



## The Voice of Zion

January 1, 2018

A MEMBER CHURCH OF LUTHERAN  
CONGREGATIONS  
IN MISSION FOR CHRIST (LCMC)

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[www.zion-castroville.org](http://www.zion-castroville.org)

*Our Mission: We unite to bear witness to  
and receive God's love through Jesus Christ,  
by worship, fellowship, education, and  
service*

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 am -2:00 pm  
Sunday School for All Ages: Sunday 8:45 – 9:30 am  
Sunday Fellowship at 9:30 am  
Sunday Worship at 10:00 am  
Tuesday: Ladies Community Bible Study: 7:00 pm

MOPS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month -6:30 pm  
Quilters: Each Wed. at 1:00 pm



Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER



January 1, 2018

Dear Zion Members & Friends,

January 21<sup>st</sup> is Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting following the church service. Contact Linda Plante or Bill Bippert if you want to serve on the council.

Michael Eichmann is updating our website. We need the ministry synopsis form turned in as soon as possible.

Next council meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup>. Zion's council meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend.

Respectfully,

Bill Bippert  
Zion Church Council President



### Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes 10 December 2017

Call to order at 11:29 A.M. by Bill Bippert

Present: Pastor Greg Knippa, Linda Plante, Chuck Hart, Chris Filline, Richard Crain, Dewayne Boyles, Wayne Benke, Wanye Newman, Jackie Moss, and Bill Bippert

#### I. Opening prayer

Jackie Moss

#### II. Minutes

The minutes from the November 12, 2017 meeting were reviewed; motion to accept by Jackie Moss, second by Richard Crain, the motion carried.

#### III. Treasurer's Report

Jackie reviewed the highlights of her report that was included in the meeting packet. A motion to transfer \$30,000 from the general fund checking account into a CD was made

by Chuck Hart, second by Linda Plante, the motion carried. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Wayne Newman, second by Richard Crain, the motion carried.

#### IV. Pastor's Report

Pastor Greg reviewed his written report that was included in the meeting packet. Pastor Greg asked Chris Filline to head up focus/action group to address church security. Chris accepted. Pastor Greg asked the council to embrace his proposed theme for Zion for 2018, "God Works ... We Act!". Motion by Chris Filline to support the theme for 2018, second by Jackie Moss, the motion carried.

#### V. Committee Reports

1. Christian Education
  - a. Sunday School – all classes continue to go well
  - b. Confirmation and First Communion are idle for now
2. Food Pantry – The Medina County Food Pantry building fund drive is continuing to go well
3. Prayer Chain – going along well, still praying
4. Fellowship – a date will be set soon for an appreciation event for the church volunteers
5. MOPS – a written report from Jana was included in the meeting packet
6. Dishes and Chair Inventory – postponed due to holidays and plenty of other activity

**VI. Old Business** - there was no discussion

#### VII. New Business

1. Zion's web-site – ministry synopsis forms have been received from several committees, all synopsis forms should be completed and submitted to Bill, Pastor Greg or Janice by the end of the year so that information can be included on our web-site.
2. Jackie Moss reviewed a first draft of the 2018 budget; council members were encouraged to submit needs of the church,

possible capital projects, etc. so the council can provide a finalized budget for the annual meeting.

3. Linda Plante suggested that an after church lunch group get started. No further action taken at this time.
4. Election of Officers - Bill has received acknowledgement from one person that will be running for congregational president and several other names for council positions. Anyone desiring to run for president or council positions should submit their name to Bill or Linda Plante.
5. The annual meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday, January 21, 2018 following the worship service.
6. The council discussed and agreed on Christmas bonuses.

#### VIII. Ushers

1. December 2017 – Bill Bippert
2. January 2018 – Jackie Moss

#### IX. Next Meeting

1. Sunday, January 14, 2018
2. Opening prayer – Chris Filline

#### X. Close with the Lord's Prayer

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Hart, Council Secretary



#### Treasurer Report for Zion Lutheran Church

For November, Zion Lutheran Church has a net income of \$11,837.85. Zion received very generous offerings during the month of November. God has blessed Zion. Let us continue to listen to the Holy Spirit and take action.

	October 2017	Year to Date
Total Income	\$ 24,737.94	\$197,916.38
Total Expenses	<u>12,900.09</u>	<u>170,815.86</u>
Net Income	\$ 11,837.85	\$ 27,100.51

I am very proud to be a part of Zion and pray that God continues to use and bless Zion in His work.

Blessings  
Jackie Moss  
Treasurer

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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**JANUARY 21, 2018**

The Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 21, 2018, at 11:00 am.

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### **From Pastor Greg's Desk: January 2018**

The new year is a great time to take stock of what has been accomplished. God has brought Zion a long way in the past 3 years. Just to name a few, we have been blessed by God with a renewed Children's Sunday School Program with an awesome coordinator. The Adult Bible Class has grown significantly, Confirmation classes are back, worship attendance is up. Zion is growing in so many ways, God's people here at Zion are giving in so many ways, financially and of self. Former members have returned. Community involvement is going well. New outreach programs such as M.O.P.S. have started, and there are more things being planned to move God's kingdom forward.

But we cannot rest on what has happened. That will be one of the ways the devil will try and slow down or completely derail what has happened here. By God's grace we must shut Satan out and not let him get his evil ways set in motion. How? By keeping our hearts and minds set on Jesus and the ministry He so graciously has given us. As Jesus set His face to go to Calvary to beat the devil and bring us salvation, we set our faces to God's plan for us, and by the Holy Spirit's power, move His kingdom forward here, in our community, around Medina County, and beyond.

The people of Zion have and continue to bless my wife, Alicia, our boys, Andrew and Adam, and myself in so many ways. We all feel like family with y'all!

The Psalm for the Third Sunday in Advent was Psalm 126. That Psalm was the catalyst that focused me on what to write for this January 2018 Newsletter. I

believe what it proclaims mirrors what has been and continues to happen here at Zion Lutheran Church.

**When the Lord set Zion free, we became like those who dream. Laughter filled our very mouths, our tongues rang out shouts of joy. It was said through all the earth, "God has done great things for them." God has done great things for us; God has made us very glad.**

**Bring our exiles back, O God, like the Negeb's waterways. May the ones who sow in tears, reap harvests with shouts of joy. One who weeping has gone forth with the seed that's to be sown, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing in the sheaves of grain.**

May God in this New Year bless all of you, both as individuals and as families. And may God bless His family here at Zion Lutheran Church, and may that blessing be all for His kingdom, and to His glory!

Your under-shepherd in Christ,  
Pastor Greg

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### *Zion Quilters*

In December, the Zion Quilters donated winter quilts to the Castroville Police department. A scripture and soft blanket will provide comfort to someone in need.



Zion Quilters: Jane Scheffler, Ruth Felty, Frances Bippert, Flo Balmer, Diane Perreault, Esther Thomas, Suzanna Feliciano.

**QUILTERS DONATE TO  
MEDINA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY**



**Pastor Greg's Medina Valley Nursing Home  
Service Schedule:**

- Jan. 11, 2018 – 10:30 am   Worship and Holy Communion  
Jan. 25, 2018 – 10:30 am   Worship and Holy Communion

*(Typically, the services are on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.)*



Flo Balmer, representing Zion's Quilters, presents a "sizeable" check to Eileen Merryman – a donation to help the Medina County Food Pantry meet its goal of building a new Food Pantry building and serving citizens in need of food assistance.

**Flowers**

- Jan. 7                    *Evelyn Smith*  
                              In memory of her husband, Morris Smith  
Jan. 14                  *Kenneth & Clara Ricks*  
                              In memory of Cody & Jeff Ricks,  
                              Clarence Stein, and Jason Loessburg  
Jan. 21                  *Marvin Kriewald*  
                              In Memory of Loved Ones  
Jan. 28                  *Vera Steubing*  
                              In Memory of Loved Ones



**Sunday Bible Study**

Our study continues of the book entitled, "Spiritual Discipleship – Principles of Following Christ for Every Believer." Please join us as Pastor Greg facilitates the study and discussion. Join as we explore God's Word for us today.

**Zion Lay Ministry**

*Women of the Word and Prayer Chain Coordinator:*  
Linda Plante

*Altar Guild:* Carol Mangold, Cheri Boucher', Diane Hibbs, Frances Bippert

*Quilters:* Flo Balmer, Fran Bippert, Ruth Felty, Jane Scheffler, Diane Perreault, Karen Balmer, Esther Thomas

*Prayer Blanket Stitchers:* Flo Balmer, Cheri Boucher', Emilie Stege, Mary Day, Lahoma McDaniel

*Sunday School: Children* – Pat Davila, Danae Kohlleppl, *Youth* – Emily Bippert; *Young Adult* – Rod Moss; *Adult* – Carol Mangold

*MOPS* – Jana Urbanczyk

*Garden Granny:* Marcia Hart

*Music Director:* Pete Martinez



- |         |                |                 |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| Jan. 7  | Ian Vonderharr | Alicia Knippa   |
| Jan. 14 | Ian Vonderharr | Diane Hibbs     |
| Jan. 21 | Ian Vonderharr | Anthony Stinson |
| Jan. 28 | Ian Vonderharr | Chuck Hart      |



**January Birthdays**

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1/01 Gail Owen         | 1/03 Michele Bippert |
| 1/05 Carla Santleben   | 10/10 Bill Armstrong |
| 1/12 Samantha Linton   | 1/12 Debbie Jones    |
| 1/13 Reed Whittington  | 1/13 David Burges    |
| 1/13 Emily Smith       | 1/14 Jana Urbanczyk  |
| 1/16 Wayne Benke       | 1/19 William Stege   |
| 1/19 Kyler Urbanczyk   | 1/20 Paul Stinson    |
| 1/20 Kimberly Stiteler | 1/21 Irene Bendele   |
| 1/21 Addie Smith       | 1/23 Mikaela Cotham  |
| 1/25 Richard Crain     |                      |



**Please Remember in Prayer:**

*Zion Lutheran Church Prayer Request*

**Please pray for rain for all areas of Texas in need, and employment for those who seek work.**

**Please pray for our members, friends and neighbors in public and military service:** Sarah Bippert, Joshua Bradley, Jeff Burges, Mikela Cotham, Aaron Grigsby, Cody Haegelin; Sam Heath, Katie Johnson, Dorsey Krause III, Matthew Krause, Ryan Sprauer, Nathan Stinson, Paul Stinson; Pat Sheehan and Garrett Wurzbach.

**Please remember in prayer our members and friends in nursing homes and hospitals:** Harvey Kunze, S.P. Martinez, Floyd Santleben, and Catherine Tschirhart.

**Please lift up our homebound members in prayer:** Bonnie Stein and Stan and Addie Smith.

**Please remember our members and friends who are ill, or injured:** The Family of Alice Balaz; The Family of Kathryn Carnes; Debbie Jo Fonseca and her loved ones; Erin Grigsby; Lee Ann Hart; Micki Jones Holloway; Riley Jean Hunsicker; Alvin Santleben; The Family of Jerri Smith; Leanne Walsh; Lee Ann Wurzbach.

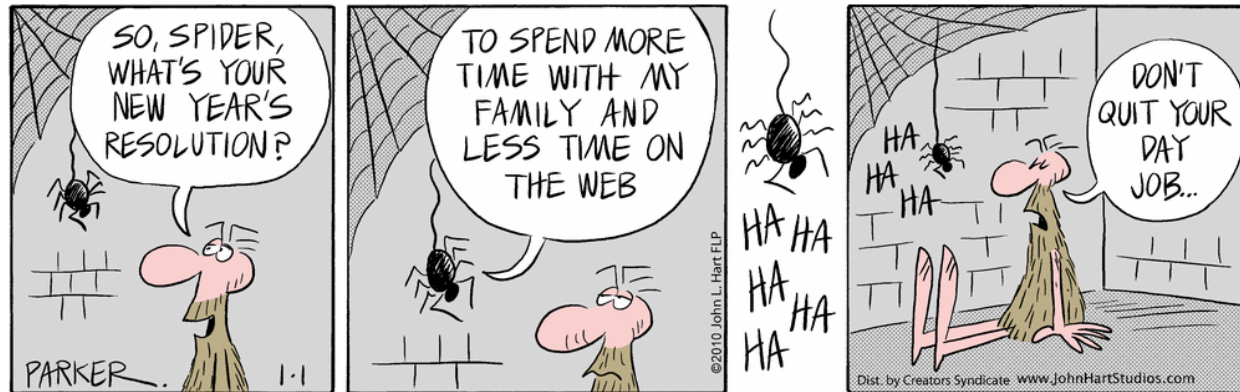
**\*\*\*\*\*Deadline For Bulletin Items\*\*\*\*\*  
Thursday, 10:00 am**



**Senior luncheon every third Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm at the VFW Auxiliary in La Coste  
All seniors welcome**



**Pastor Greg's  
Corny Corner**



## *Christmas Poinsettias for 2018*

*Thank you to all members and friends of Zion who purchased a poinsettia for the church during the Christmas celebrations. It greatly added to the beauty of the season and our church. Any poinsettias that are left in the church after December 31<sup>st</sup> will be donated to area senior living facilities. Thank you again for your generosity. Sincerely, Frances Bippert.*

### Given by

Gaye & Donald Belcher  
Bill & Frances Bippert  
Emily Bippert  
Cheri Boucher  
Bob Chester  
Richard & Judy Crain  
Pat Davila  
  
Brian, Kim & Kayla Dietrich  
Virginia Eichman  
Crissi Flanagan  
Nathan & Cheryl Griggs  
Bob & Sue Grigsby  
Louie & Marcia Hart  
Myra Hunsicker  
Nancy & Earl Jonas  
Rev. Greg & Alicia Knippa &  
    Andrew & Adam  
Dorsey & Karen Krause  
Sherry Langston  
Lahoma McDaniel  
Carol & Dickie Mangold  
Pete Martinez  
John & Eileen Merryman  
Rod & Jackie Moss  
Wayne & Judy Newman  
  
Tom Page Family  
Kenneth & Clara Ricks &  
    Wanda Stein  
Brenda Santleben  
Seth & Madaline Sherrill  
Evelyn Smith  
Anthony & Suzanne Stinson  
Jim Warnke

### In Memory or Honor of

Glory of God  
Glory of Christ's Birth  
  
Glory of God  
James Chester  
Erma Hansen & Irene Crain  
Alfred & Violet Wolfshohl  
Elias, Oscar & David Davila  
Carolyn Mann  
Joe Eichman  
Loved Ones  
Our Loved Ones  
Glory of God  
  
Joyce Ferguson  
Colby Jonas  
Parents & Grandparents  
  
Loved Ones  
Robert & Dorothy Jonas  
My Loving Husband  
  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Allen & Eva Sanderlin  
Dayton & Faye Mayo  
Glory of God  
Loved Ones  
  
Carmen Santleben  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
R.Q. & Edith Stinson  
Sandra Warnke



**Herman Keller**

Cullen Loeffler Garry Merritt  
W. C. O'Donnell, Jr. Masel Quinn  
Louis Romero, Jr,  
Charles Schreiner IV

**HILL COUNTRY YOUTH RANCH • Box 67 • Ingram, Texas 78025**

Phone 830-367-21 31 Fax- 830-367-6108 Email' info@youth-ranch.org Website' www youth-ranch.org

7in Zion Lutheran Church

December 11, 2017

Big Springs Ranch for Children  
10664 US HWY 83 N  
Leakey, TX 78873

Dear Congregation of Zion Lutheran Church:

This past week we had the privilege of having two of your congregation come and deliver to us a truck and trailer full of boxes and donations. What a joy it was to see such blessings driving onto ranch! We are so remotely located we do not often receive such bountiful exciting company!

We will be spending the next several months going through and sharing with all of our cabins of children all the things that you have given to us. I saw many things in the boxes including books, clothes, and kitchen tools that will all be utilized to their fullest.

Thank you so much for thinking of us. Thank you for sharing your love with the children through all these wonderful items that you have sent to us. We appreciate it and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With warm hearts and thankfulness,  
**Brianne Rangel**  
Program and Activities Director

ALL DONATIONS TO HILL COUNTRY YOUTH RANCH ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE NO GOODS OR SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY HILL COUNTRY YOUTH RANCH IN RETURN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF CASH OR PROPERTY



# Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth

*Texas District*

## The Gifts We Bring

Gift giving can be difficult at times. Let's face it: some people are hard to shop for! But have you ever stopped to wonder why gift-giving is important? What's a gift really about anyway? Giving gifts to friends and family is an ancient ritual of nearly every known human culture. Gifts signify a relationship (or the desire for one) and are meant to delight, honor, and/or surprise the recipient. In our attempt to do just that we seek to give a gift that is an expression of that loving relationship, but it often gets deduced down to giving the gift that a person either wants or needs but does not already have.

So, what do we give Jesus, the King of kings? On Epiphany, we are fondly reminded of the story when magi journeyed from afar to worship the newborn King Jesus bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Now these were extraordinary gifts to be given to a child. But what should we give Jesus, today? What does Jesus need or want that he doesn't already have? What would bring him delight, honor, or surprise? And what do I really have to offer? In honor of the magi, I'd like to propose three gift-giving suggestions:

First of all, give Jesus yourself. Take time to be with him, commune with him, worship him, and walk with him. In the busy-ness of our day-to-day lives we can be neglectful of our relationship with Jesus. Remember above all else, Jesus desires to be in relationship with you and with me.

Secondly, give Jesus the very best of what he's given you. God has uniquely created you with interests and talents and abilities. In this Epiphany season, remember how Jesus is calling you to use what he's given you to give Jesus honor. Ask God for guidance of how you can serve him with the gifts he's already given you.

Finally, give Jesus the introduction to a friend. Just as Jesus desires to be in a relationship with you, he desires to have that with all of people. Take time to introduce Jesus to a friend. Do all your friends already know Jesus? Then it is time to make some new friends with people who don't! Pray for God to guide you every step of the way and watch with awe and wonder as the Holy Spirit creates faith in the heart of your friend.

In this season of Epiphany, we are reminded of the privilege we have to delight, honor, and surprise Jesus with our gifts. Let's cherish every gift-giving opportunity and live our lives to the honor and glory of God, giving thanks for his goodness and mercy!


*Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District. Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or [bryce@lcmctexas.org](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org). Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lcmctexas](http://www.facebook.com/lcmctexas)*



# *Zion Lutheran Church*

For more information call the office at 830-538-6335, Church Office Hours: 9-2 T-F  
 For an emergency, please call Bill Bippert at 830-931-4397 or Janice Hodgson at 210-859-1954  
 Pastor Greg Knippa 254-718-9276 email: [pastork7354@hotmail.com](mailto:pastork7354@hotmail.com) [www.zion-castroville.org](http://www.zion-castroville.org)

## *January 2018*

	<b>Monday 1</b> <b>Pastor's day off</b>  <i>New Year's Day</i>	<b>Tuesday 2</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 5:30 pm FITEC- FH  Pastor out of town	<b>Wednesday 3</b> 1;00 pm Quilters 7:00 pm Choir  Pastor out of town	<b>Thursday 4</b> 5:30 pm FITEC- FH 7:00 pm Boy Scouts / /Webelos – Youth building Pastor out of town	<b>Friday 5</b>  Pastor out of town	<b>Saturday 6</b> 8:00 – Noon MCARC Meeting Fellowship Hall
<b>Sunday 7</b> 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u>	<b>Monday 8</b> <b>Pastor's day off</b> 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>Tuesday 9</b> 5:30 pm FITEC- FH 6:30 pm MOPS	<b>Wednesday 10</b> 1:00 pm Quilters 7:00 pm Choir	<b>Thursday 11</b> <b>10:30 Pastor Greg -                  Nursing Home</b> <b>6:00 pm Wedding                  Rehearsal</b> 7:00 pm Boy Scouts / Webelos – Youth building	<b>Friday 12</b> <b>4:00 pm Cora                  Kohler Wedding</b>	<b>Saturday 13</b>
<b>Sunday 14</b> 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u> 11:00 am Council Mtg.	<b>Monday 15</b> <b>Pastor's day off</b> 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>Tuesday 16</b> 5:30 pm FITEC- FH 7:00 pm Ladies Bible Study	<b>Wednesday 17</b> 1:00 pm Quilters 7:00 pm Choir	<b>Thursday 18</b> 5:30 pm FITEC- FH 7:00 pm Boy Scouts / Webelos – Youth building	<b>Friday 19</b>	<b>Saturday 20</b>
<b>Sunday 21</b> 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u>  <b>Congregational                  Meeting</b>	<b>Monday 22</b> <b>Pastor's day off</b> 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>Tuesday 23</b> 5:30 pm FITEC- FH 7:00 pm Ladies Bible Study	<b>Wednesday 24</b> 1:00 pm Quilters 7:00 pm Choir	<b>Thursday 25</b> <b>10:30 Pastor Greg -                  Nursing Home</b> 5:30 pm FITEC- FH 7:00 pm Boy Scouts / Webelos – Youth Building	<b>Friday 26</b>	<b>Saturday 27</b>
<b>Sunday 28</b> 8:45 am Bible Study 9:30 am Coffee/FH 10:00 am <u>Worship</u>	<b>Monday 29</b> <b>Pastor's day off</b> 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>Tuesday 30</b> 5:30 pm FITEC- FH 7:00 pm Ladies Bible Study	<b>Wednesday 31</b> 1:00 pm Quilters 7:00 pm Choir			

# *The Voice of Zion*



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1106 Fiorella Street  
Castroville, TX 78009**