



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
604 W. EVELYN, LEWISTOWN MT  
(406) 538-5082  
OFFICE EMAIL: [zionelca@midrivers.com](mailto:zionelca@midrivers.com)  
<http://zionlewistownelca.com/>

## NEWS FROM ZION JULY 2018



### Pastor's Page

Faith Formation Principle #3: *Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too.*

The first three of these faith formation principles all refer to the home. I thought it would be helpful to define "home" for the purposes of these principles. Home is wherever we live and move and have our being in our everyday lives. Many people live with someone else—a spouse, children, or roommate—in the same dwelling and that would certainly be "home". But we have other home bases like our work, our friends and neighbors, our extended family members who live elsewhere but with whom we talk or visit regularly. The place of "home" in our lives of faith is wherever we gather with others for love and support, even if we live alone.

This third principle states that the home is or can also be church for us. So then we must define "church". Church is what happens when "two or three are gathered" in Christ's name. Church is more of a verb than a noun.

- Church happens when we are engaged in caring conversations, trusting that Christ is also present listening, comforting, and receiving our hopes and fears and feelings within those conversations.
- Church happens when we gather with others in devoted times of reading Scripture, discussing it, and wondering together what these words mean for our lives as God's people.
- Church happens when we serve others in Christ's name. Sometimes that service happens within the walls of our homes to and with our family members—washing dishes, changing diapers, drying tears, celebrating accomplishments. And that service also happens to and with our coworkers, our friends and neighbors, or a stranger we have just met. Church includes the ways we interact with others as Christ's hands and feet and ears and eyes—as Christ's Body—in the world.
- Church happens in our rituals of prayer and blessing with and for one another, when we invoke the presence of Christ in our home life. These can happen at mealtime, bedtime, birthdays and anniversaries, our leavings and our homecomings. This experience of church also happens spontaneously as we bless and pray for one another in our joys and sorrows.

Do you see a familiar pattern here? Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, Rituals & Traditions, the Four Keys of practicing faith that are outlined in our Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts serve as a framework to engage our faith at home. Where Christ is present, when we recognize and purposefully call upon Christ in our relationships and everyday patterns of life, there the home is church, too.

As a congregation we are growing into this understanding of church that is experienced both in the congregation and in our home lives. We would love to hear the stories of how you experience church in the home! Give me a call or send me an email so we can share our ideas with each other.

Grace & peace,  
Pastor Lynne

# Highlights from the 2018 Synod

The theme of the assembly was, "Strengthening Congregations." Following are ways that were addressed at the 2018 Synod Assembly in Great Falls this June.

1. Twenty new LPA's (Lay Pastoral Associate) were commissioned at the assembly. They are part of the backbone of our ministry. The Montana Synod Lay Pastoral Associate program is designed to train lay people to serve in congregations in a variety of ways: Bible study leaders, Worship Leaders, Supply Preachers, Pastoral care givers, and Teachers. Congregations were encouraged to prayerfully support them.
2. Encouraging congregations to elect youth (high school) and young adults (18-30) to attend Synod Assembly as voting members to get more young members involved and interested in the mission of the church.
3. Including people from all walks of life and backgrounds in our congregation. In the workshop meetings at the assembly much talk was given to caring for the "Little Ones". Little ones are those in need, those who are hurting, those who are powerless, those who are excluded, rejected or neglected in any way, as well, of course, the little children. "Seeing the humanity in each other".
4. Empowering us to reach out so that all might be served. So much of what we heard validates what Pastor Lynne is leading us to do. She is asking each of us to put "our faith into action".

Various pastors spoke of innovative ways to meet the needs of their congregation. Pastor Lynne shared Zion's Informal Wednesday evening service which has opened the door for new ways of sharing Zion's gifts.

The synod assembly noted the need for encouraging students to pursue an interest in seminary by continued financial support of seminary colleges as well as student scholarships.

Pastor Kathy (Larson) Aasheim, formerly a member of Zion Lutheran Church, was installed as campus pastor for Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU Bozeman. She would appreciate anyone to share names of enrolled students and she would reach out to them if they desired. The University of Montana also has a Campus Ministry Program.

In conclusion, a high point for us was attending the dedication of the new Synod House, as we had the opportunity to volunteer, along with several members from our congregation, for a week last summer while the house was being built. We had a chance to reconnect with some of the Mission Builders that were attending the conference. It is an environmentally friendly and functional facility that is much appreciated by the staff.

"For every HOUSE is built by someone, but the Builder of all things is GOD."

Hebrews 3:4

Submitted By: Lynette Sallee and Karen Combs

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## *Women's Summer Bible Study*

The second session of our summer studies on the topic of prayer will talk about the practices of prayer. What do or should we pray about? Is there a right or wrong way to pray? How can the ways we pray reorient our daily living?

Join us at **noon on Tuesday, July 17** in the Fellowship Hall with a sack lunch and we'll provide the coffee, tea, and lemonade. Friends are welcome!

# Stephen Ministry

As our Stephen Ministers move into caring relationships with their care receivers, they will be providing an ear to listen and a “cup of cold water” to their care receivers.

Cups of cold water can take many forms in the caring relationship. Prayer is certainly one resource the Stephen Ministers will be using with their care receivers, but that “cup of cold water” may also come in the form of encouraging and supporting a care receiver to make a difficult life decision; or maybe it is a simple act of taking a wheelchair bound care receiver for a ride to enjoy the sunshine.

Pastor Lynne has done an incredible job of matching Stephen Ministers with congregation members who are in need of a “cup of cold water” in their life right now. Not all Stephen Ministers have been matched with a care receiver, so if you feel you are in need of a “cup of cold water” please visit with Pastor Lynne (380-0760), Roger (535-8851) or Kris (535-6869) and see if a Stephen Minister is right for you.

“May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it” (1Thess. 5:23-24)

## Church Picnic and Farewell to the Pederson Family

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**, as we celebrate the life and ministry of Zion and bid farewell to the Pederson family before Kris and the kids join Mike in Dickinson, ND. We rejoice that they will now be living together as a family full-time once again, and we want to thank Kris for her faithful work here and celebrate the gift the whole family has been to our congregation.

Worship will be held at church as usual that day followed by a church picnic elsewhere. Details are still coming together so watch for more information in the bulletins, Facebook page, and Monday morning E-blasts.

## *What will we do when Kris leaves?*

That’s a really good question! Zion has been blessed to have Kris Pederson on staff for many years, bringing a set of experiences, resources and skills that would be impossible to replicate in any other individual person.

The personnel committee will conduct an exit interview with Kris to hear what worked for her and the challenges she faced over the years, both in Youth & Family Ministry and in her work with the Adult Choir and Music Ministry. In addition, we want to hold some cottage meetings, particularly with families who have youth ministry at heart—those whose kids have recently been involved in youth ministry at Zion, those who are our current families of teens, and those whose children will be in the Jr. High/High School age group soon. We want to know your hopes and dreams for this portion of our ministry to and with teens and their families. Yet, Kris worked also with elementary aged kids & their families, so families with kids of all ages are invited to reflect and dream with us!

We will be formulating a task force to use this information to envision something new. It could be that we would look to hire one person or divide what Kris did into various paid and volunteer positions. It is likely that this position would not be ready to fill when the school year begins. This means that we will need many people to step forward to help out. We appreciate your patience and your prayers as we move forward in faith.

If you would like to be involved in this process please contact anyone from our Personnel Committee: Chairperson Bob Giese, 538-3619; Council VP Tanner Hoversland, 350-0455; Pastor Lynne, 380-0760.



# Confirmation Kids Go To Camp

The education committee, with several new volunteers, began brainstorming how we make the most of our interaction with confirmation aged children. This dialogue was introduced by Pastor Lynne and her desire to ensure we are offering the best Confirmation program possible. Members individually read a specific article on Confirmation from the winter 2018 edition of Word & World (a quarterly journal of theology) then discussed each piece as it pertains to our congregation's needs. It was a very good starting point reinforcing the idea that, "Confirmation contributes to faith intensification." The group feels confident that we can complement prior teaching techniques with relational methods to help our children own their faith.

This summer's Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (FLBC) trip for confirmands is a great example of a new method to intensify faith and build community. Seven kids will attend the 5 day Pathfinder camp during late July. Pastor Lynne will also join FLBC that same week as camp pastor while spending an hour for bible study each day with our ZLC Confirmation group. This will be a great opportunity to begin a more comprehensive foundation of faith for our precious youth. We will be discussing Confirmation class at a summer education committee meeting. Please ask questions and share comments with a committee member or attend a meeting in person, watch announcements for additional details.

*Jim Fryer, Council & Parish Education*

## NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL...

### ZION LUTHERAN COUNCIL RETREAT WRAP-UP

April 27-28, 2018

Members of the ZLC Council along with Pastor Lynne and Kris Pederson met together at the d'Autremont cabin on the evening of April 27 and again the next morning, April 28. We began our retreat with fellowship and a potluck dinner. The retreat was based on the book "**Vibrant Faith in the Congregation**" by David W. Anderson published by Milestones Ministry. Council members had previously read pertinent chapters from the book so as to be better educated on this faith formation process began by Pastor Lynne last fall in her study with the author.

In this quiet and peaceful setting we were able to talk, share, brainstorm, discuss and form some possible methods and ideas to bring to the congregation for the next step in this process. Pastor Lynne helped by taking notes and putting together a list of ideas and possibilities from our conversations. At the May Council meeting members used this list to further narrow down the possibilities that we could accomplish at Zion.

Council will begin bringing these ideas and possibilities to the congregation gradually over the next few months. Stay tuned for more news on this exciting process aimed at helping everyone at Zion to grow, share and affirm his/her faith together and with the community.

### *Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC)*

At the May Council meeting the topic of Zion Lutheran becoming a member of Heart of Montana Love INC was an agenda item voted on. We have had two presentations by members of the Love INC Board that included a presentation at Adult Forum. Pastor Lynne made inquiries at other ELCA congregations regarding their experiences with this entity. The News Argus ran an informative article about Love INC and we have read a copy of their bylaws and a recent newsletter along with their mission statement. Following additional discussion the item came to a vote with a unanimous approval to become a member congregation. There will be more information available as we begin this community outreach to help those in need.

# Montana Synod Thank You

Dear Friends at Zion,

On behalf of the Montana Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I want to thank you for your generous sharing of mission support. You are among the top 15 giving congregations in the whole Synod, and we appreciate it greatly.

Because of your generosity we can fund a full-time chaplain at the Montana State Prison. Pastor Rob Nedbalek works tirelessly as the Pastor of Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry, the only mainline Protestant presence in the Montana State Prison.

Because of your generosity we have a developing ministry on the Fort Peck Reservation. Pastor Christine Holler-Dinsmore, a longtime faculty member at the Tribal College, is now working with inmates at the Tribal Correctional Facility. She has baptized over 100 people in the facility.

Because of your generosity we have campus ministry at the University of Montana, Missoula, and Montana State University, Bozeman.

Because of your generosity, the ELCA can start new congregations in growing areas of the United States, and support ministries to people living in poverty.

Because of your generosity, the ELCA can support new ministries in South Sudan, and accompany partner churches in the Lutheran World Federation.

All this and much more is possible because your congregation sees itself as part of a larger whole.

Thank you, and God bless you!

In Christ,  
Jessica Crist, Bishop

## **Communications Coordinator Position Open** →

Our Communications Coordinator, Katie Wirtzberger, will begin a full-time job at the Jr. High this fall. Therefore, we are in need of someone to replace her. This position serves the church by effectively and creatively meeting the communication and publication needs of the various ministries of the church. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Prepare the newsletter for printing and mailing
- Send out the weekly E-blast email reminders
- Post Facebook updates
- Maintain the church's website with current content and calendar updates
- Preferably work in the church office one day per week to answer the phone and greet people who come by.

We hope to have the replacement for this position hired by the end of July so Katie can provide training. For more information and an application, please contact the church office, 538-5082.

# Graduate Thank You's!

Members of Zion Lutheran Church & Quilters,

Thank you so much for the graduation reception, the quilt and the other gifts.

- Cooper Bruchez

Zion,

Thank you for giving us seniors the nice books and cute mugs. I really love mine and am very blessed to have such a supportive church community!

- Annie Franz

Zion Quilters,

Thank you all so much for making those beautiful quilts for all of us seniors! I truly love mine and it will always be very special to me.

- Annie Franz

## THANK YOU...

### *From Your Neighbor Cares*

Dear Pastor Ogren and Zion Lutheran Congregation:

Thank you very much for making Your Neighbor Cares your Social Concern of the Month in May and for your generous donation to our general fund. Thank you also for the opportunity to visit with you on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

We really appreciate that you have chosen to join us in our work and help us be a positive force in the community.

Cheryll Tuss, our board members, and I look forward to collaborating with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Marita Valencia, Secretary/Treasurer

## Newsletter Info!

If you have any information that you would like included in the July Newsletter please have it emailed or dropped off at the church office by  
**Sunday, July 16th**

Emails can be sent to:  
**kwirtzberger@gmail.com**

## We Need Your Email Addresses!

We have been sending out weekly E-Mail Blasts! This is a great way for you to stay informed on different church events and weekly news.

If we do not have your email address please call the church office at 535-5082 or email Katie at kwirtzberger@gmail.com

# The ZION Bulletin Board

## THANK YOU!

Dear Zion Lutheran,

Thank you very much for your generous gift for our family!! Adelia Marie was born on May 11th, weighing 9 pounds 4 hours and 21.75 inches long. She is perfect! We have enjoyed having Mom and Dad here to help with our transition into parenthood! They have been a huge help. Thank you for your support and prayers for our family!

Seth & Becky Miller (Pastor Lynne & Eric's daughter & Son In-law)

## Central Montana Relay for Life

*Friday, July 13, 2018 - Fergus County Fairgrounds - Visit our website: [centralmontanarelayforlife.org](http://centralmontanarelayforlife.org)*

*The money raised through the Relay fundraisers helps realize our mission to save lives, celebrate life, and lead the fight for a world without cancer.*

*Donations are used to fund life-saving cancer research, patient support services, prevention and education information, and detection and treatment programs.*

*Zion's Team will be selling raffle tickets and luminaries in the west end of the narthex on Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Team will provide refreshments after worship on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> - a no-bake sale!*

*The Relay itself begins on Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00pm. The survivor and caregiver dinner is at 5:30pm.*

*If you have any questions contact Lana or Chris Cooler. Everyone is invited to the Relay!*

## JULY SERVANT SCHEDULE

	USHER	GREETER	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.	OFFERING COUNTERS
7/1/18	Vonnie Ortgies	Phil & Pam Koterba	Becky Woltermann	Roger Woltermann	Vickey Cowen & Vonnie Ortgies
7/8/18	Foss Wilson	Wayne & Dana Leininger	Linda Robinson	Bob Giese	Jim & Pat Fredrickson
7/15/18	Dennis Robinson	Vonnie Ortgies	Laurie Bentley	Stan Olson	Monte & Starla Solberg
7/22/18	Monte Solberg	Avis Simpson	Starla Solberg	Lana Papp	Bob & Cindy Giese
7/29/18	Bill Cowen	Loyd & Pam Bowen	Vickey Cowen	Emilie Pietz	Karen Combs & Linda Robinson

# Do you do Social

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<https://www.facebook.com/Zion-Lutheran-Church-Lewistown->

