



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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

NEWS FROM ZION JANUARY 2018

Pastor's Page

Taking Faith Home: Service

We have had a season of waiting, watching, and hoping for the coming of the Christ child. We have worshipped the King of Glory together in festive song and praise. For many of us, Christmas is a time for gathering with family and friends, eating decadent foods to the point of getting us back on track with our diet and fitness routines in the New Year.

But we know for many people the holidays are difficult times. Family members might be struggling with one another or even estranged. Making ends meet is hard enough during the rest of the year and adding gifts to the expectations of the season is nearly impossible. And for some Christmas brings memories of loved ones who are no longer here, dampening the joy we are "supposed" to feel.

In our *Taking Faith Home* bulletin inserts, the third key for a life of faith is service. Often we think of service as a service project like serving soup at a homeless shelter or ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Both of these examples are good and they do serve others. It is important to find ways to notice where we can give of our time in ways like this to help people in need.

The service ideas offered in *Taking Faith Home* also broaden this definition to the ways we might serve others in simple, daily interactions. Over the month of December it was suggested we look for acts of kindness to do for someone or to find ways to bring comfort to another person. These acts of service might involve a financial expense, but they could also be as simple as a hug or a few extra minutes of listening. Service means that first we notice that someone is in need of attention or care and then find ways to be a minister to that need.

As you think about how you might use *Taking Faith Home* in your daily life, this portion could be talked about at dinner or bedtime each day. You might be surprised at the ways you are living out your faith in acts of service and you never realized it before.

God sent the Son into the world to serve us. Jesus came to live among us bringing us words of comfort and hope, welcoming us into community with God and with others, and giving his whole life to free us from sin and pain. May we learn to share these gifts with others in the ways we serve the world around us.

God be with you,
Pastor Lynne

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING
Sunday, January 28, 2018
10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**



Members of Zion, now is the time to participate in yet another facet of congregational membership by attending the annual meeting of our congregation held after worship on Sunday, January 28, 2018, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Yes, there will be coffee and conversation just prior to the meeting so please consider participating in this important event.

All members are invited to attend and voting members may further participate by making their voices heard in the various points of business on the agenda. Voting membership is defined as a confirmed member of Zion (by confirmation, affirmation of faith, or transfer) who has participated in Holy Communion and contributed to the treasury during the past year. The agenda will include voting on changes to our constitution and bylaws, approving the 2018 budget, electing new members to the Council and various committees, and various other items. This annual event is a great opportunity to learn more about the activities of Zion Lutheran outside of scheduled worship and to become more acquainted with other members who are willing to share that knowledge. Please consider joining in the business and joy of God's Work, Our Hands. Children will be in Sunday School and/or cared for until the meeting is finished; we will keep the meeting succinct and to the point as the agenda is addressed in respect for everyone's time.

Copies of the Annual Report booklet and the Constitution/Bylaws revisions will be available in the narthex two weeks prior to this meeting for members to become more familiar with these documents prior to the meeting date. Copies will also be available at the time of the meeting. To avoid too much paper, the Constitution/Bylaws document is available by email to you upon request to the church office. If you pick up a paper copy, please be responsible for bringing that copy to the meeting to offset duplication. Thank you for your interest.

Cindy Giese,
ZLC Council President

Zion Council Notes from November

The trust committee distributed the remainder of Margaret Durham's gift to Zion. Approximately 4/5 went into Zion's perpetual trust and 1/5 to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

Katie Wirtzberger has been hired as Communications Coordinator. She is in the office on Mondays.

The council discussed the proposed budget for 2018 and suggested some changes. Final adoption of the budget will take place at the December meeting after which it will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting January 28.

The various committees reported on their activities. The stewardship committee will have the various committees speak to the congregation during the offering time, so the congregation is aware of the activities and also to see ways in which they might take part.

The monthly breakfasts will continue.

The council was given drafts for the updated caring and social ministry committee and the mutual ministry committee. The ELCA has required some language changes to constitutions. Pastor Howard from Havre is coming December 15 to



Wishing you could sneak away for a relaxing time at the beach? We've got the perfect plan!

February 2nd & 3rd @ Zion

WHERE WOMEN BASK IN GOD'S PRESENCE

SeaSide Escape is a relaxing beach-themed retreat the women of our church are doing together. It includes worship, bible study, and time for laughter as well as time for quiet reflection. Friends are welcome!

We'll meet 6:00 – 8:30pm Friday, Feb 2 & 8:30am – 3:00pm Saturday, Feb 3 at Zion. You are even welcome to spend the night at church for more fun, music, snacks and games! We recommend you attend both times and are suggesting a donation of \$25 for food, beverages and retreat materials.

Register in the narthex or call the church office @ 538-5082. For more info, call Kris Pederson @ 350-1184. Take time to relax, make new friends, worship, and bask in the warmth of God's presence.

We hope you'll join us at SeaSide Escape.



ROCK & WORSHIP ROADSHOW Spokane, WA - March 10-12

I am looking for families & individuals to travel out to Spokane for a long weekend in March. We will stay and worship at St. Paul's Lutheran church, do some sightseeing and attend the Rock & Worship Roadshow (a 4 hr showcase of Christian music) featuring: *For King & Country, Matthew West, Natalie Grant, Bethel Music, Zach Williams, and the Social Club Misfits.*



We will spend the night again Sunday and head back to Lewistown Monday morning. Concert is \$10/person. I realize this is a long way to go, but it's the closest they get to us and it is AMAZING!!!!!! Please talk to me, Kris Pederson (350-1184), if you are at all interested.

Candlelight Dinner

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Seatings begin at 5:30pm

Serving: Prime Rib, Twice Baked Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Bread, Dessert & Beverage

\$40/couple or \$20 single

Advanced reservations only - Space is limited

Sign up in the church narthex or

Call 538-5082 or 350-1184 to reserve your table

Proceeds benefit the 2018 Summer High School Mission trip to Nashville, TN

Sunday School News

- The New Year is here! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's. Thank you to all who made a purchase from our ELCA Good Gifts tree. As of December 20th a total of 10 pigs, 9 chicks, 3 goats, 1 rooster, 3 bees, 1 set of school supplies, 1 refugee food, and 1 bible were given. Adding to a total of \$677!! As you know we were collecting items for the Pregnancy care center. We had a great turn out.
- On December 21st we delivered 22 bags of baby items and a few of the kids were able to see where their donations went in the community. We were also front page news in Lewistown on Dec. 20th. Thank you to all who donated.

Parish Education ministry is hosting this month's breakfast. We have chosen to donate the proceeds to the Special Olympics Central Montana Area. Come join us January 21st at 10:30 for breakfast and fellowship.

January lessons

7 - All things are possible with God

14 - God uses ordinary people

21 - We are hosting the Breakfast

28 - God rewards those who trust him



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers begin class

We are so excited to begin this New Year with the Stephen Ministry program. The program set up is complete, the interviews have been done, the participants are in place and classes have started! Our 50 hours of training started January 4th and will run through May.

We start this ministry with great excitement. As your Stephen Leader Ministry team, we ask that you keep us in your prayers, that we may lead the way for the seven people who have answered God's call to become Stephen Ministers.

To DeeAnn, Annette, Jim, Lana, Emily, Logan and Teresa we give our thanks to the Lord that you have consented to becoming Stephen Ministers. You all bring such talents to our ministry. Please keep these seven in your prayers as we move forward with our class time.

Last, but by no means least, we give our thanks to Pastor Lynne for her foresight and dedication to making the Stephen Ministry program a reality in our church.

Your Stephen Leader Team ----Roger Woltermann & Kris Descheemaeker

ZLCW BAZAAR

December 2, 2017

The ZLCW Bazaar was once again a success thanks to all who crafted, baked and worked! We had a nice day for the event and many from the community and congregation turned out to shop and eat. Thrivent provided \$250 which was used to purchase food and advertising. Thanks to Vonnie Ortgies for donating a beautiful quilt, and extra \$510 was added to our profit of \$5900! The profit is used to maintain the kitchen, purchase coffee, fund receptions and support the congregation as needed. ZLCW also donated to the following ELCA and community organizations: Zion general fund - \$1488; Council on Aging - \$100; Montana & Great Falls Rescue Missions - \$200; Flathead - \$100; The Lutheran Center - \$300; Women of the ELCA - \$1000.

Now Hiring!

Zion Lutheran is in need of two nursery attendants, age 15 or older for our Sunday morning worship services. We would like consistent care for the comfort of our young children and their families. The hours are 9:00 - 11:00 every Sunday. We are willing to pay \$20 per person each week.

If you are a Wednesday worshiper and are interested in this position, please contact the church office for a job description and application. If you know someone in the community who is reliable and good with young children please encourage them to apply.



Newsletter Info!

If you have any information that you would like included in the February Newsletter please have it emailed or dropped off at the church office by **Monday, January 15th**

Emails can be sent to:
kwirtzberger@gmail.com

Social Concern for →
→ *January 2018*

The mission of Child and Family Services is to protect children who have been or are at substantial risk of abuse, neglect or abandonment. One family in Lewistown is in need of home repairs to create a healthy environment for their children. Zion can help by collecting donations and then paying for new flooring. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to Zion and note "Child & Family Services" on the memo line. The contacts for this service may be reached at 538-7731.

Lay Pastoral Associates and Zion

Zion Lutheran has been blessed with the role of Lay Pastoral Associates (LPA's) in our congregation for some time. Roger Woltermann and Jeff Bols provided valuable leadership in worship, especially when the pastor is away, and with visitation. The LPA program of the Montana Synod is rather unique and provides many small, rural congregations with quality leadership when pastors are difficult to call to those communities.

Now that Roger is taking on leadership for Stephen Ministry we feel like it is time to encourage others to consider taking the LPA training. Please read the information below and if you feel like this is a possibility for you Pastor Lynne would be happy to talk with you further. Even if this role is not for you, please join us in prayer for God to guide the hearts of those who will answer this call.

What is an LPA and what is their role in the congregation?

A Lay Pastoral Associate in the Montana Synod is a congregational lay person who has received religious, educational training, through the Montana Synod, in order to provide (in most cases) short term pulpit supply (i.e., preaching) when the pastor is away, or if a congregation is without a pastor. Their role is to fill in for the basic pastoral duties such as providing Word and Sacrament, communion, and other roles as approved by the Bishop. LPA's are NOT authorized to preside at weddings.

What kind of training is available?

The Montana Synod provides a 2 year training class that covers topics which include preaching, worship, prayer, and pastoral care. This educational training prepares the lay person to fill in for the short-term needs (and in some instances, longer term) of a congregation when a pastor is away, or for those congregations without a pastor. LPA students are required to have a member of the rostered clergy serve as their mentor for the duration of the training. This provides one-to-one guidance and training throughout the program. The next program will begin in the fall of 2018.

How is the training organized?

This 2 year program allows the student to participate in 4 class retreats as a group, as well as self-paced, at-home foundation courses. Your training is facilitated in 3 ways; ELCA rostered clergy or faculty designated by the Synod; yourself; and your mentor. Courses include: Intro to Old Testament, Intro to New Testament, History of Christianity, Intro to Lutheran Theology, Planning & Leading a Bible Study, Preparation for Preaching, Visitation, and Teaching the Catechism. For more information, see the Montana Synod website: <https://www.montanasynd.org/become-an-lpa.html>

