

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.*



Remember to set your clocks back the evening of Saturday, Nov. 3rd as Daylight Saving Time ends!

NO Men's Breakfast in November.



Christmas Carols of Amor

Wed., Dec 5th

**6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:45 p.m. Carols**

Come enjoy beloved carols, talented singers, delicious food and great fellowship.

*"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."
– Berthold Auerbach*

READING OF THE PARISH NECROLOGY

The Parish Necrology will be read on All Saints' Sunday November 4th. This is the reading of the names of those who have died since All Saints' Day 2017.

Service of Thanksgiving

Wed., Nov. 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Come and give thanks! Pie and coffee follows the service.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to bring a pie(s). Council members and spouses will organize, serve, and clean-up.

Thanksgiving Blessing:

May the eyes of your heart be open to all the blessings which surround you; may this awareness produce a harvest of generosity in your spirit.

May thankfulness rise up within you, not just during this short season, but day after day, from the early morning watch until you retire for the night. May your prayers reflect gratitude, while also acknowledging the needs of others whose situations are so drastically different.

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The Nov calendar is on the Tidings wrapper.

*"I love you"
~ God*

FROM THE OFFICE



ANNUAL REPORTS

Written reports are expected from the following by **Mon., Dec. 3rd**:

- Pastor Jim
- Council President
- Altar Team
- Cemetery Team
- Decorating Team
- Education Team
- Finance Committee
- God's Acres
 - Harvest Garden
- Helping Hands of Zion
- Library Team
- Memorial Gifts
- Mission Team
- Outreach/New Member
- Property Management
- Safe Church
- Stephen Ministry
- Stewardship Team
- Tech Team
- WELCA
 - Prayer Shawl
 - Warming Hearts
- Worship/Music Team
- Youth Group

Financial Reports are due Monday, January 7th from the following:

- Cemetery
- God's Acres
- Quilting Account
- WELCA
- Youth Group

Final checkbook audit for 2018 will be the second week of January.

IT IS NOT HAPPY
PEOPLE WHO ARE
THANKFUL. IT IS
THANKFUL
PEOPLE WHO ARE
HAPPY.

YOUTH NEWS

Confirmation

Wed., Nov 7th
6:00 p.m.

Wed., Nov 28th
6:00 p.m.

Faith N' Films

Sunday, Nov 11th at 6:30 p.m.

ZION CIRCLES



MARY Circle will meet Wed., Nov. 14th at 11:30 a.m. at Zion. BYOBL (bring your own bag lunch).

DORCAS Circle will meet Wednesday, Nov. 7th at 9:00 a.m. at Zion.

Communion: Nov. 4th & 18th

RUTH CIRCLE will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Thurs., Nov. 8th at Zion in the Gathering Room.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet Sundays during fellowship (11:00 a.m.) on Nov. 4th & 18th at Zion.

ZION WELCA CHRISTMAS POTLUCK PARTY

Wed, Dec. 5th at noon.

Husbands or significant others are encouraged to attend.

Ruth Circle will host.



Do You Shop on Amazon?

Did you know that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to a charity? How you ask? It's easy. Just go to smile.amazon.com to sign up. Pick Battle Lake Food Shelf as your selected charity. Then each time you are going to purchase something on Amazon remember to log in under smile.amazon.com. The Battle Lake Food Shelf receives at no cost to you 0.5% of your purchase. The Battle Lake Food Shelf appreciates your help.



A Performance by Patrick Murphy featuring Christmas and Holiday Music.

Join us at Zion of Amor at 3:30 p.m. on Sun., December 16th for a fun, festive afternoon. Refreshments following.



Quilting

Zion Quilting takes place on Monday mornings at 8:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come. There are many ways you can help. No sewing experience needed.

WELCA General Annual Meeting

Wed. Nov. 14th at 1:30 p.m. At the meeting WELCA will approve the 2019 budget, elect officers and complete a service project.



Pastor's Paragraphs

Dear Members and Friends,

The story of the Ten Lepers who were cleansed by Jesus (Luke 17:11-19 printed in the next column) is a familiar story that is often used at Thanksgiving. After setting His face toward Jerusalem and the fate that awaited Him there (crucifixion), Jesus was heading south from Galilee. On His way, Jesus passed through the region of the Decapolis, a region of ten cities between Galilee and Samaria. It was located around the Jordan River and so was an easier way to walk rather than through the mountains to the west. The Decapolis was not a Jewish or Samaritan controlled region. Here Jesus encountered the ten lepers.

The interesting thing is that the lepers were all in a foreign land. They were most likely driven out of their respective homelands (Samaria and Judea) because of their dreaded disease. They were exiles, much like the exiles of their ancestry who were in Babylon.

This background causes me to wonder whether the nine Jewish lepers had become bitter toward God because of their disease and their exile. Why did only 1 leper return to thank Jesus, and not all 10 of them? Had their bitterness caused them to find it difficult to even give thanks to God for their healing? Did they simply turn and rush homeward to prove themselves clean once again and try to reclaim their place in society? And what was it about the Samaritan that caused him to return to Jesus to give thanks? Had he experienced an awakening of his faith, or did the kindness of a stranger and enemy (Jews and Samaritans were enemies) shock him to reality and see the ultimate goodness of the God that both nations shared?

As people redeemed by the grace of God, set free of our dreaded illness of sin and the sentence of death, we too are like exiles living in this land. We await the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God as we make our way through life. We live in a world darkened by sin, terrorism, war, and call out to God for an end to the hatred, evil, and death. Have we become bitter? Has our 'exile' in the world we love caused us to fail to see the beauty and the goodness around us?

As we approach Thanksgiving, we remember our status as 'exiles' in this world waiting for the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God, but let us not forget or become calloused to the gifts and blessings that surround us still as people who are daily healed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let's remember our blessings and our role as servants of Christ, and remember to return to give thanks for all that we have as we await our Lord's return in glory. Let's fill up the sanctuary this Thanksgiving Eve as people who are truly thankful for all God has done and continues to do, while we remain people of hope and joy to the world. See you Nov. 21st at 7:00 pm!

In Christ's Service, Pastor Jim

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."



Spuds for Studs II A Big Thanks

Thanks to the generous donations of the People of Zion, another home will be built in Jamaica in February 2019.

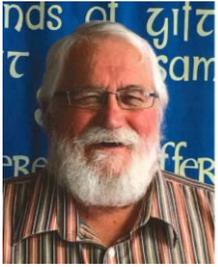
We served 120 happy customers and are already making plans for the next year.

Thank You, Your Mission Team



Save the date:

Zion's Longest Night Service will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday Dec. 20th. It is a quiet service of prayer, readings and hymns, giving voice to our losses and our hope.



El. J. Elucidates

New beginnings. From an early age we all need them and utilize them. From the child asking her or his playmates for a do-over to the golfer claiming a mulligan to the knitter realizing that they dropped a stitch and pulling out what they had just completed. We are told that we only get one chance to make a first impression and yet we all appreciate the opportunity for a new beginning.

Two years ago, Zion Lutheran Church of Amor and I embarked on a new beginning when I became the education coordinator. It was a new beginning for the church and a new beginning for me. While Zion had for years hosted young interns learning how to be pastors, they had never focused on a position that dealt with education. While I had taught high school, I had not worked with a broad spectrum of ages in a very flexible situation. What a wonderful experience it has been and I trust it has been for Zion. Together we've had our share of mulligans and dropped stiches. I have enjoyed every moment of my experience here. I want to say thank you to everyone who has welcomed me and helped some of my semi-crazy ideas come to fruition.

I need your help to continue my growth as education coordinator. I need to confess that I have shortcomings. I am not a person who is good at delegating. I also tend to work without "running things" by a committee. While both of these deficiencies speed the decision-making process they also both limit input from others. I suppose an evaluator might say that I don't play well with other children. I would love a do-over and would love to have more input from members of the congregation.

If you stop and think about it new beginnings are what we receive from our God on an instantaneous basis each and every day of our life. Our sins are forgiven time and time again. We receive as many do-overs as we need. We are constantly being cleansed. Thanks be to God!

~~El J

SHARE A POINSETTIA



If you would like to share a Poinsettia with Zion this Christmas, the cost is **\$10.00 per plant**. You may take your plant home after the last Christmas Eve service. The plants may be given in memory or in honor of someone or can be purchased for personal use. Please enclose payment with your order. Make your check payable to Zion.

Name: _____

Number of plants for Zion:

Number of plants for personal:

In memory of:

In honor of:

To the glory of God:



Our students continue to grow in their faith! Thank you for affirming their baptismal promises by bringing your children to Sunday School. We are blessed to have them attend.

November 4-Sunday School

November 11-Sunday School

November 18-Sunday School

November 25-NO Sunday School or Jo & Dough (Happy Thanksgiving)

Important things to remember:

*On Nov. 11, we begin practicing for the Sunday School program

*Sunday School Program Practice on Dec 9 will be *after church* (11:00 a.m.)

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

“For All the Saints”

A year ago, I wrote briefly about the ELCA’s celebration of All Saints Day. This was enough to arouse my curiosity, and since then I have learned more about the origins of this Christian observance. During the time of Ancient Rome, many magnificent structures were built, but the Romans also valued practicality. Some examples are the bridge Pont du Gard, the Aqueduct of Segovia - which consists of 165 arches built from over 24,000 huge granite blocks and used no mortar, the Library of Celsus - which is actually a tomb, the renowned Colosseum - which had eighty entrances and seated over 50,000 spectators, and many temples, including the Maison Carrée (Nimes, France), the three Baalbek temples (Lebanon), and the Pantheon (Rome) ([ancienthistorylists.com/rome- history](http://ancienthistorylists.com/rome-history)).

When the Roman Empire fell and Christianity was legalized, Christians rededicated the temples as Christian churches instead of tearing them down. The connection to All Saints Day occurred “in 610, when Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Pantheon and gave it the new title of “St. Mary and the Martyrs” (aleteia.org/2017/11/01/how-the-church-exorcized-a-roman-temple-to-establish-all-saints-day). Since the Reformation, Protestant and Roman Catholic churches observe All Saints Day on November 1st or the first Sunday in November, as a day to honor Christian martyrs and those who achieved sainthood. It is also when churches remember members of their congregations who have died during the previous year.

For many years, the Zion Choir sang “Lacrimosa” on All Saints Day. From Mozart’s Requiem Mass in D minor, it was composed in 1791 during the last year of his life and remained unfinished. The title is Latin for “weeping,” and the final words are “Full of tears will be that day when from the ashes shall arise...Merciful Lord Jesus, Grant them eternal rest. Amen” (genius.com/Wolfgang-amadeus-mozart-lacrimosa-lyrics). The haunting melody and funereal text of Mozart’s composition certainly convey the somber and mournful essence of this special day.

Yet, because our Christian faith is rooted in Jesus’s promise of eternal life, perhaps All Saints Day also deserves a celebratory tone. This year the choir will sing the gospel favorite, “Standing on the Promises,” arranged by Mark Hayes. The lyrics are uplifting, and Hayes’ interpretation is exuberant and exciting. We hope to sing it with such gladness that each listener will rejoice in its message.

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing on the promises, I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.*

*Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of Christ my Savior,
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

Blessed be All Saints Day, the words Pastor Jim will share with us, the music we will hear and sing, and the precious memory of those persons we’ve lost this year.

~ Sandra Sedivy

Hanging the Turkey

Young Simon was sitting in his grandmother's kitchen, watching her prepare the Thanksgiving meal.

'What are you doing?' Simon enquired.

'Oh, I'm just stuffing the turkey,' his grandmother replied.

'Wow, that's cool.' Simon remarked. 'Are you going to hang it next to the deer?'

³⁴*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.*

1 Chronicles 16:34



**ANNUAL SCANDINAVIAN
BAKE SALE and
WORKDAY at ZION! UFF DA!
Time to start baking for the
Christmas holidays.**

SCANDINAVIAN BAKING WORKDAY

Friday, December 7th at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for all the fun. The Zion kitchen will be set up for making lefse, krumkaka, rosettes, spritz and sandbakkles. Some of our Zion members will be demonstrating how to make these Scandinavian goodies, and lots of helpers are needed to make this a festive day. We encourage the men of Zion to join us for the day. Coffee and treats will be served throughout the day. If you are unable to join us for the bake day and would like to donate some Scandinavian goodies for the bake sale, please have them wrapped and at the church by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, Dec 9th. Sponsored by WELCA.

SCANDINAVIAN BAKE SALE On Sunday, December 9th, all of these Scandinavian goodies will be for sale following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. There will be no early sales. Glendelig Jul!

Dear Zion Lutheran Church of Amor,
As ministry partners of LSS, I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate you, the work you do to inspire hope, change lives and build community has an incredible impact on our shared call to serve our neighbors. Last year alone, Zion generously gave over \$1,000 to support LSS services in your community and across Minnesota. Thank you for your generosity, your volunteerism and your prayers. We are grateful for you!
Peggy S., Foundation Board Trustee



Free Foot Care Clinic
Tues., Nov. 20th at Zion
Appointments start at 8:30 a.m.

LIBRARY NEWS

Let us be grateful for those who make us happy, for they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

November, the month of Thanksgiving – a national holiday, but also we all may personally take an opportunity to reflect upon our own good fortunes. Where to begin is often the first challenge. And, that is for each of us to decide. There are many devotional books on the shelf if anyone has the desire to get some professional backup related to this thought for the season.

Night, by Elie Weisel, our discussion book in October about the author’s survival in WWII German concentration camps surely brought reality about what evil mankind can do to one another. It also addressed times when people showed a kindness to one another and how appreciated that was to keep hope for the future. Maybe we can find ways to show special kindness this season to keep our faith and faith in mankind. We can learn from another’s experiences, learn from history and try to prevent this Holocaust again.

November 1st, Thursday at 1:30 p.m. will be the discussion of John Steinbeck’s Of Mice and Men. The title raises the first question of “what”? It comes from a poem by Robert Burns, where a mouse makes a tidy nest in a field, only to be torn away when a plow comes by. The book takes place in a time of economic hardship, with people trying to make a life. Considered a classic, the subjects and plot could take place anytime. The details may be different, but the characters and their motives and desires could be the same. Please join us to delve into this classic book and possibly suggest a title for next year. There will be no discussion in December.

*The Zion of Amor Giving
Tree starts on Sunday,
November 25th.*





GOD'S ACRES HOSTS MAKE-A-WISH

According to the Make-A-Wish website: "Tens of thousands of volunteers, donors and supporters advance the Make-A-Wish® vision to grant the wish of every child diagnosed with a critical illness. In the United States and its territories, on average, a wish is granted every 34 minutes."

Zion volunteers and the local Make-A-Wish team did a very nice job with their "Carnival" fundraiser at God's Acres in September. Many thanks to all that came out in support of this very worthwhile event!



**WELCA GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 14, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.**

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we are reminded of how blessed so many of us are. This is a good time to not only give God thanks for all that he has done for us, but also a time that we can try to help those who are not as fortunate.

ZION's WELCA Executive Board is asking the women of Zion for their help. Following our General Meeting on November 14, we will be working on the following service projects: (1) assembling Birthday Bags for the Battle Lake Food Shelf, (2) assembling Gift Bags for children served by Someplace Safe, and (3) rolling bandages for Global Missions.

Items you may purchase for the birthday bags:

- *Cake mix
- *Frosting mix
- *Toothbrush/paste
- *Candy bar
- *Snack size packages of chips, goldfish, etc.

Suggested items to purchase for the gift bags (children ages 3-10):

- *Coloring books, crayons, children's markers,
- *Colored pencils
- *Glue sticks
- *Construction paper
- *Play dough
- *Playing cards
- *Children's Tylenol/ibuprofen (new/sealed)
- *Band-Aids
- *Toothpaste/brushes
- *Shampoo/soap
- *Socks/underwear (boys/girls)

(NOTE: WE WILL PROVIDE THE BAGS FOR BOTH PROJECTS.)

All items should be brought to the church by Sunday, November 11. A basket will be available in the narthex.

No time to shop? Leave your monetary donation in the Church Office on or before Sunday, November 11 and we will shop for you.

COME AND JOIN US Wednesday, November 14, at 1:30pm. Refreshments will be served by Dorcas Circle. All women are invited!!!

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Editor's Thoughts.....

The wind is howling. I'm cold just standing there pumping gas in the predawn light. I see a bright sign offering a large cup of coffee for \$.99. I think to myself I should buy one for the long day ahead. Oh and a muffin to go with it.

But then I think of the added expense. My checkbook is already low. And then there is all the fat and calories. So I think - What really is my motive for the coffee and muffin? Appease my boredom while pumping gas?

It made me pause. On what do I base my decisions? If it was to be wealthy, I would skip the coffee & muffin – and place that money in my savings. If it was to be famous, I'd buy the goodies & post some witty quip on Facebook.

If it was living out my faith in Jesus, how would my decision differ? Would I buy the coffee & muffin and give it to someone else? Skip the purchase and make a donation to the poor?

I realized that buying coffee and a muffin doesn't necessarily point to my goals in life but it made me think about my everyday decisions. Was I basing those every day decisions on my priorities in life? Was I living out my faith in my daily, decision filled life? Is God part of my every day decisions?

In the months ahead, I want to explore this topic of living out my faith a little more. I'd love your thoughts about this. (Hopefully there will be no lynching or firing or hate mail....)

Gratefully, Lynn Melchior



Warming Hearts With Warm Soup Ministry

Zion's WELCA will begin a new ministry in November called Warming Hearts With Warm Soup. The idea came from El. J, who read about this in a Living Lutheran article and thought it might work in our congregation. After he wrote about it in the October Tidings, co-chairwomen are now in place to head up the committee, others have volunteered to help make soup, and our first day of making soup has already happened!

Beginning this month, any person in our congregation is invited to take a quart of soup to someone they think may need it--someone living alone, someone recovering from an illness or surgery, someone experiencing grief or loss, or anyone in need or who might benefit from some warm soup (made with love) to warm a heart. Pastor Jim and our Stephen Ministers can also deliver a quart of soup to people they visit.

Our first soup-making session netted ten quarts of soup, now stored in a designated freezer which was donated for this ministry. The freezer is located in the church kitchen mechanical room. By the freezer is a clipboard to note some information when soup is taken. Since this is just beginning, we will try it to see how well it goes and how much soup is needed to keep the freezer stocked.

Our hope is that this soup ministry is well-received and our members find this a wonderful way to warm hearts by showing Christ's love, served one quart at a time! If you would like to volunteer to be on this committee to occasionally make soup with a few others in the church kitchen, we would love to have your help. To do so, please contact the office.

Summary of Zion Council Minutes for October 10, 2018

These are condensed and not approved

Secretary & Treasurer Reports. Approvd.

Committee and Team Reports: See written reports. The Stewards of Story Conference in Detroit Lakes was on 10/6/18. Education Coordinator coordinating Sunday School birthday and general thank you cards.

Pastoral Report: See written report. Attended a conference at Luther Seminary on the Craft of Preaching.

Business:

- The Department of Health did a water inspection and found that God's Acres need a backflow valve installed. God's Acres will install part.
- More discussion on change in fiscal year or just changing the annual meeting date to September.
- The new OTC LYO youth ministry associate, Tyler Wright, requested \$218 from each of the partnering churches to attend a Youth Directory Extravaganza event. Motion made. Seconded. Approved.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMOR TREASURER'S REPORT Sept. 2018

	Sept	Year to Date		Budget
Income	Actual	Actual	Budget	Used
Sunday Offering	32,781.93	187,501.50	271,926.00	68.95%
Special Offering	0.00	2,128.65	6,000.00	35.48%
Other Income	26.65	1,660.15	860.00	193.04%
Total Income	32,808.58	191,290.30	278,786.00	68.62%
 Expense				
Our Benevolence	1,666.66	14,286.60	19,000.00	75.19%
Missions	0.00	7,607.58	14,000.00	54.34%
Pastoral Compensation	8,417.48	75,757.32	100,737.00	75.20%
Pastoral Expense	397.85	4,539.32	5,200.00	87.29%
New Members/Outreach	0.00	1,663.92	2,150.00	77.39%
Education	2,503.46	12,211.26	26,290.00	46.45%
Library	84.38	171.48	300.00	57.16%
Music & Worship	2,168.83	13,884.75	19,742.00	70.33%
Altar	33.98	281.26	400.00	70.32%
Office Staff	2,956.30	32,247.62	42,318.00	76.20%
Stephen Ministry	14.90	49.25	300.00	16.42%
Office Expenses	728.06	9,438.65	14,504.00	65.08%
Stewardship	0.00	29.94	300.00	9.98%
Planning	0.00	840.90	710.00	118.44%
Property Management	1,733.51	18,528.98	28,178.00	65.76%
Maintenance & Repairs	200.00	1,686.50	2,957.00	57.03%
Capital Improv/Emerg Op	0.00	0.00	1,700.00	0.00%
Total Expense	20,905.41	193,225.33	278,786.00	69.31%
Income Less Expense	11,903.17	-1,935.03	0.00	

NOTE: 2017 Next Year Giving was \$29,390. Zion has been using this money throughout 2018. If it was seen as income in 2018, Zion's year to date 'income less expense' would be \$15,850.30.

Attendance/Contributions September 2017- 2018

2017 September		
Date	Attendance	Contributions
3-Sep	204	\$6,302.00
10-Sep	198	\$4,216.00
17-Sep	189	\$4,717.00
24-Sep	184	\$9,283.26
TOTAL	775	\$24,518.26

Ave 194

2018 September		
Date	Attendance	Contributions
2-Sep	192	\$5,183.00
9-Sep	171	\$3,571.93
16-Sep	180	\$9,547.75
23-Sep	165	\$2,603.00
30-Sep	170	\$11,558.00
TOTAL	878	\$32,463.68

Ave 176

Restricted Funds Sept 2018

Flowers	56.48	Sunday School Projects	0.00	Missions	490.00
Improvement Fund	1,226.87	Stephen Ministry	1,566.74	Technology	144.40
Designated Giving	2,842.82	Funeral	1,439.49	Jamaica House	1,746.21
Food Shelf	1,140.41	Fair Trade Coffee	328.37	Total	\$28,789.55
Sunday School	2,619.03	Organ Fund	0.00		
World Hunger	0.00	Pancake Breakfast	0.00		
Cemetery Fund	0.00	God's Acres	65.00		
Library Fund	1,035.57	Men's Group Funds	257.82		
Memorials & Gifts	3,514.43	Miss Jam Pass Thru	16,500.00		
Music Fund	1,679.24	Twins Game	0.00		
Youth Group	50.00	Helping Hands	2,049.86		
Found. Pass Thru	0.00				

¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.