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ZION'S MISSION STATEMENT

We are claimed, gathered, and sent forth to serve and witness in Jesus' name.

ZION'S VISION STATEMENT:

Zion is a welcoming church where all people will experience a vibrant lifelong journey in faith through worship, education, mission and service.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 3rd
8:00 a.m. at Zion.
Bring a friend or neighbor!

*"Since God is formed in every person, how we treat our neighbors is how we treat God."
Dr. Carolyn Woo*

THANK YOU!

The Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve offerings totaled \$3,900.77. Thank you for your gifts. It was divided among ELCA World Hunger (25%), ELCA World Relief (25%) and Zion Lutheran Church (50% as Christmas fell on a Sunday.) God bless your stewardship.



Ash Wednesday

is Feb. 14th. Zion's service is at 6:45 p.m. No soup supper this year before the Ash Wednesday service.



Lenten Services

Wednesday Lenten Services are February 21, 28 and March 7, 14, 21 at 6:45 p.m. A Soup Supper will be served before each Lenten Service. Sign-up sheets for soup, bread and crackers are in the narthex/lobby.

The Holden Evening Prayer will be used for our Lenten worship and the Confirmation Class will be leading short dramas during worship.

JOIN THE CHOIR!



If you like to sing, the choir is the place for you. The Zion choir will begin its 2018 season with rehearsal on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30 p.m. Please remember that if you do not use your voice, you lose it. Celebrate your love of God by serving your church with your voice!

Prayer Wall

Prayer works. Add your prayers to the Zion Prayer Wall. The Prayer Wall is just inside the double doors leading to the fellowship area. Can't get to Zion? Call the office at 218-495-2563 or email us and we will add your prayer.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.



FROM THE OFFICE

Copies of the Annual Report and Directory are available in the narthex/lobby.

THANK YOU NOTES

The office has received thank you notes from the following:

- Faith Haven for our continued Support.
- Waters of Grace for the monetary donation.
- Lakeland Hospice for the recent gift of money.
- Richville Clothing Mission for the monetary donation.
- Someplace Safe for the monetary donation.
- Lutheran Campus Ministry for continued monetary support.

QUILTING

Zion quilting takes place on Monday mornings at 8:30 a.m. at Zion.



Everyone is welcome to come. There are many ways you can help. No sewing experience needed.

ALL CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, February 21st at 1:30 p.m. at Zion. Dorcas Circle will be serving.

DORCAS CIRCLE will be serving communion on Feb 11th, 14th and 18th.

EVENING CIRCLE will meet on **SUNDAY**, Feb 25th at 11:00 a.m. (during fellowship). Grab a cookie and meet us in the Gathering Room!

OTC Youth

Ski at Andes and overnight at Faith Haven.
Sunday & Monday
Feb 18th & 19th

Faith N Films
February 11th at 6:30 p.m.
at Zion

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Wednesday,
February 7th at 6:00 p.m.
Snacks: Tara Bladow Family

Reminder: Confirmation students will participate in the Wednesday Lenten Services and then attend a short Confirmation class after the service.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Have a prayer request,
Call the Church Office.

ZION WEST Valentine Party



If you plan to attend the Zion West party get together on Wednesday, Feb. 14th in AZ and haven't notified the Westlind's, please call them at 480-802-0994.

The Central Minnesota Boys Choir

will be singing at Zion on Sunday, Feb. 4th during the 10:00 a.m. service. It is a not-to-miss opportunity to hear many talented young men.



NOTE: Due to the difficulty in finding enough soups during Lent, we do not plan on having soup suppers on Ash Wednesday or Maundy Thursday.

Mark your calendar:
Easter is April 1st.



During the Olympics.....

A four year old greeted the pastor after the service:

"Hi Pastor. I see the cross around your neck is silver. You must be in second place."





Pastor's Paragraphs

Dear Members and Friends,
There are a lot of activities at Zion this month! Our Mission

Jamaica team is spending February 3 – 10 on our mission trip. We have 29 team members this year which is really exciting! There is a good mix of veterans and first-time missionaries which is also a positive aspect of the mission trip.

While down there we will be working on projects and working with the residents at the Westhaven orphanage/home in the little village of Copse, and building a home for a young family in Orange Valley.

Each year we have a suitcase set out for donations to bring down with us. We can take an extra suitcase for each traveler without cost. This year the Mission Jamaica staff asked for donations of toothbrushes for the residents of Westhaven. Thanks to everyone who donated – your response highlights Zion's generosity. They go through quite a few toothbrushes each year so they are in demand. We have also received a donation of gently used running-type shoes.

Westhaven orphanage gets some money from the Jamaican government, but never even close to the amount needed to run the orphanage. They are always looking for donations to purchase food for the residents. If you would like to help, you can take a "Support-A-Child" brochure from the narthex to get the information you'd need. Your donation all goes to feed the residents so you can be sure the money is put to good use. It's also a great way to stay involved or become a part of Mission Jamaica if you aren't able to go on the trips.

Remember to keep the group in your prayers as we head to Jamaica.

Once we return from the mission trip the Lenten Season will be upon us! Ash Wednesday will be Feb 14th. We will have worship at 6:45 p.m. with the Imposition of Ashes for those who would like this sign of our humanity and sign of repentance. There will not be a soup supper on Ash Wednesday but we will have soup suppers during the remaining 5 weeks of Lent. The soup suppers will start at 6:00 p.m. so get your soup

recipes out and sign up for a time to share your favorite soup! We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer for our Lenten worship after Ash Wednesday this year, and the Confirmation Class will be leading short dramas during worship.

Once again Santa showed up during our Christmas Eve worship services. (I end up missing him every year!) So, I want to thank Santa for the thoughtful gifts of wine, cider, nuts, a tie, t-shirt, and of course, Vikings paraphernalia! I sure enjoy and use the gifts!

Thank you to all who remembered Julie and me with cards, letters, or gifts during the Christmas season. It is greatly appreciated. We enjoy the pictures of your family as we don't always get to meet them all!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Jim

"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life." —

Muhammad Ali, American boxer and 1960 gold medalist



During the January meeting, team leaders were selected: representative.

Enough snow has accumulated to groom the trail for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Kerry Baumgartner has assumed the grooming responsibilities, so be sure to thank Kerry for doing this task.

As this article is being written it is -15 degrees with warm up promises. The team encourages all to enjoy the quiet serenity of God's Acres as you enjoy the trails.

Remember God's Acres is for wellness of the body, mind and soul.



El. J. Elucidates

A young man sits at the table about to participate in a religious ceremony. He has been participating in this ceremony as long as he can

remember. As a young child he asked the questions while his father and mother led the family in this very special meal. He can remember asking why that specific night during this meal the family ate matzoh instead of leavened bread and why they ate the bitter herbs. He remembers finding the hidden Afikoman and the prize he received for finding it. This meal held a myriad of memories. The young man thought back to his mother lighting the candles and his father's rough working man's hands breaking the bread. He remembered the wine poured for Elijah. Tonight, however would be different. He was no longer a child. He was a man with a task that must be completed no matter how odious the job. He knew as he presided over this Passover celebration that this would be his last Seder meal. Surrounded by his disciples, this was to be Jesus' last supper. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread

On Maundy Thursday this year Zion of Amor will be reliving Jesus' last supper by hosting a Seder meal as our worship service. The service will be held in the fellowship hall and will include a pot luck supper. The church will provide and prepare the traditional required foods of the Passover. With Pastor Jim leading us, we will relive Jesus' last supper. When we celebrate this Seder meal and service we will receive insight into a Jewish Passover feast as it transitioned into our celebration of the Eucharist. We will eat our pot luck supper within the service so plan on bringing something to share.

It would be wonderful if we had an idea of how many plan on attending this service so we can prepare the Passover essentials but you do not need to RSVP. If you decide at the last minute to attend please come. Details of the service and meal are still being worked out. As the plans become more specific the congregation will be updated. If you would like to be part of the planning and facilitating of this service please contact Pastor Jim, El. J. or the Worship and Music team! The more hands involved the less each hand needs to do and the more gets done.

Odds and ends:

- The Sunday school children sing in church February 11
- Luther Crest Bible Camp summer schedules are now available! There are significant discounts for early registration. This includes the mission trip. The Zion foundation helps with scholarships.
- The NW Synod of the ELCA Lay ministry school is offering a class on the book of Revelation taught by Dr. Craig Koester March 3 in Fargo. If you're interested in attending see El. J. for details.



People who continue to learn throughout their lives are happier and more successful in all they do. Don't stop learning!

- Date:** Sun., Feb 11 at 9:15 a.m.
Topic: **Abe Lincoln and the Will of God**
Date: Sun., Feb 25 at 9:15 a.m.
Topic: **Battle Lake Day Care Update**



Sunday School Calendar for February

- 2/4-Sunday School
 2/11-Sunday School; students sing during service
 2/18-Sunday School; Fat Sunday Event
 2/25-Sunday School

Give your children/grandchildren the gift of learning about God by attending Sunday School each Sunday!



LIBRARY NEWS

The first promotion I present to you is the discussion of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Thursday, February 1 at 1:30 p.m. Enjoy thinking about this classic coming of age novel. How much do you think our human nature has changed and in what way? And why? And how?

March 1, Thursday, 1:30 p.m. will be the discussion of *Sonny's Blues* by James Baldwin. February is Black history month. It was first celebrated at Kent State University in 1970, and since 1976, celebrated all across the country. The reading of the book will technically take place in February. There are different thoughts about the concept of a one-month designation of this sort of a celebration. It could and should be continuous and automatic some say. Others like the designation and special attention. However, your thoughts fall, we have an opportunity to focus on the life of Sonny.

Sonny is the main character's brother. The reader sees him through his brother's eyes, as a quiet, introspective person with a tendency to withdraw inside himself. Sonny is also described by the narrator as wild, but not crazy. He has a heroin addiction, which led him to jail, but because of his passion for jazz, he became a musician.

The library will have copies, and it is available free online.
<http://swcta.net/moore/files/2012/02/sonnysblues.pdf>

Now that the concept of different opinions about celebrating a holiday has been presented, I ask you to think about the subject of censorship. This is a column, not an encyclopedia, so we will aim to keep it simple. Research found censorship as a word to have different definitions based on different audiences. Legal, artistic, and more possibilities than I care to write about. A library by its nature is caught in the midst of "censorship". A Church library may be held to even different standards of "censorship". Hopefully, as members, citizens of the planet, we can be considerate of one another's feelings and empathize with one another's concerns.

Censorship is discussed a little bit here because, the library team has tried to stay current and

appeal to current market book choices. Graphic novels fall into this category. And one in particular, is by the author Sherman Alexie. It has won many awards, and speaks to the coming of age subject. The language is or can be offensive, even though common. What I am trying to say is that we want to serve the public, but also make you aware that subjective thinking is involved. Please, if you are a parent, we are trying to be up front about the choices for your children and that we have located these "subjective" choice books on the red bookshelf. It is a personal decision, addresses the subject of censorship, but also the subject of "personal choice".

February has also been designated "HEART" month. We have more than one sort of heart to work with. We have the physical "heart", and the library shelf has healthy cookbook selections and exercise books for the mind and body. We have emotional "heart" books addressing the subject of caring for one another. Children's books about bullying encourage thoughtful behavior towards others. The recent movie about the book *Wonder* is an example for any age person to "be kinder than is necessary. Because it's not enough to be kind. One should be kinder than needed."

Please enjoy the many books and materials we have in the library. If you would like to read "The Lutheran" or "Sojourner" or "Christianity Today" or "Gather" magazines, the office has the codes needed to access online reading.

The Library Team

On the lighter side....

Two seminarians both wanted a cigarette while they prayed. They decided to ask their superior for permission.

The first seminarian asked but was told no. A little while later the first seminarian spotted his friend smoking and praying. "Why did the superior allow you to smoke and pray and not me?" he asked.

The second seminarian replied, "Because you asked if you could smoke while you prayed, and I asked if I could pray while I smoked!"

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMOR TREASURER'S REPORT - December 2017

Income	Dec Actual	Year to Date Actual	2017 Budget	Budget Used
Sunday Offering	63,149.01	308,432.74	262,861.00	117.34%
Special Offering	3,910.52	7,152.52	6,000.00	119.21%
Other Income	4.55	860.29	2,270.00	37.90%
Total Income	67,064.08	316,445.55	271,131.00	116.71%
Expense				
Our Benevolence	2,145.42	21,420.04	20,940.00	102.29%
Missions	2,582.13	13,219.13	14,000.00	94.42%
Pastoral Compensation	8,394.75	100,737.00	100,737.00	100.00%
Pastoral Expense	359.10	4,824.19	4,870.00	99.06%
New Members/Outreach	343.40	1,976.56	2,075.00	95.26%
Education	1,242.95	20,664.42	21,356.00	96.76%
Library	0.00	319.32	300.00	106.44%
Music & Worship	1,818.58	16,445.09	17,142.00	95.93%
Altar	0.00	389.87	400.00	97.47%
Office Staff	3,210.40	39,601.59	40,152.00	98.63%
Stephen Ministry	66.65	156.54	300.00	52.18%
Office Expenses	904.65	14,374.48	13,931.00	103.18%
Stewardship	109.60	178.47	300.00	59.49%
Planning	0.00	411.00	710.00	57.89%
Property Management	2,916.93	24,951.36	28,953.00	86.18%
Maintenance & Repairs	0.00	2,692.71	2,200.00	122.40%
Capital Improv/Emerg Op	20,000.00	20,000.00	2,765.00	723.33%
Total Expense	44,094.56	282,361.77	271,131.00	104.14%
Income Less Expense	22,969.52	34,083.78	0.00	

ATTENDANCE/CONTRIBUTIONS Dec 2016 / 2017

<u>2016 December</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
4-Dec	160	\$5,041.50
11-Dec	138	\$4,349.00
18-Dec	169	\$3,971.25
24-Dec	437	\$5,141.12
25-Dec	No Service Ice	\$8,560.00
TOTAL	904	\$27,062.87
Sun Ave	186	

<u>2017 December</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
3-Dec	153	\$5,531.00
10-Dec	162	\$9,843.00
17-Dec	178	\$5,806.00
24-Dec	454	\$23,449.77
31-Dec	51	\$22,420.01
TOTAL	998	\$67,049.78
Sun Ave	249.5	

Restricted Funds December 2017

Flowers	366.02	Youth Group	0.00	Twins Game	0.00
Improvement Fund	3,521.71	Found. Pass Thru	0.00	Helping Hands	3,822.67
Designated Giving	1,226.18	Sunday School Projects	0.00	Jamaica House	1,707.00
Food Shelf	1,123.32	Stephen Ministry	1,035.74	Missions	597.00
Sunday School	2,440.77	Fair Trade Coffee	304.17	Funeral	1,000.00
World Hunger	0.00	Organ Fund	5,692.77	Technology	400.00
Cemetery Fund	0.00	Pancake Breakfast	31.76	Totals	\$27,937.37
Library Fund	705.52	God's Acres	0.00		
Memorials & Gifts	2,289.43	Men's Group Funds	257.82		
Music Fund	1,415.49	Mission Jam Pass Thru	0.00		

Summary of Zion Council Minutes January 10, 2018

These are condensed and not approved

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve Secretary's Report on December 14, 2017,. Seconded & Approved

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept and include file for review. Seconded. Approved.

Committee, Team and Pastoral Reports: See written reports.

Business:

- The 2017 final financials was received by the council from the church office. Zion had a good year with expenses 3.23% under budget and end of year giving resulted in a \$24,690.78 positive balance.
- Motion made to move \$20,000 from the General Fund into the Capital Improvements fund. Seconded. Approved. The capital improvement/Emergency operating fund balance is now \$55,958.04
- The new 2018 budget was discussed. A 3% increase in income and expenses in projected for the coming year. Motion made to approve 2018 budget.. Seconded. Approved. The budget will now be available in the church office for anyone to review before the Annual Meeting.
- The Property committee submitted a list of maintenance items that need to be done to the building. Zion does not budget for annual maintenance expenses so it is necessary to consider this work when Zion has the reserves to do so. Motion to approach congregation at the Annual Meeting to request \$20,000 for property improvements coming from the Capital Improvement Fund. Seconded st. Approved. More information will be at the Annual Meeting.
- The technology committee received \$10,400 in donations dedicated to technology upgrades and maintenance. These funds are placed in a restricted account for that project.
- The finance and audit committee made several recommendations on handling cash, especially at fund raising events. After review, motion made to approve cash management and financial accounting recommendations as proposed by the Finance Committee. Seconded. Approved.

- There will be no February council meeting due to lack of quorum.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. closing with the Lord's Prayer.

A LITTLE VALENTINES HISTORY & FUN FACTS:



Roman Roots

The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

Valentines Galore

Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honor remains a mystery: according to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and of a third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.

Tradition of Valentine's Cards

Over the centuries, the holiday evolved, and by the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging handmade cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts eventually spread to the American colonies. The tradition of Valentine's cards did not become widespread in the United States, however, until the 1850s, when Esther A. Howland, a Mount Holyoke graduate and native of Worcester, Mass., began mass-producing them. Today, of course, the holiday has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are valentines.

Source: Infoplease.com

*¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three; and the greatest of these
is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

ZION-AMOR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....James O. Gronbeck
PresidentDean Greenwaldt.
VP..... Chris Berge
Secretary.....Kelly Hagemeister
Treasurer.....Dan Thorson
Office Manager.....Lynn Melchior
Office Assistant.....Lynn Cave
Education Coordinator.....El J Arntson
Choir & Contemporary Direct.....Sonja
Holmgren
Custodian/Janitor.....Karen Umland

*“Never underestimate the power of dreams and
the influence of the human spirit. We are all the
same in this notion: The potential for greatness
lives within each of us.”*

— Wilma Rudolph, American runner and three-
time gold medalist.

An Ash Wednesday Smile....

I brought my neighbor to our Ash Wednesday service and explained to her the symbolism of the imposition of ashes. As they were applied to her forehead, the minister unintentionally said, “Remember that you are to dust.” When we sat down my friend whispered to me, “She must have been in my house – she said, “you are to dust”.

Our Mission Jamaica team is excited to be working in the Name of Jesus Christ and as your representatives to build a home for a needy family and to serve the disabled orphans at Westhaven.

Please remember to pray for the group and for the people of Jamaica. They covet your prayers for health, safety, and a positive mission experience.

A suitcase of toothbrushes, shoes and King James Bibles were taken down to give away to the poorest of the poor. Thank you to everyone who donated!

The team of 29 people will be gone from February 3 – 10th. Check out the Mission Jamaica Facebook page for pictures of our team.