.41						
Scholarship	5,096.26						
Line of Credit	5,100.00						
Mortgage Principal (Thrivent)	498,627.57						
		Week 1*	431	126	258	114	
		Week 2	157	140			
		Week 3	159	135	121	113	
		Week 4**	324	186			
		Easter*	431	126	258	114	
		Confirmation**	324		172		

Zion Lutheran Church Council 2016

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

Matt Christianson, Vice President: Executive, Social and Youth

Mary Hutchens, Secretary: Executive, Membership

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

Dave Hoffer: Building and Grounds

Doug Midthun: Finance and Stewardship

Kathy Fleming: Membership and Outreach

Linda Isebrand: Social Ministry

Sheldon Meyer: Music & Adult Education

Becky Sittig: Youth

Zion Lutheran Church

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

Council Meeting April 20, 2016 / 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

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

GUEST: Beth Paumen

1. Opening Devotions: Kathy Fleming opened with a reading and prayer.
2. Approve Agenda (*This Would Be The Time To Add Items Not Listed That You Would Like Included*): Motion to Approve: Jim Halvorson; Motion Seconded: Sheldon Meyer; Motion Passed
3. Reports:
⇒ Rod shared a thank-you for the donation, from a student leader at Crossroads, and a thank you from Lutheran Social Services for a donation and from Southeast Minnesota Synod for benevolence donation.

- a. Pastor’s Comments: Reminder that newsletter deadline is tomorrow, Thursday, April 21. Pastor took the week of April 3 for vacation. Shared concern on flooding in Texas. Donna Gens passed away and her service will be on Friday at Zion. Madelia Pastor Salim Kaderbhai will give information presentation on Islam, Wednesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m. at Zion (open to community).
- b. Secretary’s Minutes: March 16, 2016 minutes; *Correction to 3.i. (Building & Grounds): does this board make the decision to sell dishes?* Motion to Approve: Linda Isebrand, with change; Motion Seconded: Matt Christenson; Motion Passed.
- c. Statistical Reports: as printed.
- d. Finance Ministry Team Finance Ministry Team (*Doug Midthun, Matt Lantz, Gary Sandstrom):
Gathered info for Affordable Care Act and sent to consulting services for review of Zion’s eligibility of rebate.
- e. Social Ministry Team (Dawn Hartman, Carol Dunker, *Linda Isebrand): Food for Friends will be served on Saturday, April 23. Caring Coins report, there was an increase to \$75.00 of the donation to ECHO; \$320.98 collected for Habitat for Humanity. Will donate Caring Coins to Welcome Manor in May. Meals on Wheels coordinators will be Gus and Marsha Larson. Thank you will be sent to Barb Spencer for sewing pillow case dresses. Suggestion to send a thank you to Amy at Lakes Bar and Restaurant for cashing Thrivent credit cards to support Foods and Friends. Audrey Splinter, Food for Friends, asked for support to serve May 28 at Salvation Army.
- f. Youth Ministry Team (*Becky Sittig, Kristy Schultz, Jennifer Fleming): Becky reported that the Sunday School superintendent position may be filled. Working on Vacation Bible School planning. Confirmation Sunday, May 1 with 2 services: 8:30 and 10:15. Nine

students signed up for Youth Mission Trip, watch for burger basket supper at Lakes.

Asked for high school students to help with yard clean-up at Zion on Saturday, April 23.

- g. Membership & Outreach Ministry Team (Beth Paumen, *Kathy Fleming, Steve Marshall): Kathy reported on work on new directory, photos will be taken on August 19, 20, 22, 23, and 24 with Life Touch. Postponing New Member Sunday.
- h. Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (*Sheldon Meyer, Phil Bachman, Kristi Grindstaff): Sheldon reported on decrease in Easter attendance, compared to last year. This group supports continuing with Holden Evening Prayer service. Discussed change to times of service. Concern that television in over-flow area is too small for that space (maybe consider this need for the Memorial Fund Wish List). Discussed possible new furniture in over-flow area. Thanks to Sheldon for organizing the brass players on Easter Sunday.
- i. Building & Grounds Ministry Team (Brett Strenge, *David Hoffer, Mike Bottin): David reported on 9:00 – 2:00 work on Saturday, April 23. Will do some trimming around the church.

*Team Chairperson

4. Old Business

- a. Stewardship for All Seasons: May 25 – working on creating a bench-mark on giving.
- b. Constitution Review Update: Continue to work on this review and update.
- c. Memorial Fund Wish List: Give suggestions to Rod, to be reviewed at future Executive Council
- d. ECUMEN Assembly Member – Diana Lantz: Diana will serve.
- e. Update on Grace-Based Evangelizing-Gustavus: Matt Christianson, Beth Paumen and Pastor Andrea attended. Links to presentations on you-tube will be shared. Very good speakers.

5. New Business

- a. Congregational Vitality Survey: Discussion was held on survey results. ELCA effort to help congregations look at themselves and the health of the congregation.
- b. Approve List of Confirmands: Confirmation Sunday, May 1, 2016. Council approves the confirmands as new members. Motion to Approve: Pastor Andrea; Motion Seconded: Linda Isebrand; Motion Passed
- c. Gina Cooper – Appreciation Gift: For years of service for work with Sunday School. Flowers will be presented to teachers. In the past, a gift of \$50.00 was given. Becky will decide on gift. Motion to Approve budget of \$50.00 to \$60.00: Jim Halvorson; Motion Seconded: Becky Sittig; Motion Passed
- d. Synod Assembly – May 6 & 7 (Rochester): Pastor Andrea and husband Ronald and Rod and Isebrand will attend.
- e. Rod and Linda Gone for May Council Meeting – will have Executive Meeting: Matt will lead the meetings. Executive Council at 6:00 p.m., changed to Monday, May 9; Council will start at 7:00 on Wednesdays, May 18 through August.

6. Treasurer's Report: General Checking:

\$1,880.97; Memorial Fund: \$5,767.19; Building Fund: \$10,923.92; Non-Benevolence: \$1,335.99; Special Projects: \$796.42; Available to Pay Bills and Payroll: \$3,216.96; Overdue Bills: \$674.00; Current Bills: \$3,095.73.

⇒ Jim noted Thrivent dollars donation to Crossroads and donation to Building Funds. Shared a concern on general fund bills.

Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Mary Hutchens



Congratulations to these Zion members celebrating their June wedding anniversary:

Happy Birthday to all of these people celebrating a June birthday!

- Candice & Corey Burnett
- Sandy & Mark Friday
- Cheri & Mike Herbst
- Sylva & Joe Kubicek
- Val & Steve Laborde
- Jody & Michael Maurer
- Cindy & Gregory Miller
- Danielle & Ryan Mueller
- Judy & Tim Olson
- Francesca & Shawn Olson
- Irene & Lyle Phelps
- Cheryl & Myron Sandstrom
- Heidi & Mike Thompson
- Sheryl & Jay Utter
- Mary & Howard Ward
- Jennifer & Scott Winters

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Janet Atkinson | Barbara McDonald |
| Tyler Barnard | Gregory Miller |
| Gabrielle Beecher | Amy Montgomery |
| Chad Blasing | Donna Roesch |
| Kay Carlson | Ray Roesch |
| Brielle Caven | Dougray Siebenahler |
| Lois Davis | T.J. Smith |
| Jim Ellis | Ethan Snow |
| David Gilman | Barb Sorenson |
| Dylan Hawker | Ken Sorenson |
| Adam Hruby | Cortnee Sorenson |
| Tyler Hruby | Jon Stordahl |
| Cindy Jacques | Tammy Sweet |
| Blaine Jacques | Andy Teigen |
| Sara Johnson | Patrick Thofson |
| Emma Karels | Matthew Thofson |
| Carter Lantz | Andrew Utter |
| Patty Lee | Howard Ward |
| Mitchell Marben | |



**Welcome
New
Members!**

We offer a warm welcome to the following families, who officially joined our congregation on Sunday, May 15:

- Thomas and Kayla Caven, Brielle and Ian
- Doug Winters

Bible Quiz Answer:

B. (See 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2, Titus 1:4, Philemon 1:1)

Summer Giving Appeal

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

The Mission of Zion Lutheran church is “To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words and Actions.”. As part of that mission, we have promised as a congregation to “Offer to God with joy and thanksgiving ourselves, our time, and our possessions.”

Thank you for your faithful financial support of Zion and its ministries! Your financial gifts equip our congregation’s ministry with the facilities, materials, and staff support we need for our work together. Your generosity is appreciated!



We are coming into the summer months when Zion has traditionally struggled financially. The Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team has taken a long look at

current year contributions and anticipated expenses. ***It appears that we will be facing as much as a \$15,000 shortfall in general offerings by the end of the summer.*** Also, we currently owe our local bank \$5,100 on a line of credit and we have not been able to make any payment on that loan for a number of months.

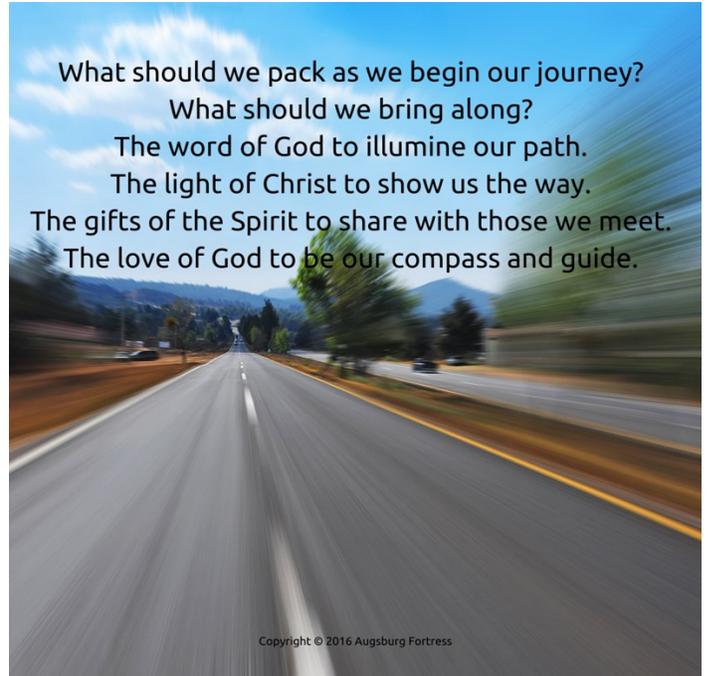
We need your help!

The only way that we can see to avoid this shortfall is to make an appeal for increased giving from you, our fellow members. I wouldn’t necessarily call our situation dire, but it certainly is troubling.

Please take the time to discuss this need with your family members, and to prayerfully consider how you can help us to right our ship as we continue “To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Word and Actions.”

Yours in Christ,
Doug Midthun, chair
Finance & Stewardship Team

P.S. Will summer travels keep you away from worship this summer? **Sign up today for Simply Giving!** It is a great way to keep current with your giving and is a great help to our congregation’s cash flow. See page 14 for details.



Congratulations Zion Spring Scholarship Winners!

Brian Jacobs, Mark Jacobs and Megan Lee are all recipients of \$250.00 Zion Scholarships. Scholarship checks will be sent out in early June.

Zion gives away scholarships twice a year, in spring and in fall. Check the church website for more information.



THE BRIDGE

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



2016 Synod Assembly Summary

By Rev. Emily Carson

The 2016 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly took place on May 6-7 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. Voting members from congregations across the synod came together for the two-day gathering. The event's theme this year was "We are Church Together for the Sake of the World."

FRIDAY, MAY 6 HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Assembly began with worship led by Bishop Steve Delzer and Dianna Parks. Friday evening concluded with a time of prayer.
- Peggy Hahn, Executive Director of LEAD, shared about what it means to be a remarkable congregation.
- Churchwide representative Mikka McCracken highlighted the inspiring work being done throughout the ELCA.
- Rev. Dr. Jim Martin-Schramm, Professor of Religion at Luther College, spoke about the intersections of faith and climate change.
- Terrence Hassanally, Chair of the synod's Development Council, shared updates on Leading Together.
- Dr. Allan Bieber presented a report on the churchwide initiative "Called Forward Together in Christ."
- Rev. Dr. Eric Barreto led a Bible study highlighting the Gospel of Luke which included kitchen table conversation with Rev. Hannah Bergstrom de Leon and Bishop Delzer.

SATURDAY, MAY 6 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Saturday morning worship was led by Rev. Tammy Dahlvang, Rev. Corrine Haulotte, and Kelly Bergman.
- Saturday morning provided participants the

opportunity to choose from eight engaging workshops.

- Rev. Dr. Barreto's presented part two of the Bible study.
- Organizational reports were given and awards presented.
- Bishop Delzer's shared his annual Report to the Assembly highlighting the synod's mission statement and top three priorities.
- Jeff Chestnut was elected as synod treasurer.
- Elections took place for a variety of synod positions.
- The 2017 synod budget was passed.

Five resolutions were passed at the Synod Assembly including:

- Resolution 2016-1: *Loving Our Muslim Neighbors as Ourselves*
- Resolution 2016-3: *Minimum Compensation and Benefits Guidelines*
- Resolution 2016-4: *Thanksgiving for Military Personnel, Veterans, and their Families*
- Resolution 2016-5: *Dissolution of The Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota*
- Resolution 2016-6: *Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery*

Resolution 2016-2 was tabled indefinitely. Copies of all the resolutions are available on the Synod Assembly portion of the synod website: <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2016>. Stay tuned in the months ahead for ways you can participate in the living out of each of these important resolutions.

A special thanks to all who attended and served at the 2016 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly!

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

The office is closed on Friday.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Sunday Morning

9:00 a.m. Worship
Communion the 1st & 3rd
Sundays
Contemporary Service the last
Sunday of each month.

Our Mission Statement



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

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

Pastor
Rev. Andrea Myers

Office Manager
Mary Gilman

Choir Director
Linda Isebrand

Custodians
Bob and Barb McDonald

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