



ZION NEWS

October 2017



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
604 W. EVELYN, LEWISTOWN, MT
(406) 538-5082

Sunday School: Cool!

Sunday school is off to a great start! So far we have been learning from the book of Genesis about creation and how God has made us all unique in our own way.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to help out on Sunday mornings. There are still some slots to be filled, so if you have extra time please come up and check out what is going on in Sunday school.

-Falan Aanenson



Rainbow Choir

Rainbow Choir started off with a bang on Sept. 27 with 16 eager young faces from grades 2 through 6! We have several volunteer moms and grandmas to carpool for transporting the kids from school to church.

We meet every Wednesday, except when there is no school; we do keep busy until 5 p.m. with singing, art projects, games, and special service projects. We welcome visitors and, in fact, encourage you to share your talents and experiences with us. We have a computer and projector available; just let me know a few days ahead of time and we'll gladly open our doors for you!

We'd also like to have another adult present every week to help out with art projects and classroom management. Please contact me if you would like to spend time with us, even if it's only occasionally.

The enthusiasm and eagerness of these kids is outstanding. It truly is a blessing to have such a solid group of young people contributing to the fellowship and worship of Zion Lutheran.

-Debby Shobe, 366-5864 or debshobe@gmail.com

African Children's Choir coming to Lewistown

The Watoto Children's Choir, a group of 18 orphans from Uganda, will continue its six-month U.S. tour in the Lewistown area featuring a brand new concert, SIGNS & WONDERS. The concert will feature worship songs that share the stories of the children and the joy that they have because of God's love. The children will share stories of how their lives have been changed and how they have been called into a life of purpose to transform their communities. Zion Lutheran will be hosting the choir along with St. James Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church. All performances are free and open to the public. **The concert will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m.**

Watoto

Crafters and Occasional Crafters!

Teresa Stokken, Craft Chair for the Bazaar on Dec. 2, will hold a craft-making session for any and all ages on **Sunday, Oct. 22**, at Zion. Listen and watch for more information on time and what to bring.



Pastor's Page

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It was 500 years ago on Oct. 31, 1517, that Martin Luther is said to have posted his 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church.

Last month PBS aired a new documentary about Luther, which stated he may or may not have actually made that public display, but he did write these ideas and engaged other church leaders in discussion about the ways he saw the Church of Rome (a.k.a. The Roman Catholic Church) had strayed from the mission of the gospel. Luther lived in the right place at the right time as Western Europe was ripe for reforms in many aspects. The Church stood at the center of society, including politics, so it was right that the Church lead the way in drawing people back to live in ways that serve with justice, grace, and peace. (The PBS documentary can still be viewed at <http://www.pbs.org/video/martin-luther-the-idea-that-changed-the-world-iyaelb/>)

Lutherans around the world have continued to teach that **the church needs to always be reforming**, both as we respond to and anticipate the needs of the world around us. Luther used the tools and trends of his time, including the printing press, to help reform the church. Never before had the written word been so accessible. Luther's translation of the Bible into the German vernacular promoted not only the reading of the Bible but reading itself. He endorsed education for all—including girls. This enhanced literacy in the larger society empowered more people to think and speak for themselves, breaking down some of the walls between classes.

In our own day we need to use **current tools** and technology to spread the gospel to the world, too. We also need to repent of the ways we have stifled the gospel when we (the church) have been more set on our traditions and "the way it's always been done" than addressing the needs in front of us.

One of the ways the church has begun to repent is to recognize what some call "The Great Omission."* The church over the past hundred years or so has omitted the engagement of home and family in her faith formation efforts. We have gladly received our babies in Holy Baptism and then we indirectly push the parents and godparents aside as we take over with programs like Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, and Youth Group. While these are all good avenues for learning, they often isolate children from the other generations. Over time this has become the norm and we are the poorer in faith for it.

Here at Zion our staff is examining resources that will help us reform how we go about faith formation as a community. Each week in worship you will find a blue insert in the bulletin titled "**Taking Faith Home.**" It gives ideas for caring conversation, devotions, service, and rituals or traditions that help form our faith. There are prayer ideas for meals and bedtime and words to help families bless one another. We encourage every household to take these inserts home each week. If you live alone, you can send a blessing to your grandchildren or the children you have sponsored in Holy Baptism—even if they are grown with children of their own! Parents and other adults are being invited to become more involved in Sunday School, Confirmation, and other youth activities. The generations need to be inspired and taught by one another!

We are also enlisting new technologies at Zion. In this newsletter you will learn about **electronic giving** as another option for giving to the church. This may seem like just a logistical issue, but it is more than that. Our offerings are intended to be a component of our life of faith. Our financial resources are one of our many gifts from God, like our skills, our time, and our relationships. We are called to be stewards of all of these. Giving to the church and other benevolent organizations reminds us to give out of gratitude for what God has given to us. We hope that this new way of giving might be helpful to those who don't write checks or carry cash, making it more convenient to live out this area of faithful living.

Zion also began a **new worship service on Wednesdays** in September. We are reforming our thinking about keeping the Sabbath. Many people are occupied on the weekends for a variety of reasons. Rather than fuss about this change in our society, we chose to open up a new option for worship. The initial feedback from our first service included many comments of thanks for this alternate worship opportunity.

The beauty of the concept of reformation is that it is **not about throwing out the old** to make way for something entirely new. It is reshaping that which is at the core of our being as Christians—worship, learning, serving, giving—in order to make it both relevant to God's calling for the church and responsive to a world in need of God's love. We hope that you will engage in our congregation's ongoing reformation and provide feedback to our leadership so that the gospel is proclaimed in ways that speak to the world in 2017.

In joyful service with you,
Pastor Lynne

**From the Great Omission to Vibrant Faith: The Role of the Home in Renewing the Church by David W. Anderson*

Interested in becoming a member of Zion Lutheran?

Pastor Lynne will hold new member classes **Oct. 8, 15, and 22 following Sunday worship.** (We'll start a little later on the 15th so you can get some breakfast!) Those who have not belonged to a Lutheran congregation before should plan to attend all three sessions. If you will be transferring your membership from another Lutheran church, attendance on Oct. 22 is the only session needed, although you would be welcome at all three! We will receive our new members in worship on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29, or on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

What does it mean to be a member of Zion? According to our church constitution, a member is a baptized Christian who has made a commitment to participating in and supporting the life of the congregation. An active member makes a financial contribution and receives Holy Communion at least once per year.

Why would you choose to become a member of Zion? The answers vary to that question, of course. Our hope is that by becoming a member you have found value in the way this congregation lives out its ministry in the mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As a member you enter into a covenant relationship with us to support that mission through your voice and vote in congregational decisions, your activity in the life of the church, your financial contributions, and in your ongoing commitment to grow in faith with the people of Zion.

Speak with Pastor Lynne if you have questions or contact the church office, 538-5082, if you are interested in attending the new member classes.

Church Council News

Notes from Zion council's August meeting

The yearly **staff interviews** are completed; each staff member participated in interviews with VP DeeAnn Buehler, Bob Giese, Pastor Lynne and council representatives. The council received excellent feedback from the staff.

Dale and Gail Kurns are retiring from their positions in the **nursery**. Replacements are needed.

Worship and Music Committee: The Wednesday evening service will include all the parts of a regular service, in shortened form. They also discussed the possibility of communion every Sunday and the Rainbow Choir singing one Sunday each month.

The **Stewardship** Committee is moving toward a "ministry Fair" to educate and offer opportunities for the many ministries available at Zion.

Facilities: The city is to remove the old corner sidewalk concrete before new corners can be put in.

Eric Ogren will research the sound system and offer a proposal for improvement.

The **Finance Committee** is moving forward with using electronic payments for offering. This will offer another avenue for giving, not replace the current envelopes for those who prefer that.

The **Lyngblomsten Circle** is disbanding.

Zion will host a presentation "**Muslim Threat or Threat to Muslims**" on Sept. 28.

A **new member class** will begin in October.

Stephen Ministry's timeline is to commission the leaders in September, recruit persons interested, and receive applications by November. The 50 hours of training will begin in January.

The **Watoto Children's Choir** will perform at the Presbyterian Church Oct. 10, hosted by Zion, First Presbyterian and St. James Episcopal churches. Pastor Lynne will help with publicity. Housing is needed for the performers.

Parent's Night Out

Saturday, Oct. 7,
5:30 - 9:00 p.m. at Zion

*Leave the kids with us for supper, fun and games,
while you get a night off!
All ages of children are welcome to come.*

**Please sign up with the church office
by Oct. 4, if attending.**

—Kris Pederson

High School Youth Group

*Friends are always welcome
getting together
on Sunday evenings at 6:30!*

Stephanie Simpson & I have a bunch of ideas for this year and don't want you to miss out!! Each week we do a little eating, planning, sharing, serving, playing and praying. We are excited to be looking at doing a mission trip next summer – maybe Brooklyn, NY; New Orleans, LA; or Puerto Rico – you will get to help decide – then, let the fundraising begin! — *Kris Pederson*

Praise Team

leads worship Sunday, Oct 22

Anyone wanting to help lead worship with us, please join us for practice of the music Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 and again Sunday morning the 22nd at 8:15.

Fall & Reformation

Party time for Families!!

Sunday, Oct 29 is Reformation Sunday, so let's celebrate!

4:00 – 6:30 p.m. at Zion for all ages

Come get your fill of Reformation-themed fun, games, music, crafts and German food!

Farewell and Godspeed!

As we prepare to welcome new members later this month, we also bid a fond farewell to others.

Emma Peterson has moved to St. John's Lutheran Ministries in Billings. Emma has been on the waiting list at St. John's for some time. Thankfully the timing lines up with **Etta Tuss** moving to Aspen Meadows Retirement Community in Billings. While not in the same facilities these good friends are still close enough to get together regularly!

We also said good-bye to **Cheryl Bannes** last month, who is moving to New York Mills, Minn., to take a job as the Education Director for the local Arts Center. We have appreciated Cheryl's leadership, especially in recent years on Council and the Call Committee, and we know she will be a blessing in her new community.

We wish all these good friends God's richest blessings in their new homes. Though we will miss their presence with us, we trust that God goes with them and that they will continue to bless the lives of those they will meet in their new communities as they have blessed us.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Breakfasts are an 'elevating' experience!

Sunday, October 15 will be our next "God's Work. Our Hands." breakfast following worship. Last month we gathered contributions totaling \$290, which will be added to our upcoming breakfast offerings to help us replace our elevator. The elevator is crucial for many people who use our building, both members and visitors alike. It is no longer possible to get replacement parts for our current elevator and the council has determined it is time for a new one. The facilities committee is in the process of getting bids for the new elevator. In the mean time we will begin to receive contributions toward that goal.

Thrivent members are asked to consider using one or both of their **Thrivent Action Team** grants (\$250 each) to help pay for the food for our monthly breakfasts so that all contributions can go toward our "God's Work. Our Hands." projects. Every Thrivent Financial member is eligible to apply for an Action Team grant and we would be happy to help you make that application. Contact Lana in the church office if you are willing and we will let you know when we need it and we can help with the application process.



Montana Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Community Youth Choir

St. James Episcopal Church is beginning an outreach ministry for youth who like to sing! The community youth choir offers another opportunity for kids in grades 3-6 who thrive within the arts, to intentionally foster musical and spiritual development through this choir. Rachael Schwaller will direct and Chris Hildebrandt will accompany. The choir will sing a combination of secular and religious music. Plans include two concerts this year.

The choir will meet on Tuesday afternoons with an orientation meeting for youth and parents at St. James Episcopal on Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. Contact Ms. Schwaller by email at rachael.schwaller@lewistown.k12.mt.us

Staff Position Open: Communications Coordinator

Zion Lutheran Church is seeking a motivated individual for the position of Communications Coordinator. This position serves the church by effectively and creatively meeting the communication and publication needs of the various ministries of the church. This is a regular part-time position with hours to be determined by church staff, including at least one day per week in the church office.

Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Write and edit newsletter, collecting articles and announcements from various ministry leaders.
- Communicate weekly news via email.
- Post Facebook updates based on current activities.
- Maintain the church's website ensuring the content is up to date.
- Learn and use the church's membership software.
- Provide office support as needed or assigned.

Skills required include:

- Strong communication skills, both written and oral.
- Excellent grammar, spelling and proofreading skills.

- Pleasant and professional demeanor.
- High level of expertise in computer applications and social media integration.
- Ability to work independently and as a team member. Teamwork is a must.
- A commitment to confidentiality.
- The Communications Coordinator will be a Christian who seeks this position in accordance with the church's mission.

Financial compensation package will consider training, experience and length of service. Background search will be required. Review of applications will begin on November 1, 2017; position will remain open until filled. The church is advertising within our membership first. If a suitable applicant is not found we will open the position to the community.

Questions can be sent to: zionelca@midrivers.com. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest accompanied by a complete resume, which includes references with contact information, to the church office: PO Box 147, Lewistown.

Montana Synod will Gather in Lewistown

Each October the Montana Synod of the ELCA holds a Bishop's Convocation with the clergy and Lay Pastoral Associates of our synod. This year the convocation will be held at the Yogo Inn here in Lewistown on Friday, Oct. 27. As part of our observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Convocation will be held jointly with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Great Falls/Billings. The gathering will focus on the **Five Ecumenical Imperatives** identified as part of the 500th anniversary.

- Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.
- Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.
- Catholics and Lutherans should again commit themselves to seek visible unity, to elaborate together what this means in concrete steps, and to strive repeatedly toward this goal.
- Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.
- Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

We invite the congregation to **hold this gathering in prayer** as our leaders learn and share together in our common mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

ZLCW news:

The women of Zion Lutheran met on Sunday, Sept. 24, following Sunday morning church.

Most of the new business centered around the upcoming bazaar, scheduled for Dec. 2. Lana Papp and Lynn Franz are co-chairs for the event. Other chairpersons have volunteered for kitchen, bake sale, lefse-making, and arts and crafts. A chairperson for wreath-making is still needed; supplies and location details are coming together. Discussion brought new ideas for the arts and crafts table. Plans include a craft-making party on the afternoon of Oct. 22.

Ruth, Rachel, and Hosanna Circle monthly meetings have begun. All women are welcome to attend.

A discussion was held on the Sunday morning coffee hour, encouraging more volunteers to sign up to serve.

Adults! Come to Camp!

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp is hosting three great adult retreats this fall! Brochures for all of these retreats are available at <http://flbc.net/year-round-flbc-retreats-events/>. If the cost is the reason you would not attend, **financial assistance is available.**

Speak with Eric Ogren or Pastor Lynne for more information.



Men's S-S-S

(Scripture-Scales-Suds) Retreat, Nov. 1-3

An awesome time for men to gather for Scripture, scales (that's fish), and suds (and that's not washing clothes!). Yes, fishing, beer brewing, and Bible study will all be part of this great retreat. What a great gift for a man you love! Check the sign-up sheet in the narthex for a registration form. Speak with Eric Ogren, 380-2807, for more information about carpooling.

Cost: \$135 per person (minimum age: 21)

Bread of Life Retreat, Nov. 1-3

Warm hearts and warm ovens unite as you join our fabulous bakers to make 8 different breads throughout the weekend and, of course, take the recipes home with you! We will join the S-S-S Retreat participants for morning and evening worship experiences, and enjoy Bible studies on the theme, "Jesus, the Bread of Life." Cost is \$125 per person.

Crazy About Quilting! Nov. 9-12

Whether you are brand new to quilting and have always wanted to learn, or if you are an advanced quilter, this retreat is for you. Retreat includes lots of time for quilting, along with great food, worship, massages, hiking and fun! Learn new techniques from our quilter in residence.

All adults 18+ are welcome; teenagers must be accompanied by an adult. Sorry, childcare is not provided. Prices include meals, tables, snacks, programming and activities. Massages extra.

Cost is \$130 per person. You may also arrive early: Add Thursday brunch/dinner/overnight/Friday brunch: \$65. Add Wed. brunch/dinner/overnight: \$55.



Manage Your Giving Online

Zion Lutheran's church council is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions or make one-time contributions. You can view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at www.zionlewisstownelca.org
2. Click on the Give Now button
3. Click on the Create Profile button, then
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your one-time or recurring contributions.

You can also give from your smart phone through the mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's QR code reader.



Frequently Asked Questions about Electronic Giving

Can I still give with a check or cash?

• Absolutely! Some people have told us that they no longer use checks and often do not carry cash so electronic giving is just an additional option for giving to the church. We also hope this will be a helpful option for visitors.

• If you give by cash, be sure to put it in an envelope with your name on it if you want a record for your end of the year contribution report for your taxes.

What payment methods can I use to donate?

• Donations can be made with all major debit/credit cards currently accepted by your church. You can also give or pay using your checking or savings account.

How can I participate in the offering during service?

• Either write "I give electronically" on the outside of your offering envelope or use the "I Give Electronically" card located in the pew pocket to drop into the offering plate.

How safe is electronic giving?

• Vanco Payment Solutions[®] meets or exceeds all industry standards to safeguard your data. To help ensure your data stays safe, Vanco leverages technology such as tokenizing card data and encrypting sensitive information for transmission and storage.

Will I receive a receipt?

• Yes. You will receive a receipt via email, and you will also be able to view transactions in your giving history. Guest donors will receive a receipt if they choose to enter their email address when completing a donation.

We will continue to provide more information in the coming weeks and months. If you need help setting up an account or recurring contribution please contact the church office.