Zion Lutheran Church

MESSENGER

May

2016 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 5

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

Graduates Sunday is May 22

Congratulations to our 2016 Graduates

Elizabeth Beckmann,
daughter of Warner & Brenda Beckmann

Chelsey Burnett,
daughter of Corey & Candice Burnett

Derek Cloyd,
son of Jeff Cloyd & Michele Langer

Shane Ellanson,
son of Scott & Nancy Ellanson

Ben Gilman,
son of Dave & Amanda Gilman

Jake Hagge,
son of Kevin & Denise Hagge

Jeremiah Hartman,
son of Andrey & Dawn Hartman

Marcus Hawker,
son of Robert & Stacy Hawker

Adam Hruby,
son of Allan Hruby & Tammy Sweet

Tyler Hruby,
son of Allan Hruby & Tammy Sweet

Brian Kennedy,
son of Christopher & Michele Kennedy

Cami Kottke,
daughter of Rick & Dawn Kottke

Chloe Lantz,
daughter of Matt & Cheryl Lantz

Noah Lantz,
son of Matt & Cheryl Lantz

Lane Maurer,
son of Michael & Jody Maurer

Macy Patterson,
daughter of Herb & Lisa Patterson

Nick Saucier,
son of Jeff & Stacy Saucier

Damon Schmalzriedt,
son of Andy & Kim Schmalzriedt

Patrick Thofson,
son of Mike & Amy Thofson

Ivy Wymer,
daughter of Gary & Kelly Karels

Mariah Ziegler,
daughter of Tony & Heather Ziegler

Special Worship Schedule
Confirmation Sunday
May 1, 2016

8:30 am
Holy Communion

10:15 am
Holy Communion & Affirmation of Baptism

Zion Lutheran Church | 211 E. Robinson Street | Lake Crystal, MN
www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

Sunday School Celebration Sunday: May 22

see page 6 for details

From Pastor Andrea

This month we celebrate with our seventeen 8th grade students as they affirm their baptisms on May 1. This is an important milestone for them and their families!

The purpose of Zion's Confirmation Program is to nurture children of God who are:
FAITHFUL + COMPASSIONATE + CONNECTED

Working toward this goal together, we have studied scripture, explored *Luther's Small Catechism*, learned about the story of Jesus, completed worship notes, done intentional acts of service, connected with peers through small group discussion, and built connections to other generations through our Confirmation Mentors. It's been a busy two years! I'm sure many of them are excited that they are DONE!

Sorry to say it, kids, but you're not done...
Not by a long shot!

During the liturgy for affirmation of baptism, I will be asking each of our students to answer the following question:

"You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- *to live among God's faithful people,*
- *to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,*
- *to proclaim the good news of God through Christ in word and deed,*
- *to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,*
- *and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*

That's a big, long, question. Answering it with honesty and integrity can prompts all sorts of other questions, like: *What will it look like for me to live in Christian community during high school , college, and beyond? How important is it to me to worship in a Lutheran church? Do I grasp "the good news of God" well enough to share it with confidence? How have I been uniquely equipped to serve others? What does justice look like, in this world? Is peace possible?*

The list of could go on and on! (I'm just getting going!)

And yet, even without answers to all their questions, our youth are crossing the threshold of this faith milestone. Each one, in turn, will affirm their intention to continue in the covenant God made with them in baptism.

How is it possible to move forward in trusting faith, even when we don't have all the answers? The key is in the content of the answer each student gives:

"*I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*"

Asking for God's help and guidance makes all the difference. And as we pray over each student, we will ask God to stir up the gift of the Holy Spirit in them, so that they will continue having the faith and courage to trust in God's promise of love through Jesus, so that they will be empowered to serve others, and so that they will find assurance in the promise of eternal life.

My deepest hope and longing is that our students will see that they are not "done" yet, because God will never be done with them! God will continue to cultivate the seeds of faith planted by the Holy Spirit. Though this life of faith is always filled with questions, by the power of the Holy Spirit it's also filled with courage to trust God even when we don't have all the answers. May God bless us in this lifelong journey!

Grace and peace, Pastor Andrea

Congratulations to our 2016 Confirmands!

Kendall Anderson (daughter of Tim and Barb Anderson)
Nolan Beckmann (son of Warner and Brenda Beckmann)
Jonathan Boomgarden (son of David Boomgarden and Crystal Lorenzen)
Cassandra Carlson (daughter of David and Kay Carlson)
Emilee Cloyd (daughter of Jeff Cloyd & Michele Langer)
Reese Goeringer (daughter of Pete and Kelle Goeringer)
Hailey McDonald (daughter of Rick & Jeanine McDonald)
Austin Nickels (son of Jim & Tracy Nickels)
Connor Saucier (son of Jeff & Stacy Saucier)
Adrian Schmalzriedt (daughter of Andy & Kim Schmalzreidt)
McKenzie Schoneck (daughter of Cathy & Russel Sohre)
Dougray Siebenahler (son of Doug & Evonn Siebenahler)
Riley Stordahl (son of Jon Stordahl and Gretchen Gerovac)
Kaitlyn Stromswold (daughter of Todd & Tracy Stromswold)
Abigail Teigen (daughter of Andrew & Beth Teigen)
Matthew Thofson (son of Mike & Amy Thofson)
Hunter Trnka (son of Susan & Steve Trnka)

Zion ACTION TEAMS

For May

Team 2

Leaders:
Greg & Janette Abraham
Mark & Judy Meyer

Team Members:

Jill Atkinson
Kent & Sandra Beecher
Ian & Mandi Carleton
Elfredia Deopere
Kylie Feder
Jim Forsyth
Jackie & John Graham
Allan Hruby & Tammy Sweet
Fran Jurs
Steve & Val Laborde
Kimberly Lilly
Michael & Jody Maurer
Dennis & Donna Mikkelson
Matthew & Bonnie Nuytten
Alene Pettersen
Darlene Roberts
Amanda Roesch
Ardis Schmidt
Brad & Cathy Snow
Roxanna Steffen
Mike & Amy Thofson
Dean & Paula Tibbetts
Adam Ward

Thank you to our Action Team 1 Leaders for assembling the April worship teams.

Gus & Marsha Larson

Zion Lutheran Church Women

May 4

Ruth Circle	6:30 p.m.
Rebecca Circle	7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Kathy Fleming	
Bible study: Judy Marben	
Miriam Circle	7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Joyce Johnson	
Bible Study: Kathy Lewis	

May 5

Martha Circle	2:00 p.m.
Hostess: Doris Preston	
Bible Study: Carol Jones	

May 6 & 7:

Spring Garage Sale	4-7 pm (6th) and 8am– 1 pm (7th)

May 17

ZLCW Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.

May 24

Bible Study for Leaders	6:30 p.m.

ZLCW News

The ZLCW will hold their annual garage/bake sale on Friday, May 6, from 4-7 p.m., and Saturday, May 7, 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 5, from 3:00-8:00 p.m. Donated items can be dropped off at the church on Wednesday, May 4, from 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., or Thursday, May 5, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.. Items should be in good condition; no clothing items will be accepted.

All baked items are welcome and should be dropped off by 3:00 p.m. Friday, May 6, or 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 7. 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!

A Word from the President
A Benevolent Congregation

I have been making an attempt to keep Zion's members in touch with our financial situation through temple talks and articles in The Messenger. I have made an appeal to all of you to consider increasing your giving or catching up if you have been absent some Sundays. I have been told that there has been an increase in giving over the last few weeks. Thank you!

I would like to include in this month's Messenger a little information about Zion's Benevolence giving to our Southeastern MN Synod. In the 2015 fiscal year, Zion contributed $13,696.95. This is 9% of our general offerings that we, as a congregation, had pledged to our Synod. These dollars are not only used in Minnesota and our nation, they are used worldwide for various causes which go hand in hand with Zion's Mission Statement, which reads, "To Make Jesus Known to All Through Our Words and Actions." Our Synod sent me a certificate of appreciation for our generous donations for the year and I will post this on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Along with regular benevolence giving to the Synod, Zion has been very proactive in other areas that require funding and volunteers to help them be effective. The theme in our Synod and in our church the last two years has been, "God's work, our hands." We, at Zion, have been working very hard the past years in supporting Green Lake Bible Camp, Good Earth Village, Lutheran Social Services and Crossroads-Lutheran Campus Ministry. These four ministries alone add up to $ 4,250.00, which is above and beyond our Synod benevolence. You can all be very proud of this commitment, which helps us meet some of our goals in our Mission Statement!

Memorial Day is May 30.
Remember the Veterans.

Besides our benevolence and the previous missions mentioned, Zion has supported many local causes such as Food for Friends, VINE, Echo Food Shelf, Lake Crystal Food Shelf, Habitat for Humanity, Camperships, Caring Coins for Malaria & Nepal and Operation Christmas Child. If you review Zion's financial report from the 2015 Treasurer's Report, you would see that combined, Zion contributed more than $ 4,600.00 towards all of these. Wow!! We can definitely see that the "God's work, our hands" theme has been successful! Rest assured that your contributions are spent wisely!

I am very proud to be a part of a Christian organization that goes above what may be expected. If you have volunteered to be a part of these missions, thank-you! If you are looking for a way to get involved, please contact me or someone from the Social Ministry Team. We can never have enough help and anyone interested would certainly be welcome to participate.

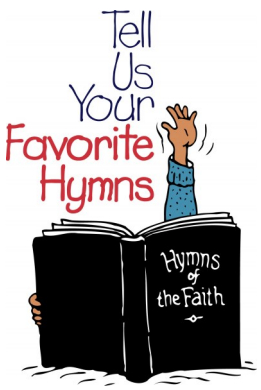
May God's peace be with you all.

Rod Isebrand, President
Zion Lutheran Church

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 8 and 15. You can also email nominations directly to the church office.

All submissions due by Sunday, May 22. Thanks!



Confirmation Sunday is May 1!

Worship services that day will be at **8:30 a.m.** and **10:15 a.m.** Our 8th grade students will affirm their baptism at the **10:15 a.m.** service.

Signing Off!

Sunday, May 15, will be the final Sunday for the adult choir to sing, but we look forward to resuming our schedule in the fall! We would like to thank the congregation for their support and warm feedback as we have worked to enhance and support worship. Thank you to Sheldon, our most capable accompanist, and to all those great members who bless me with their faithfulness month after month. See you in September! Linda Isebrand, Director

Social Ministry

Zion's Social Ministry team oversees programs of outreach, both within our community and beyond its borders. Three of our most visible ministries include Caring Coins, which are collected on the second Sunday of each month; Food for Friends, which serves a Saturday noon meal to guests at the Salvation Army in Mankato; and Operation Christmas Child, which fills shoeboxes with an assortment of items that are distributed to children in need across the world. We also take responsibility for the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Pillowcase Dresses and a variety of other programs. Information about our ministry appears in the bulletin and newsletter on a regular basis.

If you have questions or concerns, or would like to make us aware of a specific need, please contact one of the members of the Social Ministry team (Carol Dunker, Dawn Hartman and Linda Isebrand). We'd like to offer a sincere thank you to all members of the congregation who so generously support the needs of others!

Luther Memorial Home Auxiliary Spring Luncheon Winners

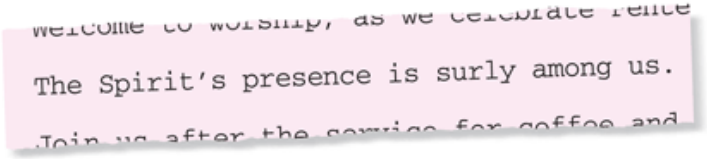
The LMH Auxiliary Spring Luncheon held April 12 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Madelia was a great success! Individuals from the ten member churches provided salads and cupcakes. Buns and beverages were supplied by the Auxiliary, with a total of 106 people served.

Thank you to Ann Blasing, Heather Isebrand, Char Manke and Sandy Meixell for providing the food from Zion. Thank you as well to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket or attended the luncheon. Each of the ten member churches, as well as the board, donated a basket. Of the 11 total baskets, six of the winners were from Zion!

After expenses, $943.61 was earned, all of which supports activities that benefit the residents of Luther Memorial Home.

oOps!

From a worship bulletin in El Paso, Texas:



Surely these folks haven't made God mad?

Zion Sunday School News

Summer Bible Camp Sign-Up Today!

Calling all families! Green Lake Lutheran Ministries will hold another summer of fun camps! Zion Week is July 17-22, although students may register for any time that works for their schedule. For more information, please visit their website at http://www.gllm.org/registration.html.

Congratulations to the families of the following children who received 2016 Zion Camperships Lucas & Nicholai Christianson, Ryder Antony, Lauren, Jacob & Owen Cooper, Sara VanRyswyk and Adaline Hoffer.

Contact Jamie Christianson 726-6871 or Gina Cooper at 726-6707 or cptcooper@msn.com if

Celebration Sunday is May 22!

May 22 is the last day of Sunday School for this year. Sunday School students, teachers and their families will participate in fun activities and enjoy treats together following the service. To show our thanks to the teachers for their ongoing service, we are asking Sunday School families, as well as anyone else who would like to participate, to provide muffins/treats. Contact Gina Cooper (726-6707) if you are able to help.

We are still looking for a new Sunday School Co-Superintendent to work with Jamie Christianson. If you can help, please contact Becky Sittig at 726-2799. Thanks!

Calendar

May

1: Regular Classes
Bible verse: "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14

8: Mother's Day Weekend – No Classes

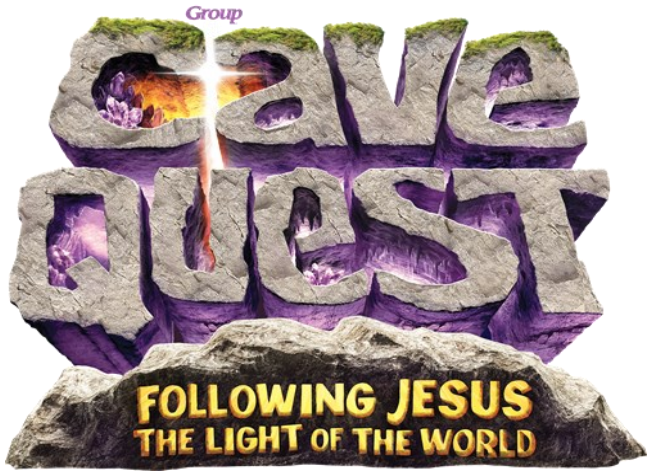
15: Regular Classes
Bible verse: "Nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37

22: Celebration Sunday - Students Sing at Sunday Service
Bible verse: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life." John 3:36

There is no Sunday School during the summer months. It will resume again in September.

SAVE THE DATE:

Community VBS: August 1-4, 2016
Hosted by Zion Lutheran Church



A heartfelt felt heart

On Mother's Day, express your love for your mom or another special woman by giving her this gift from the heart.

What you need:

- Red felt (8" x 11" sheet)
- Dark pen
- Fabric scissors
- Pillow stuffing
- Straight pins
- Embroidery thread (pink, red or black)
- Needle
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. Fold the felt in half and draw a heart on it. Cut out the heart so you have two of the same size.
2. Place the hearts on top of each other, add stuffing and pin the hearts together.
3. Thread the needle with a long piece of thread. Knot the end.
4. Sew the hearts together. Knot the thread and trim the ends. Remove pins.
5. Give the gift — and a hug!

A mother's love

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

Directions: *Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.*

A E I O U Y

B__t M__r__ tr__ __s__r__d

__p __ll th__s__ th__ngs

__nd p__nd__r__d th__m

__n h__r h__ __rt.

L__k__ 2:19, NIV

Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV

Which books of the Bible include an account of Jesus' ascension?

A. Luke and Acts
B. Matthew and Luke
C. Mark and John
D. All four gospels

Answer on Page 9

zion youth news

2016 Summer Mission Trip Fundraiser: Burger Baskets at The Lakes Wednesday, June 1

This summer, nine Zion youth will travel to Minneapolis June 19-22 for "Urban Immersion," a program that helps us to learn about and serve communities struggling in poverty.

You can support this Summer Mission Trip on Wednesday, June 1 by coming to The Lakes (151 W. Humphrey) for Burger Baskets! For each one 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." Thanks!

2016 Summer Mission Trip Getting Ready Meeting May 11, 6-8 pm

All trip participants are required to attend our next Getting Ready meeting on Wednesday, May 11 from 6-8 p.m.! We will work on teambuilding, Bible study, t-shirt designs, and more!

Confirmation Preview for Rising 7th Graders

Rising 7th grade students and parents are invited to a brief and informative Confirmation Preview on Wednesday, May 18 at 6:00 p.m. The fall will be super busy … get a head start and answers to your questions about what Confirmation is all about! Please RSVP to the church office.

Youth VBS Volunteers Needed!

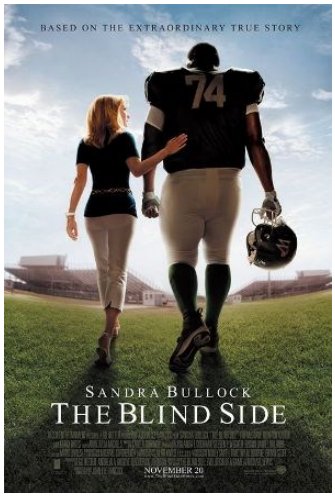
Mark your calendars and join the fun as we host Community VBS at Zion August 1-4. Youth volunteers are needed to help our younger students have a GREAT week exploring the story of Jesus. If you're interested, please talk with Becky Sittig or Pastor Andrea.

Youth Event: Breakfast and a Movie Sunday, May 15

Join us on Sunday, May 15 from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Youth room. We'll make breakfast together (Zip-lock Omelets, Toast & Juice) and watch "The Blind Side." Youth in grades 7-12 and their friends welcome!

Advance sign-up requested. Sign up on the easel in the narthex before May 8.

Questions? Talk to Sally & Mike Bottin or Pastor Andrea



Meals On Wheels:

Thank you Gus & Marsha Larson for stepping forward to serve as our new coordinators of the Meals on Wheels Program for Zion.

Thanks also to Joe & Sylva Kubicek for their years of faithful service to this important community ministry!

The Lake Crystal Food Shelf

You can make food donations to the Lake Crystal Food 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 needs include: ketchup, apple sauce, corn, pancake syrup and pasta sauce.**

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

The Food Shelf is located at the First Baptist Church, 312 South Oakland Street. Hours are Wednesday evening from 6 pm-8 pm

Food For Friends

Zion's Social Ministry Team would like to thank everyone who helped with Food for Friends on Saturday, April 23. Many of the 89 guests expressed their gratitude for the wonderful meal and for all the personal care items. Once again, thank you to everyone who donated cash, bars/cookies, magazines, personal care items or their time. It was all greatly appreciated.

★NATIONAL★ DAY of PRAYER

May 5 is National Day of Prayer 2016. Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato will have their building open from 7 am-7 pm for prayer. Personal prayer can take place anytime throughout the day. Prayer with prayer partners is 7-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. Walk through seven prayer stations of prayer focus: government, church, military, family, education, media and business. A community gathering of prayer and praise will be held from 6-7 p.m. Join us as we come together with one heart united in faith through prayer.

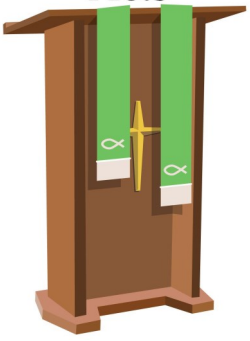
Are you a Thrivent Member?

Did you know that you could apply for a $250 "Action Team" grant to support a local service project? Simply apply online with a brief description of the project and the date. Once it's approved, Thrivent will send you a gift card to cover expenses, as well as t-shirts and other material to promote your project. For more information, go to www.thrivent.com and look for the link under "Making A Difference."

April

Funeral of Donna Gens

Pastoral Acts



Bible Quiz Answer: Answer: A: See Luke 24:51 & Acts 1:9.)

Report for: March 2016

Income	March 2016	YTD	March 2015	Change (+/-)
Offerings	14,824.40	39,527.98	14,604.49	219.91
Non-Benevolence	2,330.00	4,845.00	1,667.00	663.00
Building Fund	5,717.60	11,924.80	7,268.00	(1,550.40)
Memorial Fund	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
Special Projects	1,441.10	1,903.37	786.50	654.60
Scholarship Fund	2,000.00	2,550.00	25.00	1,975.00
Total	26,313.10	60,776.15	24,350.99	1,962.11

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

Ministry Expense	March 2016	Mo. Budget	Variance (+/1)	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance (+/-)
Salaries and Related	10,282.76	10,709.33	(426.57)	28,500.55	32,127.99	(3,627.44)
Utilities, Maintenance,	1,914.36	2,641.66	(727.30)	6,651.76	7,924.98	(1,273.22)
Education, Mission,	2,539.12	1,150.00	1,389.12	2,821.00	3,450.00	(629.00)
Supplies	1,399.29	1,245.84	153.45	3,168.96	3,737.52	(568.56)
Synod Mission Support	1,109.51	1,042.50	67.01	2,228.72	3,127.50	(898.78)
Total	17,245.04	16,789.33	455.71	43,370.99	50,367.99	(6,997.00)

"How do our ministry expenses compare to what we planned for in the budget?"

Budget Cashflow	March 2016	YTD
Income available	17,154.40	44,372.98
Ministry Expenses	17,245.04	43,370.99
Net (+/-)	-90.64	1,001.99

(General Offerings & Non-Benevolence)

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

Building Fund	March 2016	YTD
Income	5,717.60	11,924.80
Payments	(5,640.96)	(14,243.10)
Interest	2.32	7.08
Current Balance	12,381.92	

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

Balances	March 2016
General Checking	1,505.39
Memorial Fund	5,767.19
Non-Benevolence	895.99
Special Projects	1,340.81
Choir	310.36
Scholarship	4,945.46
Line of Credit	5,100.00
Mortgage Principal	500,903.53

	Attendance		Communion	
March	**2015**	**2016**	**2015**	**2016**
Week 1	135	115	115	107
Week 2	139	128		
Week 3	162	142	116	57
Week 4	224	Easter		
Easter	431	316	274	152

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 / March 16, 2016; 7:45 p.m.
MINUTES

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

GUESTS: Beth Paumen, Brett Strenge

1. Opening Devotions: Rod Isebrand opened with a reading and prayer.
2. Approve Agenda (This Would Be The Time To Add Items Not Listed That You Would Like Included): Pastor Andrea: Continuing Ed class for Mary Gilman; Doug Midthun: Affordable Care Act tax credit; Motion to Approve with Additions: Sheldon Meyer; Motion Seconded: Kathy Fleming; Motion Passed
3. Reports:
   a. Pastor's Comments: Email list of newsletter deadlines was distributed. Encourage every Ministry Team to put information / report in newsletter each month. Pastor has scheduled continuing ed in April, will not affect Sunday worship. April 10, Green Lake Bible Camp rep will preach and will share information with students. Fund raising for Madelia info was shared – benefit in April (open mic event), 'Beauty for Ashes' at Madelia High School. Web site technology is moving ahead. Stalled on Cottage Meetings at this time. Information for Sunday bulletin information deadline has moved to Tuesday at noon.
   b. Secretary's Minutes: February 17, 2016 minutes; Motion to Approve: Linda Isebrand; Motion Seconded: Doug Midthun; Motion Passed. Thank you notes were shared from Good Earth Village for donation of $650.00 and from Crossroads Lutheran Ministry for donation of $900.00.
   c. Statistical Reports: as printed, correction noted on number of confirmed numbers.
   d. Finance Ministry Team (*Doug Midthun, Matt Lantz, Gary Sandstrom): Doug reported on continuing work on audit, Kari Gustafson will assist. Kari has prepared an audit guideline, according to Synod guidelines. Reviewed responsibility of Finance Ministry team according to the Constitution. Gary Sandstrom will sub for Doug at May 25 SAS trip to Owatonna. Discussed concern on sharing viewing rights of giving reports, this should maybe include Pastor and one team member. Working on thank yous to be included with quarterly statements.
   e. Social Ministry Team (Dawn Hartman, Carol Dunker, *Linda Isebrand): Linda reported on Food for Friends, April 23. Will be looking for donations, food and workers. Linda will process a Thrivent Action Grant. Caring Coins donation was for Madelia in March,

$496.10. A donation was made to local Food Shelf and next month is Habitat. Yarn has been taken or given away. Looking at revamping prayer shawl area, to include lap quilts with the prayer shawl ministry. Stuffed bears have been donated. Looking at revising prayer chain brochure and process.

f. Youth Ministry Team (*Becky Sittig, Kristy Schultz, Jennifer Fleming): Becky reported on VBS, Easter breakfast, 8 students will go to Minneapolis to work, need co-Sunday School superintendent. April 23 – Service Day at Zion, to include high school students, to do ground work, etc. Discussed Sunday youth group, how to get them more motivated. Per Gina Cooper, the Sunday School students donated $225.00 to Crystal Lake water project.

g. Membership & Outreach Ministry Team (Beth Paumen, *Kathy Fleming, Steve Marshall): Kathy reported on discussion on serving a meal at Crossroads and purchasing tickets for a Moon Dog game. Kathy talked to Michele (photography company representative) about updating the directory and scheduling 5 or 6 days. Consider August dates this fall. Need 2 people for each session to check in participants. Each team member will contact those members who have not picked up their offering envelopes.

h . Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (*Sheldon Meyer, Phil Bachman, Kristi Grindstaff): Sheldon reported on new meeting date, 1st Monday at 6:30 p.m. at church. Choir music cabinets were moved upstairs. Microphone system was fixed by Gary Grindstaff. Will hold a follow-up meeting after each month to contact leaders of monthly service helpers. Two goals for the future: answer question of more than 1 service; offer an adult education class led by someone other than Pastor Andrea. Will have additional brass players on Easter Sunday.

i. Building & Grounds Ministry Team (Brett Strenge, *David Hoffer, Mike Bottin): David reported on issue of grout in bathrooms that needs to be replaced; dirt on north side of church has settled and needs filling in where the gutters have overflowed; will work with members on Work Day in April. Wish list: ladder for inside church, checking on selling tables (long metal tables in basement) and chairs out of Sunday School classrooms. Sell at garage sale or offer to Zion's members. David will put a notice in the newsletter and bulletin. These are extra tables that have been replaced. Mike checked on extra warm bathroom, will look at replacing a baffle rather than blocking open the door. New upstairs classroom and new classroom in basement also get very hot, need to check thermostat for that area. Will check with city for permit for handicap access from street to fellowship hall. Metro is asking about extending contract, maybe compare prices. ZLCW talked about old heavy dishes that cannot be used because we don't have a commercial dish washer.

*Team Chairperson

4. Old Business
   a. Stewardship for All Seasons: Work in progress, updates will be shared. Pledge drive will be late summer into the fall and winter. This is not a time and talent pledge drive.
   b. Constitution Review Update: Will start after Easter with Linda Isebrand, Pastor Andrea and Lisa Jacoby.
   c. Memorial Fund Wish List: Get wish list ideas from Ministry Teams and then announce to congregation and may ask for donations. Start thinking forward.

d. Renew Update from February 28: Pastor Andrea and Ronald, Rod and Linda Isebrand, Doug Midthun, Carol Dunker and Phil Bachman attended. Report on sessions that were attended. Bishop's keynote was distributed by Pastor Andrea via email. Stressed healthy leadership and showing gratitude.

New Business

a. Congregational Vitality Survey: Pastor shared a hand-out of the compilation of the survey results of the survey that was taken at Zion at the Annual meeting. Need to continuously tend to mission and leadership of congregation. Please review for discussion next month.

b. b. Grace Based Evangelizing: Inspiring event in St. Peter on Thursday, April 14. Good for leaders. RSVP to Pastor by April 10.

c. ECUMEN Assembly Member Needed: Synod is looking for a member from Zion or from Lake Crystal area that is willing to serve. Will discuss at a future meeting.

d. Executive Council Regular Meetings?: How important are they? Is there a lot of redundancy? Looking at reducing number of meetings. Constitution dictates a minimum of 9 meetings per year. A request dispensation can be made to the Council. No meeting in April. If there are issues to be reviewed, please contact Rod or Pastor Andrea.

e. Continuing Ed for Mary Gilman: Would like training on Publisher software. An offering at South Central College for an on-line course is available for 6 weeks for $125.00. Motion to Approve This Unbudgeted Item: Pastor Andrea; Motion Seconded: Matt Christianson; Motion Passed.

f. Doug Midthun – Zion may be able to get tax refund through Affordable Care Act. Would require release of 2012 and 2013 W2's for all staff, to consultant. Social security numbers can be redacted. Motion to release information to consultant, pending approval by Council: Doug Midthun; Motion Seconded: Linda Isebrand; Motion Passed.

6. Treasurer's Report: General Checking: $32.45; Memorial Fund: $5,766.21; Building Fund: $12,000.00; Non-Benevolence: $90.77; Special Projects: $620.55; Available to Pay Bills and Payroll: $123.22; Overdue Bills: $1,658.99; Current Bills: $2,555.01.

Adjourn

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

New Member Sunday

New Member Sunday will be held on May 15. If you are interested in making Zion your church home, please speak with Pastor Andrea.

May Caring Coins

The Social Ministry Team has designated May's Caring Coins for Wellcome Manor Family Services. Wellcome Manor Family Services, located in Garden City, is a haven where women come with their children to recover from drug and alcohol addiction. Many of the families who come to Wellcome Manor have very little in the way of possessions. The dollars collected May 8 will be used to support the needs of children, especially for the purchase of diapers, wipes, bottles and formula. The staff at Wellcome Manor thanks our congregation in advance for their generosity and kindness toward their clients.

ELCA introduces initiative to address voting rights

CHICAGO (ELCA) – Affirming its commitment to ensure voting rights for all U.S. citizens, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has introduced ELCAvotes, an initiative to help members advocate for fair elections and engage in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote.

"ELCAvotes is about linking faith, civic engagement and theology in the public square," said Rozella White, program director, ELCA Young Adult Ministry. "It is our hope to invite more people, especially young adults, into fuller conversation as they live out lives of faith in society."

ELCAvotes was developed in response to "Voting Rights to All Citizens," a social policy resolution adopted by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The resolution states that "members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to 'promote public life worthy of the name' by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens."

The ministries leading the initiative include ELCA Advocacy, ELCA Racial Justice Ministries and ELCA Young Adult Ministry.

"In this election year filled with divisiveness and at times hateful rhetoric, it is easy to forget that our electoral process exists to ensure all voices are heard in the shaping of our representative democracy," said Tia Upchurch-Freelove, program director, ELCA Advocacy communications and grassroots outreach. "Voting is one of the most important ways Americans can be involved in our democracy. As part of our ELCAvotes initiative, we will share resources and work together to find ways to ensure all citizens have the right to vote."

ELCAvotes provides faith-based resources to encourage faithful and non-partisan voter participation and a context for all Lutherans to learn about issues such as economic and racial justice that influence voting rights. The resources also provide tools to help young adults understand what it means to be a young person of faith who is civically engaged and will help equip ethnic communities to talk about race and voting rights and the connection with the election year.

"After gaining many of the strides won during the civil rights era, voter suppression and voter restrictions still remain under attack for communities of color," said Judith Roberts, program director, ELCA Racial Justice Ministries. "The racially blatant discriminatory laws and state sanctioned violence under the Jim Crow era denied blacks and other people of color the opportunity to vote are gone. However, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2013 decision to dismantle a key provision of the Voting Rights Act removed a critical element to combat racial discrimination in voting. This removal of protection continues to have unintended consequences in extending all citizens the opportunity to fully exercise their right to vote."

Roberts emphasized that the ELCA, through the social policy resolution, has stated "the guarantee that all citizens may exercise the right to vote on an equal basis is a fundamental requirement for a just society."

"We have to be a church that not only thinks about engagement and has prolific documents on our theological views as they pertain to public life, but we also have to be a church that models active, living, daring faith in Jesus Christ," said White. "Our faith calls us to action, and this initiative is one way of being a church committed to doing God's work with our whole being."

Information and resources are available at ELCA.org/Resources/Advocacy.

"Understanding Islam"

An Open Forum
for the Lake Crystal Community

Wednesday, May 25 6:30 pm

The purpose of this forum is to help us understand what the basic teachings of the Muslim faith are. This is important considering the current political climate and attitude towards Muslims in our country and around the world. Misinformation is abundant. There will be ample time for Q&A after the presentation. All are welcome to attend!

We welcome Pastor Salim Kaderbhai as our guest presenter for this event. Pastor Salim was raised in a Muslim home, and became a Christian during his college studies. He offers us a valuable perspective for understanding our Muslim neighbors in Minnesota and around the world.

Congratulations to these Zion members celebrating their May wedding anniversary:

Robert & Janet Atkinson
Aaron & Heidi Bartelt
Terry & Vicky Chesney
Donald & Lois Davis
Eric & Grace Fjeldberg
Kristi & Gary Grindstaff
Kevin & Denise Hagge
Ray & Donna Roesch

Jim Abbott
Jennifer Abernathy
Kris Anderson
Logan Anderson
Jill Atkinson
Aaron Bartelt
Linda Beecher
Paul Beinke
Chesley Burnett
Candice Burnett
Nicholai Christianson
Tom Cooper
Marvin (Lewie) Fleming
Paige Friedrichs
Josh Friedrichs
Seth Gilman
Grady Gilman
Reese Goeringer
Rachael Goeringer
John Graham
Ethan Grindstaff
Kyle Hauge
Alexandria Hughes
Dennis Hylen
Eric Isebrand
Andrew Isebrand
Deb Richmond Johnson
Jessica Jones
Ivy Karels
Aidan Kennedy
Brooke Laborde
Scott Larson
Daniel Lowis
Frederick (Rick) Manke
Judy Meyer
Ginny Midthun
Greg Mikkelson
Morgan Moeller
Ryan Mueller
Andrea Myers
Ronald Myers
Tanner Peterson
Alex Peterson
Holly Peterson
Renee Rollings
Gary Sandstrom
Eli Sandstrom
Normal Sieling
Todd Sittig
Dan Sohler
Lauren Stordahl
Abigail Teigen
Paula Thompson
McKenzie Tibbetts
Kathryn Torgerson
Kim VanRyswyk
Haley Ziegler
Morghan Zumwalt

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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
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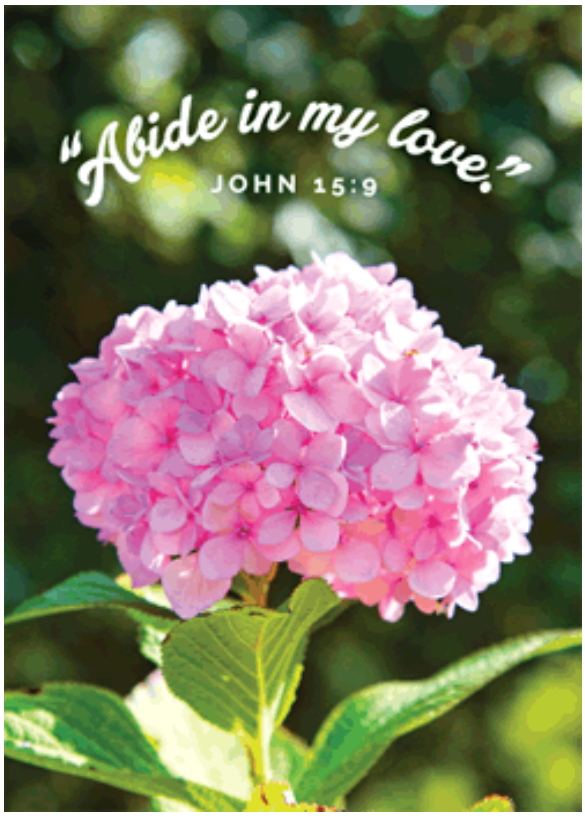

Sunday Morning
9:00 a.m. Worship
Communion the 1st & 3rd Sundays
Contemporary Service the last Sunday of each month.

Our Mission Statement

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

Pastor
Rev. Andrea Myers

Office Manager
Mary Gilman

Choir Director
Linda Isebrand

Custodians
Bob and Barb McDonald

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Confirmation: May 1
Graduates Sunday: May 22
Celebration Sunday: May 22