

JANUARY, 2016 NEWSLETTER



PRAYER MINISTRY—Zion's Prayer Chain is available for your use. To initiate a prayer, please call one of the following contact persons: *Arleen Hoese* (657-1049), *Marlene Jopp* (office - 657-2339, Hm - 657-2398), or *Sharon Buckentin* (657-2549). Use the blue prayer cards (found in church pews) to request prayers for the prayer chain or for Sunday worship, or call one of the contact persons.

DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS for the family can be found in the narthex by the bulletin boxes: My Devotion, Happy Times and Portals of Prayer (Jan-March). We are thankful to Zion LWML for funding this project. There is a box by the mail-boxes in the narthex if you wish to contribute to this project.

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE TAPED—DVD's of services are available—8:00 AM services are taped each Sunday for anyone interested in watching the service. To request a tape, call Brad Quaas (612) 636-9080. If you would like to purchase a DVD of the 8:00 AM service, they are available for \$2. If you wish to purchase a DVD of the 10:30 AM service, please reserve your copy two weeks in advance. DVD's of baptisms, graduation, special services etc. make great keepsakes or gifts.

SERMONS ON-LINE—If you are unable to attend Sunday Services or would just like to hear a particular sermon again, you can listen to Sunday sermons on Zion's website: zionmayer.org

The *Christian Cards and Gifts* has Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Wedding and Anniversary boxed cards. Individual cards are also available. Check out our gift items including The Lutheran Study Bible, Lutheran Service Books, Prayer Books, Children's books. We are located at the bottom of the stairs of the lower level of the church. Barb Argabright or Ann Schuette will be available on Sunday mornings between services to help you with your purchase, or with any special order request.

BULLETINS are available each week on our website, www.zionmayer.org.

"KID'S CORNER" - A special section of our church library, located in the lounge area of the church basement, contains materials just for kids, as well as for offering families with children additional opportunities for reading and sharing Jesus together. If you have children's Bible Story or religious books, CDs, Videos, that you would like to donate, please bring them to the office.

Sunday School News

Thank you for all the donations for our Shut in boxes and chemo packages. The Sunday School was able to fill 13 boxes for our Shut-ins and 12 bags for patients going through chemo. Also, thank you to everyone that came to our Sunday school program, it was so nice to see so many people and the children loved singing for you. The kids are doing great with bringing in there offering, which is going towards Lutherans in Africa for the purchase of bibles and Catechisms. To date we have brought in about \$500 which means we will be able to buy 50 bibles or 150 catechisms or a combination. Thank you for your continued support for our Sunday School program.

**Christian Education
Opportunities
Winter, 2015-2016**

Sunday: Adult Bible Class 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall.

"Journey from Unbelief to Faith" (Lutheran Hour DVD Series) starting Dec. 27 through Jan. 10.

"Stewardship Emphasis - Celebrating God's Gracious Gifts fromk Jan. 17 - Feb. 7 **Sunday Youth Bible Class**

Youth Bible Class will be following a series of studies called *Pulse*. We will look at a whole host of current topics that we are facing using various forms of media. We will then explore how God's Word speaks directly to these current topics.

Through caring conversations, we will discuss the joys and challenges that arise in living out our God-given faith. Together, we will see how God is continually at work in and through us and how God's gift of salvation both strengthens and equips us while living in these current times. So come join Pastor Adam as he teaches Youth Bible Class (9th-12th grade) between services in Mrs. McManus' classroom in the day school.

Small Group Bible Study, 9:15 at Christ Corner.

The Great Deceiver - It should come as no surprise that an adversary fit to be called the "god of this world" and the "power of darkness" is a force to be reckoned with. And so he is. In *The Great Deceiver*, explore a being so diabolical he will stop at nothing to separate us from God. Facilitated by Korinne Kramer.

Wednesday: Wednesday morning Bible Class meets at

10:00 AM in the Church basement. Pastor Woodford will lead the class on the Pericopes.

Ladies Bible Class — 7:00 PM at Christ Corner. Topic is the book "Soul Spa". Do you need a place to rest your heart? When we are tired or stressed, when our muscles ache and our skin feels dry, we can go to a health spa for renewal. But what do we do when our soul needs care? How do we cope with this hectic, messy, and complicated world? Come to the Soul Spa where spiritual practices refresh you, where God is eager to meet with you and care for your spirit. Using spa analogies, this resource guides the reader to engage in the holy habits such as Bible study, Scripture meditation, sacred reading, prayer and more!. Facilitated by Korinne Kramer.

Bring a Friend, and Come, Grow With Us!

Human Care Items . . .

RIDGEVIEW MEDICAL CENTER SPIRITUAL CARE SERVICES -

When you or a loved one are admitted to RMC, please let the church office know!

Also, let the hospital admitting staff know that you're a member of Zion.

INFORMATION BOOKLETS regarding cardiovascular disease are available in a display in the narthex. They are available (free) and will be replenished as needed. Help yourself!

WE CARE—The best way to address life's challenges is to talk about them with someone who can help. **Lutheran Counseling Center** welcomes every call, and promises to devote the full measure of counseling experience to finding comfortable, lasting solutions. To contact a qualified and caring counselor, call 952-894-4828.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP—"Rebuilding Hope," meets at Ridgeview Hospital, Conference Room "C" 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7 PM.

PARENTING SUPPORT GROUP hosted by Carver County Circle of Parents, meets weekly in Waconia, Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM. For info, call 442-2191, ext 5320 or www.familysupport.org.

PREGNANCY & INFANT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP for parents who have experienced a loss due to miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or newborn death meets the third Thursday of each month, 6:30-8:00 PM at Ridgeview Medical Center (Conference Rooms A & B) in Waconia. For more information, call (952) 442-2191, ext. 6190.

PRO-LIFE THOUGHT— "Since the fetus is a creature already alive and in the process of development, to kill it is to choose death over life. At what point shall we allow this choice? For me the answer is—at no point, once life has begun. At no point, I repeat, either as life begins or as life ends, for we who are human beings cannot, for our own safety, be allowed to choose death, life being all we know. Pearl S. Buck, author and recipient of the 1938 Nobel Prize in literature — www.lutheransforlife.org

AN IMMUNIZATION CLINIC will be held on Monday, January 11 & 25, 3-5:00 PM, in the Public Health Office at the Government Center in Chaska. Please call 952.361.1329 to schedule an appointment. There is a donation requested for the administration of each MnVFC vaccine. Parent/guardians must read and sign all forms for persons under 18 years of age. Parents/Guardians must bring a record of up-to-date past immunizations to the clinic.

DID YOU KNOW that your kindness and generosity through the "Help a Neighbor" Fund has helped multiple families who were in significant need? Through this fund help was given by assisting with things like utilities, gas & food. Thank you for your past and continued support of this important ministry!



Family Ministry News . . .

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY (KTIS-AM 900, 9:30 AM; KKMS-AM 980, 5:00 & 11:30 AM, 7:00 PM; KTIS-FM 98.5, 9:30 AM)

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS, which includes Alateen and Al-Anon Adult Children, has been in existence for more than 50 years as a community resource providing support to those affected by someone else's drinking. Today there are more than 26,000 Al-Anon and over 2,300 Alateen groups in 115 countries. Our meetings are anonymous and confidential. There are no dues or fees for membership. We believe that Alcoholism is a Family Disease and all members are affected. The NYA Step Al-Anon and No Fear Alateen meet on Thursdays at 8 PM at All Saints Lutheran Church, 511 Merger St., NYA.

RECYCLE CHRISTIAN Devotional materials, books, greeting cards. You will find a box in the NE corner of the narthex where used Christian literature is gathered. These items are delivered to International Christian Literature Distributors, a local organization in MPLS.

DONATIONS TO FOOD SHELF: Following is a list of urgent food needs at Watertown's Friend for Life. These are items they cannot purchase at the food bank. *canned vegetables: peas, corn, mixed vegetables; *boxed potato; *canned mandarin oranges; *baked beans; *boxed cereal; *chicken noodle soup; *toothpaste. Hours are Mon, 6:30-8 PM and Tues/Fri, 9 AM-noon. **Food Shelf Sunday in January is the 17th.** Thanks for your support of this ministry.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS - As the nations' largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children between the ages of 7 & 12 ("Littles"). Right now in Carver County, boys between the ages of 7 & 12 are waiting for a hero, a role-model, a friend. They're waiting for someone just like you. We have a strong need for male mentors due to 70% of the children on the waiting list being boys. To find out how a LITTLE bit of you can make a BIG difference, visit bigstwincities.org or call 651-789-2400.

Investments Work for the LCMS—Lutheran Church Extension Fund is a financial organization that empowers ministry. Through the dollars invested by over 50,000 individuals, congregations, schools, organizations and businesses, LCEF assists ministries with customized loans and ministry support services that help leaders respond to growth and community needs. With our dedicated staff in the National Office in St. Louis, joined by the talented employees in the District offices and volunteers in our congregations and schools, LCEF empowers ministry through a total asset portfolio of \$1.8 billion. Now celebrating 36 years as "Lutheran Church Extension Fund," we are thankful for the blessings God has given us as we seek to serve Him.. Visit www.lcef.org to see how and why! Contact LCEF for the latest information on investment interest rates 1-800-843-5233.

DAILY BREAD—We just wanted to extend a reminder to the people of Zion about the ministry known as Daily Bread. It is our privilege to provide meals for families following hospital stays and other times when it can be helpful. If you are interested in volunteering to make meals (no more than once a month, and rarely every month), or if you or someone you know could benefit from receiving meals, please let contact Emily Gless at 952-657-2266. Thank you!



Notes and news from Zion LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League)...

- ◇ **ZION LWML** will not meet in the month of January. However, our MN South LWML nominating committee asks that we submit names of candidates for the following positions needed for the ballot at the June 24-26 LWML Convention in Mankato.
 - Vice President of Christian Life
 - Vice President of Servant Resources
 - Vice President of Human Care
 - Treasurer
 - Nominating committee members—one from each Conference

We are also asked to submit Mission Grant Proposals for what mission projects do we want our Mites to be used for in the 2016-2018 Biennium? Deadline for all of these is Jan. 15, 2016. Please contact our Zion Christian Life LWMLers, Peggy Uecker and Helen Bunge, with your suggestions.

- ◇ **Our COINS for CHRIST recipient**, Vicar Andy Jones sends us this Thank you note—for all Zion members: “Thank you so much for sending the check from Coins for Christ, and for Zion’s continued support. My wife’s parents are coming down to St. Louis for Thanksgiving, so we’ve been at work preparing for that. It is our first time at hosting! God’s Blessings! -Andy Jones
All the coins placed in the offering plate at Zion’s Worship are sent to the Seminary student Zion congregation sponsors.
- ◇ **LWML WINTER QUARTERLY** introduces us to two dozen LWMLers, who offer us a glimpse into their lives, revealing how their God-given talents manifest His joy and extend His Kingdom. Erin Bode, Mayer LHS graduate, and jazz musician is featured on the Cover Page. Erin’s father is Rev. Gerhardt Bode, pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Hutchinson.
- ◇ **ZION LWML presented the book** “God Chose You to Seaton Uecker (parents Justin & Erin) on her Baptism, Nov 22, 2015.
- ◇ **2015 LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT** will be given by Deb Vinkemeier at the Jan. 19 Trinity Ladies Aid meeting at Waconia at 1 PM
- ◇ **LWML MITES continue to be gathered.** One of our District 2014-2016 Mission Grants is \$80,000 for tuition assistance seeking a Lutheran high school education. We have high schools in our MN So. District. One of our National 2015-2017 Mission Grants is \$100,000 to provide critical housing and program services for Redeeming Life Maternity Home in Sanford, FL. We have a large Mite Box in the narthex, or mites can be given online to the District LWML.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE . . .

- ◇ The **CARVER LIFELINES January Newsletter** features Sanctity of Life Sunday which we will celebrate here at Zion Sunday, Jan 17. Our Carver Lifelines meet that week Tues, Jan 19 at 3 PM in the Fireside room at Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn how to address life issues based on the Word of God.
- ◇ **“CREATED—REDEEMED—CALLED” IS THE THEME FOR 2016 Life Sunday**, based on Isaiah 43:1, “But now thus says the Lord, He who created you... ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’” That Sunday there will be a door offering for LFL. You may use your special LFL envelope in your 2016 offering envelope packet.
- ◇ **CARVER LIFELINES DRESSER MINISTRY** come to Zion in January. You will find a small chest of drawers in our narthex, to which you may donate baby items for this ministry. A list for new or gently used items can be found on the dresser. Check the spaces for your donations, or cash to buy these supplies. Needed the most is diapers. 144 dressers have been delivered to mothers who chose life and are in need. Questions, please call Helen Bunge, 952-657-2513.

- ◇ **STAND FOR LIFE!** Four opportunities in January will allow Lutherans across the nation to express their commitment to upholding the sanctity of human life: Jan 17 March of Life, Chicago, 2-4 PM; Jan 22 March for Life, Washington D.C.; Jan 23 West Coast Walk for Life, San Francisco; Jan 21-24 Y4Life trip to Washington D.C. Our Carver Lifelines is sponsoring one youth to attend this Y4Life Lutherans for Life event.



“Bringing Christ to the Nations - and Nations to the Church”
Tune in to The Lutheran Hour, Sundays, WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 AM, KRWC (1360) at 7:30 AM, KDHL (920 AM) at 6:00 PM and KDUZ (1260 AM) at 12:30 PM OR at <http://www.lutheranhours.org/>

Jan 3- “Life in Context”, Rev. Gregory Seltz. Life is not up for grabs or out of control. Find real life in the context of Christ’s cross and resurrection. (Ephesians 1:3-14)

Jan 10 - “What’s Running Your Life”, Rev. Gregory Seltz. When Christ runs your life, beauty and blessing flow to you and through you to others. (Romans 6:1-11)

Jan 17 - “Not What You’d Expect”, Rev. Gregory Seltz. Jesus turns water into wine and challenges our notions of what God should or shouldn’t do. (John 2:1-11)

Jan 24 - “Real Freedom”, Rev. Gregory Seltz. Jesus brings the jarring message that real freedom can only be received from Him and real freedom is following Him in all things. (Luke 4:16-21)

Jan 31 - “If Jesus Had Stayed”, Rev. Gregory Seltz. God wants us to love Him in response to His love for us. (Luke 4:42b-43)

LUTHERAN HOUR BROADCASTS can be sponsored for 2016 by contacting Charles Jensen of First Lutheran Church, Glencoe (320-864-3579). Celebrating a birthday or anniversary or remembering a loved one passing may be the Sunday you wish to sponsor a broadcast. Cost is \$94.00

NEW YEARS DAY be sure to watch the 2016 Tournament of Roses Parade on TV and look for our Lutheran Layman’s League float. 2016 Rose Parade theme is “Fine Your Adventure”. The LHM float’s theme is **“JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”**. The float features a fishing boat with both biblical and modern era disciples of Jesus Christ sitting beneath a lighthouse crowned with the cross of Christ. Pray that our LHM float will provide a Christian witness and Hope in Jesus Christ, to all who view the float in person and through the media.

LHM’s PROJECT CONNECT - this booklet ministry features a booklet entitled “Your Place in God’s Plan”. What’s your purpose in life? Like spokes without a hub, a life without purpose - a center - feels futile and empty. This booklet will help you gain a deeper understanding about God’s plan for you and with you. We thank our Zion Lutheran School students for declaring “God’s Perfect Plan” in their Dec 16 Christmas Service and our part in God’s Plan as He helps us to be His witnesses throughout our life.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

ZION QUILTERS -- We will start quilting on Tuesday, January 5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and every Tuesday thereafter. Bring a bag lunch, coffee will be furnished. Come for the whole day or for however long you choose. You do not need to know how to needle quilt, these are tied/knotted quilts. We have a variety of things to do; something for everyone. If you prefer to help us from your home, we will furnish material to cut blocks, or sew tops. Please join us, your help will be greatly appreciated. Questions – call Arlys, [952-657-2455](tel:952-657-2455) or Marlys, [952-657-2300](tel:952-657-2300).



Little Lambs is a group for Moms (or dads) and kids, 0 through 4 or 5 years. Little Lambs is a place to begin to introduce Bible stories and Christian ideals in a very basic way through songs, stories and crafts while in a fun and low-key environment. It is also a place for moms to get out and enjoy fellowship with others in a similar stage of life. Little Lambs meets on Fridays when school is in session from 8:30-10 in **Christ's Corner**. There is a charge of \$15 per family for the year to help cover the cost of crafts, but don't let cost prevent you from joining us. We would love to see you there! For more information or with questions contact Katie Baumann [\(314\)302-6663](tel:3143026663) or katiebaumann@hotmail.com. Find us on Facebook: Little Lambs at Zion in Mayer, MN

National Lutheran Schools Week is Jan. 24-30. The week begins with a joint worship service at 10:00 at Mayer Lutheran High School on Sunday, Jan. 24th. On Monday, Jan. 25th, Parents and Grandparents are invited to join us for lunch. The cost is \$3.25 for each adult or child's lunch. All reservations must be made by Wednesday, Jan. 20th. K-4th grade will eat at 11:00 and 5th-8th grade will eat at 12:15. On Tuesday, Jan. 26th, we are making sandwiches for 363days.org. We are in need of donations of meat, cheese, and bread. We have a number of other activities planned as well. Watch for more details.

Preschool Open House - Our open house for our 3 & 4 year old preschool classes is on Tuesday, January 26th from 3:30-6:00. If you have a child that will be entering 3 or 4 year old preschool next school year, please bring your child and take a look at what Zion has to offer. If you know any families with preschool age children, please pass along this information or give their information to the office.

BETHESDA THRIFT STORE SALES FOR JANUARY....

Dec 29 - Jan 3 \$1.00 Orange tag sale
 Jan 5-10 50% off all yellow tagged items
 Jan 12-17 75% off all yellow tagged items
 Jan 19-27 \$1.00 yellow tagged clothing & shoes
 JAN 29 50% off store wide sale
**some exceptions apply, sales subject to change without notice.*

The Families Moving Forward committee would again like to thank you for all you many contributions to our first year of this great mission outreach. We are gearing up for this years weeks. Our first week is March 6, 2016. We will have the donation/volunteer sign-up on the web site in the middle of January. (zionmayer.org) Our greatest request is that you take some time to pray for us during the week, but most of all volunteer in some capacity. You can donate, cook a meal, or come to play, it is all very much appreciated. Thank you Zion/St. Mark's members!! If you have any questions please call Gayle Guthland at 952-826-9046, or Chelsea Kovar at 320-282-6511

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS....

Birthdays: 1—*Sue Hoese*; 2—*Jesse Quaas, Myron Schuette*; 3—*Mya Chmielewski, Sydney Grossinger, Ann Soderstrom, Aaron Vanderlinde*; 4—*Barbara Hoese, Mary Ann Magnuson*; 5—*Brenda Koehler-Bentz*; 8—*Ralph Domras*; 9—*Ron Grimm*; 10—*Brian Cole*; 11—*Beth Schuette*; 13—*Allyson Grossinger*; 15—*Randy Maass*; 16—*David Parpart, Katelyn Shipler*; 17—*Matthew Carlson, Derek Schuettpelez, Lowell Wasser*; 18—*Elliott Boersma, Christopher Hedtke, Jenny Olson, Lauren Schroeder*; 19—*Doug Watson*; 20—*Roseanne Malberg*; 21—*Al Bentz*; 23—*Nicole Baumann, Troy Carlson, Shannon Gordon, Molly Hagen, Shelly Kahl*; 24—*Kevin Berg, Marlene Magnuson, Marilyn McPadden*; 25—*Charlotte Hahn, Ryann Hoese*; 26—*Kayla Feltmann, David Olson, Ken Quaas, Jackie Peterson*; 27—*Lori Cole, Robyn Hoese, Isabella Mead*; 28—*Ty Hoese, Melissa Jones; Eldoras Schuette*; 29—*Mark Gutzke*, 30—*Lani Hoese, Tracy Kuhpal*; 31—*Joel Brunner, David Kolstad, Julie Lundgren, Jessica Steffens, Gerry Thomas.*



Anniversaries: 8—*Keith & Tami Otterstatter* (94); 9—*Troy & Kim Goede* (88); 14—*Brad & Vicki Schultz* (72); 17—*Marty & Sharon Ziermann* (70); *Jesse & Rachel Scherber* (09); 26—*Mark & Pam Gutzke* (85); *Ted & Julie Van Beusekom* (13).



Young Investors (Y.I.) Club Stamp Program-- When you help young people save for the future through the Y.I. Club Stamp Program from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), those dollars also help others learn about Jesus. Donna Lindstrom, Stamp Coordinator for Zion Lutheran School, is at Zion Thursday's from 11:00 am to 1 pm with Stamp Collection Sheets. This is a great time of the year to teach the process of giving and saving for the future of your child, grandchild, niece or nephew. Visit lcef.org for more information on Y.I. Stamp Program or call Donna Lindstrom 952-955-2106.

LUTHERANS IN AFRICA

Forming African Christians to Be Teachers of The Faith

The church in Africa is growing by leaps and bound. And the Church in Africa is the target of both wily and audacious attacks of our foe. Caught in the middle are the men, women, and children hungry to hear God's Truth. *The Book of Concord*, the Confessions of our faith, is a beautiful litany of Christ crucified and what that means in our lives. Our Church fathers fought fiercely to strip out the things of man and restore to the doctrine of the Church the things of God. The unique starting point of Lutheran doctrine is to always ask, "What does the Bible say?" Therefore the mission of Lutherans in Africa (LIA) is to train Lutheran teachers in Africa to respond with Biblical answers not human philosophy. We do this by providing educational seminars and workshops for current clergy and church staff, and by the dissemination of key doctrinal resources, including their translation into African languages where needed. It is in this way LIA believes we can help preserve the legacy of our faith unto the generations to come. Thus, LIA was founded in 2010 to aid in the preaching and teaching of the confessional Lutheran faith across Africa.