

# ZION'S TIDINGS

## 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.*

## NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

**Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

Please contact Pastor Jim or the church office if you or anyone you know is interested in membership or associate membership.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Have a prayer request? Call the Zion office at 495-2563.



**Want to feel like you won the lottery? Signup for 1 week of snow removal! (and hope for no snow!)**

Zion is looking for able-bodied people (or teams) that will remove snow from the entryways. A snow blower is in the shed and we have lots of shovels. This process worked very well last year. Sign up calendar and more information is in the narthex/lobby.

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

**January 28<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

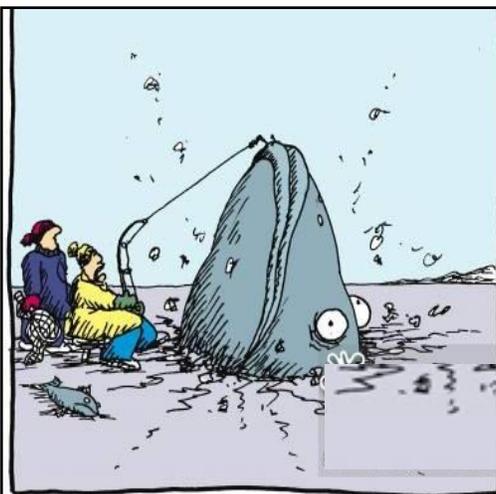
The meetings will begin immediately following the worship service.

## Inside this Newsletter

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  - 10 January Birthdays, Action Groups and Anniversaries Wrapper – Calendar
- Insert: Gronbeck Christmas Card

## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 a.m. at Zion



"Yah, sure. You betcha. Go ahead and get the big net."

*"I carry a stone in my pocket. It reminds me I have no right or need to cast the first stone. I'm no less a sinner than anyone else."*

---Bishop Henry

Church congregations are legally incorporated under the state laws in which they are located. Those laws necessitate that members hold an Annual Meeting each year to report their performance. This obligation holds for every church in the U.S.A. Annual Meetings are informational and should benefit those as citizens and church members. Be notified the Annual Meetings of Zion Lutheran Church of Amor will be held on Sunday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> at Zion at 11:00 a.m.

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMOR FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMOR ANNUAL MEETING**



## **FROM THE OFFICE**

Your 2017 contribution statements and your 2018 pledge information will be available Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Treasurers**

Reminder to the groups that have checkbooks ... You need to have them balanced and in the church office by Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> so our auditors can review them. We also need your financial summaries by Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Quite a bit of information has to come together for us to start printing the annual report. Thank you for your support! You may email your reports to [zionamoroffice@prtcl.com](mailto:zionamoroffice@prtcl.com).

### **ANNUAL MEETING VOTING**

C10.05 Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Absentee ballots shall be permitted and will be available in the church office. Please contact Lynn at 495-2563.

### **Thank You....**

To everyone who offers to help at Zion throughout the year. You are very much appreciated!  
Office Staff, Lynn & Lynn

**Notary service** is available in the office. Services are free of charge to members and associate members. Please see Lynn in the church office for more information.

### **QUILTING**

The Zion quilters will begin quilting again on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. We would love to have you join us!

*Rather than hoping for better things in the future, put your joy in the good things of today.*

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **Confirmation Class**

6:00 p.m. at Zion  
Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Activities**

#### **Faith N' Films**

Sun., January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Roller Skating and**

#### **Pizza at Zorbaz**

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at  
3:30 p.m.

## **CHURCH CANCELLATIONS**

With winter weather here be aware that Zion's church cancellations will broadcast on KBRF 1250, KJKK FM 96.5, or WDAY TV.

Please use your best judgement on driving to church. We realize that weather conditions vary greatly in our area.

Remember to offer your neighbor a ride in the winter months. Not everyone is comfortable driving in the winter.

## **ZION CIRCLES**



### **Dorcas, Mary & Ruth Circles**

will be meeting jointly in Jan., Feb., and March.

The Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting is at Zion at 1:30 p.m. with the Mary Circle hosting.

**The Evening Circle** will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7:15 p.m. at Zion.

## **Zion West Valentine's Party**

The annual Zion West Valentine's Party will be on Wed., February 14, 2018 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at in AZ. Anyone in Arizona at that time is welcome to join us.

Please email or call the office with your current email address, street address & phone number so we can send directions and details.

Thanks to all our dear friends at Zion for their notes, thoughts and prayers after Dennis' stroke. He is improving daily and we hope for a full recovery in the near future.

We send out love to all!

Dear Friends of the Open Door Youth Center,

Over the years YOU have been a wonderful support to the Youth Center. Thank you! Kids have been encouraged to trust Jesus Christ and to be involved in their church. That has been our goal.

We need your ideas and your prayers! Please pray for us as we consider the future. We are closing the Youth Center and will transfer the assets to other 501C3 non-profit organizations.

Thank you. ODYC Volunteers

## Pastor's Paragraphs

Dear Members and Friends,

As we begin a New Year, I want to express my appreciation to the congregation council for their good, steady leadership this past year. Our Council President is doing a great job leading us and keeping us on track. We have some council members who are going off the council and I thank them for their service and steady leadership. Three members are going off this year. We had a couple resignations during the year because of the busyness of life and family commitments. I thank them for their contributions to Zion and the mission and ministry we are about here.

One of the things that came up for discussion at our last council meeting was the topic of welcoming folks to worship and fellowship. We talked about the difference between saying we are a friendly, welcoming congregation and actually being a friendly, welcoming congregation. It is so easy to get into 'ruts' where we sit with the same people for fellowship time or in worship and don't really notice when there is someone new visiting us or there is someone sitting alone. We talked about breaking out of our groups of friends or inviting someone new to sit at a table with us.

It is an awful feeling to be left out or feel as if we are being ignored. It is good to be reminded to break out and visit with new people, or help a parent who has a youngster to care for or feed.

We will be having a New Member Sunday this January 21<sup>st</sup> and there are a number of people who have expressed an interest in membership here.

This is a good time to learn who is 'new' around here and get to know them.

Over the years I have heard folks talk about being embarrassed when they introduced themselves to someone who was already a member here. It's not a bad thing to introduce yourself to someone you don't know. It's not something to be embarrassed about—it can be a good discussion starter—we don't know everyone, nor can we be expected to know everyone.

So remember to greet people you know as well as people you don't know... yet. Invite people in the pew around you to fellowship time and sit with them at a busy table! We are basically a 'congregation of immigrants' moving into the lakes area for the quality of life. We have things in common with others and can find commonality with others we may not know yet.

Happy New Year! Make a New Year's resolution to meet some folks you don't know yet. You might make some new friends!

I also want to thank Lori Charest for making the Christmas Ornaments for our Christmas Eve services children's sermon. Lori has done this for many years and keeps coming up with unique and beautiful ornaments to remember Zion and our Lord's birth. Our kids have many years' worth of ornaments on their own trees now as keepsakes. Thank you Lori, and keep on doing the ornaments! They are beautiful keepsakes and teaching lessons about Christmas.

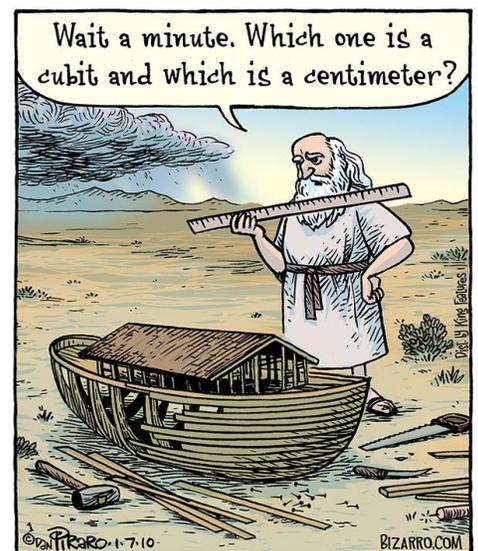
In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Jim



Thank you to the Lucia Girls who did an outstanding job on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at both the Lucia Breakfast and the Lucia Service.



Thank you to everyone who made the Scandinavian Bake Sale a success!





## El. J. Elucidates

Happy New Year!

With the new year comes an opportunity for new beginnings. One of our new beginnings is the return of the Adult Forums. The Adult Forums will again be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month with a few Sundays missed due to conflicts. During Sunday School season the Adult Forums will be in the Fellowship Hall. During the summer months they will be held in the Gathering Space. Throughout the year they will begin at 9:15 a.m. and conclude in a time frame that allows you to attend Church at 10 a.m. With this new beginning we need ideas for the adult forums. If you have a subject that you would like to have presented please let me know and we will attempt to schedule a presentation. As I write this article we have one program already scheduled. On February 11 Darrell Vetter will explore Abraham Lincoln and the Will of God.

Another new beginning this January is a prayer wall. The gospels are full of references to Jesus and prayer. Jesus went off by himself to pray. Jesus's disciples went to him and asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane just prior to his crucifixion. In his letter to the Thessalonians Paul tells us to pray unceasingly. James tells us that the prayer of the righteous is powerful. Martin Luther tells us that "Prayer is a very precious medicine, one that helps and never fails." At Zion we have many opportunities for prayer. Prayers are integral to every church service. We begin and close meetings with a prayer. We have a prayer chain

that has members actively praying for those in need. With the new year we are offering another opportunity for prayer. The prayer wall will replace the Bible reading challenge bulletin board. The prayer wall will give each of us the easy opportunity to put our prayers in front of God and our neighbors. Simply write your prayer request and the date on a sticky note from the table in front of the bulletin board and put it on the board. Those that read the board can add their voice to yours in prayer. If the prayer wall becomes too full we will remove (and save) the older prayer requests. At the end of the year we plan on burning the prayer requests in a short prayer ceremony.

With the new year we also see the end to some endeavors. December 31 marked the end of our Reformation Bible reading Challenge. When we started this challenge during Lent we arbitrarily set 200,000 chapters as our goal. After the first month we knew that goal was unrealistic. While we would never accomplish reading that many chapters we would benefit from this challenge. Our first benefit was the awareness that we need to read our Bible.

Luther translated the Bible into the language of the people so that each individual could have the power of God's word in her or his hands. The second benefit was that many people young and old started reading their Bible with more regularity. We know this because people of all ages spoke with us about adding Bible reading to their daily routine. With the advent of a new year I challenge each and every member of Zion to make a resolution to read a chapter of the Bible each and every day this year. I recommend starting

with the New Testament. It takes about 21 days to start a habit. Make the Bible your 2018 resolution and your new habit.

~~ El J



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

**" She seeks wool and flax and works with willing hands"  
Proverbs 31:13**

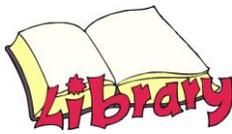
This verse really describes the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

In 2017 the Ministry grew to 10 members and with financial support from WELCA and Thrivent, their "willing hands" created and donated the following: 30 Prayer Shawls; 27 Lap Robes (Good Samaritan Nursing Home, Richville Community Center); 12 Baptismal Blankets; 10 Baby Afghans (Bundles of Love); 11 Breast Feeding Shawls (Ottertail Public Health); 359 Baby Hats (Global Health Ministries).

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet again on Thurs., January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

If you like to knit or crochet, we encourage you to join us and be a part of this important ministry. If you are unable to meet with us, you can still be part of our Ministry Team and work on projects at your own pace at home.

Please contact the church office if you know of anyone who would enjoy receiving a prayer shawl.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Happy New Year!

Is anyone else finding the new number adjustment a challenge? 2018; a chance for new experiences comes with that new number. Many opportunities are open to us. Let's think about renewal of our Reformation history reading. If there was something you didn't get an opportunity to research in the busy fall, the snowy, chilly winter affords the hot cup of tea and a book from our library.

Because several people have spent long and diligent hours cataloguing the collection, people can look at the Zion web site and check the inventory for titles of books and DVD's. Take advantage of the convenience. The variety may surprise you! Then come in and check out material that interested you.

Remember the first of the year monthly book discussion. Thurs., February 1, 1:30 p.m. on A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith.

The author was born in 1896 and grew up in Brooklyn. As a German immigrant family, growing up in poverty, as did the rest of the neighborhood, we are afforded the chance to learn of a life in another time and place. This classic novel has been respected and recommended for many years, and never goes out of style. Please join in the opportunity to learn and share this long popular novel.

Library Team

## MUSICALLY SPEAKING

### **An Angel Bending Near the Earth**



Church musicians often have interesting perspectives and peeks into the sanctuary simply because of where we sit. Our line of vision differs from most congregants whenever we sit off to the side, in the front, in a corner, or in a balcony. I've seen music stands slowly slide down, played for a conductor who directed so exuberantly the music almost wafted off the closest music stands, and saw a mic drop from a singer's right hand and quickly caught by her left. One soloist walked to the front, stood by the piano, looked quizzically at his music, turned it over twice, and then nodded to me. He performed extraordinarily well. Only afterwards did I learn he'd brought up the wrong music and had sung from memory.

Playing for the Sunday School Program is especially entertaining, and this year was no exception. I have learned that students like trying to help, so I often ask them. Some questions this year were, "I'm late. What have I missed?" "Have we sung that song yet?" (I did know.) "How many verses of 'We Three Kings' are we singing?" (I'd forgotten to mark it.) "Okay, I'm lost. Show me where we are in the program." (The program always moves faster during performance than during practice.) The students always give me the correct answers.

Their spirit of helpfulness was especially obvious this year when, due to some inadvertent jostling in the pew (ahem), a child accidentally brushed against the Christmas tree by

the piano. The angel topper lurched forward and started to fall. She didn't drop to the floor, which probably would've been less conspicuous, but she did an epic face-plant that left her horizontal for the rest of the service. I just smiled and shook my head slightly as a mom hurried to sit at the end of the pew, and the kids looked horrified. I saw not one of them laugh.

Several students looked back to their parents as if to plead, "You need to fix the angel!" In their hearts, I'm sure they thought Mom or Dad could. One girl looked very distressed and even started to stand up, but then thought better of it. Still, her sudden gasp and big eyes showed she felt the angel needed immediate rescue. Some children even looked at me, as if I'm tall enough to help.

In typical tangential fashion, I thought, "I wonder how many Christmas songs have angels in them?" I remembered the titles, "The Angel Gabriel," "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," and "Angels from the Realms of Glory." If one studied the stanzas, too, certainly there are many more.

As I write this, I am waiting for Patrick Murphy and his family to arrive to set up for his concert. As a former choir director used to tell me, "It will be like a little piece of heaven right here on earth." Which reminds me, I'd better check whether someone has set the angel upright. After all, she'll have the best view in the house.

Zion's musicians send wishes to all for a blessed new year. Please come sing with us.

# GIVING TREE PROJECT 2017

Dear Zion Friends,

Another HUGE THANK YOU to all of you!!!! This was our 9<sup>th</sup> year for Zion's involvement in the Giving Tree Project, and another HUGE SUCCESS !!! You helped 26 families, and 92 Battle Lake School children have a MUCH HAPPIER Christmas !! Zion alone, had 136 tags, which disappeared very quickly and ended up being TWO Jeep loads hauled into the school.....AMAZING !!!! I wish you could all see what the Conference Room at the school looked like when I dropped off the last load.....PACKED !!! We were thrilled this year that First Lutheran of Battle Lake wanted to "join the cause" and become part of this wonderful mission too. Having four Churches involved really helps fulfill the goal, and the School is SO VERY APPRECIATIVE !!



When all the dollars were totaled for Larry Gift Cards, each family received \$63 , PLUS an INCREDIBLE "Anonymous Someone" gave another \$100 per family, making their gift card total \$163 !!!!!!!!! Not only did these gift cards allow each family to cook up a wonderful Christmas meal, but also buy food to feed their kids over vacation time. GIVING at it's BEST !

Please know how much I appreciate your dedication to this project each year, and I am always truly amazed at your "Giving Hearts".....there aren't words to express my sincere thankfulness to all of you for helping this project be fulfilled! GOD BLESS YOU ALL !!!!!!!!!!!!!

- Giving Tree Elf

## Sunday School and Jo & Dough at 8:40 a.m.



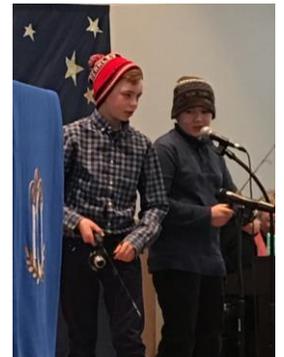
- Schedule:  
 Jan. 7: Sunday School Extravaganza  
 Jan. 14: Sunday School  
 Jan. 21: Sunday School  
 Jan. 28: Sunday School, Annual Meetings



December 17<sup>th</sup> was our Sunday School Program: "Go Tell It". The congregation learned about sharing the Good News in all sorts of ways: Cards, quizzes, technology, sign language, art, stories, poems, carols, and prayer. Thank you to The Sunday School Team for the organization and leadership. Great job everyone!

**Parents** please continue to bring your children to Sunday School regularly after the Christmas season. There's so much more for them to learn and experience about Jesus!

Also **thank you** to the students who shared their musical talents with us as special music on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.



# God's Acres

Community wellness for the body, mind and soul

It is the time of the year that God's Acres Team should reflect on the activities of the past year. Have we continued to follow the guidelines set up for its mission? A fast summation of those guidelines are to develop a community area with no cost to the church budget that helps to strengthen the body, mind and soul of its citizens. The team has worked diligently and has been very successful in following these guidelines. God has been good!

A big THANK YOU is in order to all that have helped make it a success. So many of you have been involved; in decision making, time, financial donations and just as users. Without all of you it would not be a success. It has been rewarding to read comments that encourage us to continue making more improvements and additions to God's Acres.

May God continue to bless this mission and its users in the upcoming years. It will always be a "work in progress" following the guidelines of the mission statement: "To provide all ages of the community an outdoor opportunity to inspire and strengthen the health of their body, mind and soul in a natural setting."



*To know the strength of an anchor, you need to feel the storm.*

*Four values of the spiritual challenge are:*

- Humility*
- Generosity*
- Gratitude and*
- Courage.*

--Batterson

## Will 2018 bring??????

Less	More
Talking	Listening
Television	Reading
Planning	Doing
Soda	Water
"Being Connected"	Putting the Phone Down
Junk Food	Fruits and Vegetables
Complaining	Encouraging
Excuses	Responsibility
Worrying	Hoping
Doubting	Believing
Procrastinating	Achieving
Frowning	Smiling
Selfishness	Giving
Weakness	Confidence
Ignorance	Understanding
Ungratefulness Of the World	Thankfulness of God

### Backseat Driver

A passenger in a taxi tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed and lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus and drove up over the curb, stopping inches from a large window. For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then the driver quietly said, "Please don't do that! You scared the daylight out of me." The passenger, who was also frightened, apologized and said he didn't realize a tap on the shoulder could startle someone so much—to which the driver replied, "It's really not your fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

## ZION OF AMOR TREASURER'S REPORT November 2017

	Nov	Year to Date	2017	Budget
<b>Income</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Used</b>
Sunday Offering	18,106.05	245,288.73	262,861.00	93.31 %
Special Offering	625.00	3,242.00	6,000.00	54.03%
other Income	233.62	855.74	2,278.00	37.70 %
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>18,962.67</b>	<b>249,386.47</b>	<b>271,131.00</b>	<b>91.98%</b>
 <b>Expense</b>				
Our Benevolence	1,555.42	19,274.62	20,940.00	92.05 %
Missions	1,900.00	10,637.00	14,000.00	75.98%
Pastoral Compensation	8,394.75	92,324.25	100,737.00	91.67%
Pastoral Expense	209.52	4,465.09	4,870.00	91.69%
New Members/Outreach	57.50	1,633.16	2,075.00	78.71%
Education	1,261.08	19,241.47	21,356.00	90.94%
Library	47.94	319.32	300.00	106.44 %
Music & Worship	970.63	14,626.51	17,142.00	85.33 %
Altar	0.00	389.87	400.00	97.47%
Secretary Salaries	3,266.99	36,391.18	40,152.00	90.63%
Stephen Ministry	7.90	89.89	300.00	29.96 %
Office	976.52	13,469.83	13,931.00	96.69%
Stewardship	0.00	68.87	300.00	22.96 %
Planning	0.00	411.00	710.00	57.89%
Property & Management	1,165.32	22,034.43	28,953.00	76.10%
Maintenance & Repairs	105.25	2,692.71	2,200.00	122.40 %
Capital Improv/Emerg Op	0.00	0.00	2,765.00	0.00 %
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>19,918.82</b>	<b>238,267.20</b>	<b>271,131.00</b>	<b>87.88 %</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>-954.15</b>	<b>11,119.27</b>	<b>0.00</b>	

### ATTENDANCE / CONTRIBUTIONS NOVEMBER 2016 / 2017

<u>2016 November</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
6-Nov	130	\$11,281.00
13-Nov	163	\$ 3,655.00
20-Nov	143	\$ 4,745.50
Thxsgv 11/23/16	56	\$ 556.00
27-Nov	164	\$4,625.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>\$24,862.50</b>
<b>Sun Ave</b>	<b>150</b>	

<u>2017 November</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
5-Nov	120	\$7,847.00
12-Nov	157	\$3,064.00
19-Nov	158	\$3,153.00
Thxsgv 11/22/17	86	\$ 625.00
26-Nov	159	\$4,237.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>\$18,926.05</b>
<b>Sun Ave</b>	<b>148.5</b>	

### Restricted Funds November 2017

Flowers	282.02	Found. Pass Thru	440.00	Missions	542.00
Improvement Fund	1,941.78	Sunday School Projects	0.00	Jamaica House	4,350.00
Designated Giving	756.17				
Food Shelf	1,143.78				
Sunday School	2,423.74	Stephen Ministry	1,035.74		
World Hunger	100.00	Fair Trade Coffee	281.67		
Building Fund	1,268.83	Organ Fund	5,692.77		
Cemetery Fund	0.00	Pancake Breakfast	31.76		
Library Fund	705.52	God's Acres	845.00	Funeral	1,917.29
Memorials & Gifts	2,289.43	Men's Group Funds	257.82	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$32,822.54</b>
Music Fund	1,830.49	Mission Jam Pass Thru	1,989.00		
Youth Group	0.00	Twins Game	0.00		
Debt Reduction	2,350.00	Helping Hands	3,958.56		

## Volunteers--God Bless Them!

Many will be shocked to find,  
When the day of judgement nears,  
That there's a special place in heaven  
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners.  
Satin couches and foot stools;  
Where there's no committee chairmen,  
No group leaders or car pools,

No eager team that needs a coach,  
No bazaar and no bake sale.  
There will be nothing to staple,  
Not one thing to fold or mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed,  
but a finger snap will bring  
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners  
and treats fit for a king.

You ask: "Who'll serve these privileged few  
and work for all they're worth?"  
"Why, all those who reap the benefits  
and not once volunteer on earth!"

~~Unknown

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve Secretary's Report on November 8, 2017. Seconded and approved.

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

**Committee and Team Reports:** See written reports.

**Pastoral Report:** See written report.

### Business:

- 2018 Budget recommendations from the finance committee reviewed. Final decisions will be made at the January council meeting.
- A council member on the Safe Church committee gave an update on the roll-out of the Safe Church Policy. Small changes have been made and an article about it has been published in the Tidings and will be presented in Adult Forums in the coming months. Once a year the Safe Church committee will report back to council.
- Motion to give assignments to committee teams on items determined as vision priorities in the short, mid, and long-term made. Seconded. Approved.
- Motion made to regretfully accept the resignation of council member. Seconded. Approved.
- Motion made to temporarily, on a one year basis, move the council meeting time to 5:30 p.m. for 2018. Seconded. Approved. This will be a trial basis and can be changed if the meeting time does not seem to be working.

Motion to adjourn Seconded. Approved.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Zion Council Secretary

*Potential is God's gift to us. What we do with it is our gift to God.*

## SUMMARY OF ZION COUNCIL MINUTES December 13, 2017

***These are condensed and not approved.***

**Welcome:** President called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Quorum of members present.

**Opening Devotions:** Pastor Jim reading from the Gospel of Mark.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion made to approve agenda as printed. Seconded and approved.

## Circus Comes To Church

When my son, William, was young, we belonged to a small country church. On Communion day, deacons would pass around the “bread and juice.”

One Sunday, we attended a church out of town that was more formal. What our church called bread and juice, this one referred to as elements, a word William didn’t understand.

As Communion began, the pastor said, “If the deacons will come forward, the elements will pass among us.”

William was suddenly excited and I didn’t know why. Then he leaned toward me, whispering something that caused me to burst out laughing. With all eyes on us, I took him by the hand and we made a hasty exit.

All the way to the car, he protested. “Mom, we’re going to miss the circus. The pastor said the elephants were going to pass among us!”

## **Friends-of-Friends Fighting hunger in Otter Tail County**

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Event  
Saturday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Social & Silent Auction, Dinner  
Thumper Pond, Ottertail  
Tickets \$50.00/person  
Includes dinner, cash bar, and  
loads of fun.

Contact Mary Phillipe at  
218-736-5147 for more  
information.

The evening’s proceeds will  
sponsor the Children’s Backpack  
Program and feeding  
the hungry in Otter Tail County.