

2009 Annual Report
Zion Lutheran Church, Minot, North Dakota

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PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

CHURCH STAFF
Church Office - 852-1872

John Streccius	Lead Pastor
Nathan Mugaas	Associate Pastor
Chris Torgeson.....	Director of Education
Cheryl Geller	Office Manager
Dick Johnson	Custodian
Velda Glick & Julie Huettl.....	Accompanists
Hardy Lieberg.....	Music Director
Sherie Heinie	Youth Choir Director
Danette Krumwiede	Youth Choir Accompanist
Sue Summers	Hand Bell Choir Director
Nancy Harris	Nursery Coordinator

CHURCH OFFICERS

Rod Torgeson	President
Diane Bryantt.....	Vice President
Jenice Schall	Secretary
Beth Stenvold	Treasurer

AGENDA

The order of business at the Annual Meeting shall be:

- A. Devotions
- B. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
- C. Reports of Pastor, Church Council, Treasurer, Committees, and others
- D. Elections
- E. Approval of Budget
- F. Unfinished Business
- G. New Business
- H. Closing Prayer

Zion Lutheran Church - Annual Congregational Meeting

Meeting Minutes - February 8, 2009 - 11:15 am

The meeting was called to order by council president, Rod Torgeson
Devotions were given by Pastor John Streccius.

Bob Knudson made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous annual meeting as printed in the annual report. Ernie Selland seconded and the motion carried.

Pastor John gave his report stating that this had been a year of change with several new additions to staff and loss of our assistant pastor as well as financial challenges. This is his tenth year with Zion and he is thankful for all the support given to him and his family. He expressed that Zion has always been visionary and that we need to continue to vision on how we can best do our mission.

Rod Torgeson reported that it is an exciting time to be at Zion. The amount and quality of the support given by the members is outstanding and he wished to express his thanks to everyone who volunteers in any capacity. He challenged those who have not volunteered to think of just one way they can contribute to the church. He expressed how blessed we are to have such faithful servants in our staff and thanked them. He also had a second challenge for the members of Zion. In addition to their pledges he asked that each family consider giving just five dollars a month that would equal \$26,000 if all families participated.

Jane Nelson gave a report of the Bridge committee that monitors the debt reduction and also leads the stewardship committee. She stated that as of February 1, 2009 that over \$313,000 had been paid on our total debt. That equals 62% of money pledged in our last campaign. Jane said the team wished to thank everyone for their generosity and to remember that because of our gifts we have given glory to God.

Nominations were opened for council positions. The candidates were Linnzi Aberle, Jennifer Callahan, Julie Huettl, Tyler Hunskor, Wanda Maixner, and Jenice Schall. The congregation was instructed to vote for five.

Nominations were opened for positions on the Nominations and Recommendations Committee. The candidates were: Ann Christensen, Arden Butts, Patty Mosser, Vicki Rovenko and Penny Lunstad. The congregation was instructed to vote for three.

Nominations were opened for positions for the Trust Committee. The candidates were Jay Altringer, Arden Butts, Joel Hernes, Erv Johnson, Randy Korslien, Dakota Lund, Curt Schall, Harold Zimmer. The congregation was instructed to vote for five.

Harry Summers made a motion that nominations cease. Sue Ronnie seconded and the motion carried. Ballots were distributed and collected by the Nominations and Recommendations Committee who then counted the ballots.

President Rod Torgeson opened up discussion for the recommended 2009 budget as printed in the annual report. Wanda Maixner asked whether the Trust Fund had approved the Trust Fund transfer of \$6800 listed in the budget. They had approved it and the funds were to go for the call committee and the music interns. DeNee Hansen commented on how blessed we are to have the music interns as part of our worship. Cindy Nordquist made a motion that the budget be approved. Teresa Hynson seconded and the motion passed.

Unfinished Business

President Torgeson reported that the Buildings and Grounds committee had found a solution to the sunlight coming in the south windows but the council did not see how it could be funded with our budget and recommended that a special fund be created where donations could be given to pay for the blinds.

New Business

President Torgeson gave an update on the status of the call committee. They are presently finishing up our congregation profile that will then be sent to the synod office. We will then get a list of names available for call.

The congregational auction will be held May 16th at the city armory. The funds from this auction will be split between the youth and debt reduction.

While waiting for the election results Chris Torgeson spoke about our opportunity in New Orleans to touch the lives of many people. Sending our youth to be the hands and feet of Christ will impact the lives of many who only have the Church for support. While we cannot all do the actual work we can be the arms and legs by helping to support the youth in this mission.

Election Results

Council: Linnzi Aberle, Julie Huettl, Tyler Hunskor, Wanda Maixner, Jen Schall
Nominations and Recommendations Committee: Arden Butts, Penny Lunstad, Vicki Rovenko
Trust Committee: Arden Butts, Joel Hernes, Erv Johnson, Randy Korslien, Curt Schall

A motion to adjourn was made by Harry Summers and seconded by Jane Nelson. The motion carried and the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor John.

Minutes submitted by: Pat Jorgenson

Minutes to be approved at the next annual meeting.

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:28-31

The people of Zion continually amaze me, and it makes me proud to be part of such an active congregation. Other people notice this action and activity as well. A new member told me that one of the reasons his family was drawn to Zion was that people here didn't simply show up to church in order to cross it off a "To Do" list. People came to Zion to be active participants in the worship service. This isn't a congregation that is content to simply watch and listen and then leave. This is a congregation that gives and acts and serves.

The verse from Isaiah is full of action; it talks about walking, running, and soaring. I think about the many ways that Zion's congregation shows its faith through action. We sew quilts, we knit prayer shawls, we send medical kits, we donate Easter meals, and we fill Christmas shoeboxes. We cook and serve meals, we teach and shepherd our youth, and we discuss and decide in our committees. Zion is full of action verbs. We have many members that deserve a heartfelt thank you for being an active part of the ministry here. If you have not yet found a place at Zion, I urge you to find a place in Zion's ministry for your talents and not be a "spiritual couch potato".

Financially, Zion ended 2009 with a \$0 net gain / loss. Just as in 2008, the expenses for 2009 were under budget. There is a conscious effort to be good stewards of the congregation's gifts. As the proposed 2010 budget was being prepared, expenses were trimmed where possible. A balanced budget is presented for 2010, but it is a budget that will require action from the people of Zion. The 2010 budget would require an additional \$4,000 per month in financial support from the 370 families in the congregation.

I outlined some of the financial changes in the recent Visitor newsletter. We haven't supported two pastors for a full year since 2007. We haven't added any new positions, although we have changed some duties and job titles. But I believe we simply haven't grown into our mortgage payment yet. Council acted and formed a committee which will find ways to encourage and remind the congregation of the need for the extra monthly \$4000 support to help offset the \$8300 monthly mortgage.

We can not forget our mission. As a reminder, the mission of Zion Lutheran Church, baptized people of God, is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through our actions and words. With every hour of our time we give and every dollar from our account we donate, we need to be mindful and confident that we are doing God's work here at Zion. We may get tired and weary, but putting our faith in the Lord will give us strength. Be proud and humbled to be one of the imperfect messengers acting to spread the perfect Word of God.

Respectfully submitted,
Rod Torgeson, President

Growing Pains

It is late at night well past the time for reading to my son Lloyd, Glenda and I are asleep in our bed but the sound of a little voice is heard, "Daddy! Daddy!" I follow the voice not entirely sure if I am dreaming. I come to Lloyd's bed and he is crying. "My legs hurt". "I am sorry Lloyd, did you fall and hurt yourself yesterday?" I ask. "No, my legs hurt inside", said Lloyd. "Oh, Lloyd your legs are hurting because your bones are growing. You are having growing pains." I believe I have had this experience with each of my children. Growing is a wonderful part of God's good creation but with it comes some challenge and yes some pains.

The year 2009 for the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church will be remembered as one of growth. Our staff grew as we received pastor Nathan Mugaas and his wife Anne. He is a creative and inspiring young pastor and we are blessed to have his leadership. The church school this year has literally exploded and there continue to be several growing pains we are dealing with, but most congregations would love to have our pains. Last fall we received the largest group of new members in over a decade, over eighty members were received. Now in our fourth year in this new location we continue to see the fruits of this facility and God's blessing of mission for Zion. We have many new families and children coming to be fed and nourished and with more people comes the blessing of additional challenges of space, finances and staffing.

I do send a huge thank you and blessing to the many volunteers that have stepped up and stepped out to make Zion be a place of welcome and nourishment. To all the paid staff of Zion, I give thanks to God every day for your dedication, willingness and genuine love of God and God's people. And to all of you perhaps sitting on the sidelines, I encourage and challenge you to make 2010 be the year you step up and become a player. The body of Christ has no audience, no spectators; God gifts everyone with a purpose in the church. We are not complete nor as strong as we could be when your gifts and talents are not offered.

The challenge God has set before us this year is to continue our growth, perhaps not in the numbers of people but rather growing in our faith and our stewardship of all that God has given to us as congregation. How do we encourage and develop the gifts of these new members who have come to this parish? How do we best utilize this amazing facility? How do we grow our worship services drawing a connection from Wednesday night activities into weekly worship? How do we look forward with our long range vision for the future now that we have been in this new location almost 4 years?

We are daily blessed by God's gift to us in Jesus Christ. We have eternal life in Christ, unconditional forgiveness of our sins and the promise of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in faithful living. There is no greater time to be God's people, "the church" than right now. This congregation has been blessed in so many ways to be a blessing to community of Minot and far beyond. I thank you for another year to serve you as your senior pastor.

⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47 (NRSV)

In service to Christ and His people
Pastor John Streccius

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” –Jeremiah 29:11

What a year it has been! One year ago I had no plans of moving back to North Dakota and now, here I am; here we are. God has been busy in my life planting blessings in places I did not expect to find them. Being assigned to the Western North Dakota Synod and called to Zion Lutheran Church has been one of those unexpected blessings.

People of Zion, God has great plans to prosper us. We are given plenty of hope for the future ahead, and yet God’s promise does not mean a free pass to a life without challenges and even suffering. We face these challenges in our own lives and in our life as a congregation, but God does not falter and even in the most difficult of situations God works for good.

It is a pleasure to join the ministry at Zion during this great time of opportunity and promise. I find Zion settled into this beautiful new building. I find a building bursting at the seams on Wednesday night with numerous new families participating in our education programming. I find a congregation full of people who support each other in difficult times, and rejoice with each other in joyous times. Thank you for calling me as pastor to join in God’s ministry at Zion Lutheran Church.

Peace,
Nathan Mugaas, Pastor

ZION MEMORIAL AND GIFT FUND - 2009

Memorial General Fund	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	1030.49
Receipts	1767.00
Disbursements	1090.20
Balance on hand 12-31-09	1707.29
Education	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	251.47
Receipts	410.00
Disbursements	171.91
Balance on hand 12-31-09	489.56
Lawn Tractor	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	10.00
Receipts	.00
Disbursements	.00
Balance on hand 12-31-09	10.00
Organ Fund	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	460.00
Receipts	150.00
Disbursements	.00
Balance on hand 12-31-09	610.00
Missions	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	315.20
Receipts	10.00
Disbursements	170.13
Balance on hand 12-31-09	155.07
Banner Fund	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	661.57
Receipts	.00
Disbursements	.00
Balance on hand 12-31-09	661.57
Handbell Fund	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	1641.02
Receipts	175.00
Disbursements	179.05
Balance on hand 12-31-09	1636.97
Music Scholarship Fund	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	910.01
Receipts	508.00
Disbursements	.00
Balance on hand 12-31-09	1418.01
Playground Equipment	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	240.00
Receipts	657.00
Disbursements	.00
Balance on hand 12-31-09	897.00
Window Shades	
Balance on hand 1-1-09	.00
Receipts	580.00
Disbursements	.00
Balance on hand 12-31-09	580.00

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS - SCHEDULE I
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	Proposed 2010 <u>Budget</u>	2009 <u>Actual</u>	2009 <u>Budget</u>
Envelopes	\$ 403,000	\$ 389,602	\$ 383,300
Loose Offerings	15,000	14,596	14,000
Youth Ministries	9,000	8,960	4,075
Special Appeal			20,000
Food Faith & Family Meals	11,500	10,605	9,000
ELCA Global Mission	3,600	3,409	3,600
5th Sunday		389	300
Growth in Ministries - Debt Ret	12,000	24,000	24,000
Auction with Youth		6,410	7,000
Transporation Gifts	400	465	300
Lutefisk Dinner	12,500	12,660	11,000
Adult Ministries	1,400	1,025	
Publicity Sponsors	1,000	1,075	600
Trust Fund Transfer		9,235	6,800
Fundraisers—Monthly Mort	44,000		3,000
Preschool	4,500	4,500	4,500
Miscellaneous	5,500	5,331	6,500
	<u>\$ 523,400</u>	<u>\$ 492,262</u>	<u>\$ 497,975</u>

GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS - SCHEDULE II
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	Proposed 2010 <u>Budget</u>	2009 <u>Actual</u>	2009 <u>Budget</u>
Program			
Worship	\$ 5,600	\$ 6,299	\$ 8,810
Faith Development & Growth	19,750	21,768	16,050
Witness (Evangelism)	4,250	4,579	4,150
Stewardship	1,000	1,123	1,000
Call Committee		1,454	2,000
	<u>\$ 30,600</u>	<u>\$ 35,223</u>	<u>\$ 32,010</u>
Missions	<u>\$ 27,650</u>	<u>\$ 26,229</u>	<u>\$ 27,200</u>
Operations			
Buildings & Properties	\$ 45,250	\$ 58,426	\$ 46,250
Mortgage Payments	100,767	97,379	100,767
Office	12,060	12,068	11,560
	<u>\$ 158,077</u>	<u>\$ 167,873</u>	<u>\$ 158,577</u>
Contingency Fund	<u>\$ 2,581</u>	\$ -	\$ -
Lutefisk Dinner	<u>\$ 7,500</u>	<u>\$ 7,318</u>	<u>\$ 7,600</u>
Fundraising	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 511</u>	<u>\$ 600</u>
Salaries, Wages & Benefits			
Pastors	\$ 117,668	\$ 89,929	\$ 95,486
Staff	109,010	103,913	113,850
Benefits	70,314	61,266	62,605
	<u>\$ 296,992</u>	<u>\$ 255,108</u>	<u>\$ 271,941</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 523,400</u>	<u>\$ 492,262</u>	<u>\$ 497,928</u>

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSMENTS BY FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	<u>General</u>	<u>Trees/Grounds</u>	<u>Organ</u>	<u>Contingency</u>	<u>Debt Contingency</u>
Balance - January 1, 2009	\$ 18,635	\$ 3,738	\$ 54,821	\$ 8,134	\$ 31,962
Receipts -					
Schedule I	\$ 492,262				
Interest		\$ 33	\$ 1,789	\$ 56	\$ 286
Transfers				1,000	
Contributions					
Disbursements -					
Schedule II	(492,262)				
Trees/Grounds		(1,920)			
Transfers					
Balance - December 31, 2009	<u>\$ 18,635</u>	<u>\$ 1,851</u>	<u>\$ 56,610</u>	<u>\$ 9,190</u>	<u>\$ 32,248</u>

CAPITAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

Receipts:

Contributions	\$147,592	
Memorials	9,210	
Interest/Dividends	<u>1,431</u>	\$158,233

Disbursements:

PayPal Fees	\$181	
Transfer fo Funds	<u>158,052</u>	\$158,233

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS BY FUND

	<u>DEBT RETIREMENT</u>	<u>GROWTH IN MINISTRIES</u>	<u>PHASE II</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Balance - January 1, 2009	\$39,809	\$14,511	\$38,511	\$92,831
Receipts	128,284	14,884	14,884	158,052
Debt reduction	(103,388)			(103,388)
Growth in Ministries		(24,000)		(24,000)
Balance - December 31, 2008	<u>\$64,705</u>	<u>\$5,395</u>	<u>\$53,395</u>	<u>\$123,495</u>

MORTGAGE ACTIVITY

	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Balance - January 1, 2007	\$1,240,000		
12 Payments of \$8,397.22	<u>36,569</u>	\$64,198	\$100,767
Balance—December 31, 2007	\$1,203,431		
12 payments of \$8,397.22	\$47,405	\$53,362	\$100,767
Capital Stewardship payment	<u>300,000</u>		300,000
Balance - December 31, 2008	\$856,026		
12 Payments of \$8,397.22	\$59,910	\$40,857	\$100,767
Capital Stewardship payment	<u>100,000</u>		100,000
Balance - December 31, 2008	\$696,116		

STATISTICAL REPORT — 2009

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31	2008	2009
Baptized	770	776
Confirmed	538	531

ACCESSIONS	Baptized	Confirmed	Baptized	Confirmed
Received by Baptism	24		28	
Baptized Members Confirmed		14		23
Received by Transfer/Other	39	20	74	34
By Other	1	1	2	2
TOTALS	64	35	104	59

LOSSES	Baptized	Confirmed	Baptized	Confirmed
By Death	17	16	18	16
By Transfer	12	6	10	7
By Other	41	31	70	43
TOTALS	70	53	98	66

NET GAIN/LOSS	2008	2009
Baptized	-6	+6
Confirmed	-18	-7

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	2008	2009
	325	300

CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	2008	2009
Age 4 to Grade 5	116	152
Grade 6-8	56	42

HOLY COMMUNION	2008	2009
Communion Services Held	142	142
Total members communing at least once	646	718

OFFERINGS	2008	2009
Total Gifts	\$453,916.61	\$459,456.74
Average per Confirmed Member	\$ 843.71	\$ 865.26

PASTORAL ACTS	2008	2009
Baptisms	24	28
Confirmations	14	23
Funerals	35	31
Weddings	8	6

Education, Family, Youth and More!
Director of Education Annual Report 2009

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." Romans 12:4-6

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you! Thank you for this past year of excitement and energy! It has been a joy and honor to serve as your Education Director, a partner with you in God's ministry through the people of Zion Lutheran Church.

GIFTS~2009 was an amazing year! We entered the year continuing to see growth in the numbers of families we were serving on Wednesday evenings, but also a continued growth of excitement in our Zion family. Excitement to grow, reach out and truly be God's people as one body in Christ! What a gift to be given the opportunity to welcome new members and nurture relationships through Christ's love.

GIFTS~This faith community never ceases to amaze me. I am grateful for each and every one of you! You continue to share the gifts God has given you. Each family member in this faith community has gifts that are essential to the functioning of Zion. As the text above suggests, not all the members have the same function. I Corinthians 12:16 *"And if the ear would say, Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.*" We cannot function without EVERYONE ACTIVELY contributing to our body. I thank you for taking a step and leap of faith each time you say "yes" to serve God using what gifts you have been given—especially when you don't know you had those gifts until you said "yes."

GIFTS~We celebrate as One Body in Christ our gifts and talents that are given to use in service of others. I thank my co-workers who never cease to show support, give an encouraging word and share the talents given to them.

GIFTS~As we continue to explore, discover and name our many gifts and talents found in the Body of Christ, remember each one of you is an **important and essential** member of this Body. We cannot discount your contribution. I challenge each one of you to explore your gifts and **use them!** Step out in faith trusting our loving God will support and provide exactly what you need to serve the God's people. We cannot function without each one of you!

I have much to celebrate this year! I am blessed to be in partnership with an amazing staff who share in the mission of Zion. I am also blessed to serve with you, as a congregation—a family, side-by-side as we learn, grow, vision and discover what God has in store for this wonderful family. Let us continue to trust our gracious God who WILL guide us daily—no matter the situation. Thank you for your constant support through prayers, words of encouragement, smiles and hugs.

God's Peace~Chris Torgeson

FOOD, FAITH, AND THE FAMILY OF GOD

Our Family Meal

Our family meals continued to grow throughout the 2009 year. We give great thanks to Ione Lang as she stepped down as Meal Coordinator in May 2009. Her dedication and service to this ministry has been invaluable. This fall we welcomed and celebrated as Todd and Kristi Asendorf agreed to step into the role as our new coordinators. What a task they had ahead as fall 2009 began with an explosion of over 300 people being served a wonderful warm meal. Thank you!



Each family food group deserves a round of applause as you continue to feed our bodies and nurture our relationships over the supper table. Each group chooses a meal to serve and organizes the preparation, serving and cleaning up. What a great service to our families who join us for an evening of fellowship and learning. We currently have 11 family groups serving, but could always use more. Come join in the fellowship of preparing a wonderful meal for our family at Zion. Thank you!

Church School

The excitement and energy continued from our family meal into the education hour. We celebrate our continued growth. We began 2009 with around 110 church school students ages 4 to grade 5. By the end of the year we have had 152 students join our church school family. We continue to seek new ways to utilize our space and provide a positive learning environment for our children.

The church school students collected offering throughout the fall for Lutheran Disaster Response of ND. Our kids generously gave their coins each week. We also took a free-will offering at our Christmas Program. We were happy to give LDR **\$950 for use in ND**. The money will provide funds to rebuild many areas of ND affected by floods this past spring.

Our 5-week workshop rotations based on a theme continued throughout the year. This past year we have experienced several stories including "Jesus as a Child," "I Am Statements of Jesus," "Creation," and "Joseph's Stepping Stones." The students explored the Lord's Prayer during the season of Lent and enjoyed the Christmas story from the Star's perspective.

We continued to celebrate each rotation through our Kids' Sabbath worship. Directly following each 5-week rotation, the students had the opportunity to share with the rest of the Zion family pieces of their rotation everything from skits to songs to memory verses.

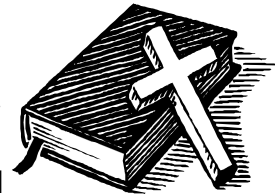


Our workshop rotations would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers who guide the children through their teaching as well as just being a part of the journey with them. Each class has continued to have one-three shepherds that remain with that class for the entire year. The workshop leaders/helpers commit to a 5-week rotation in one of the workshops having the opportunity to work with each class once throughout the rotation. I celebrate and thank God for the many volunteers we had throughout the 2009 year—over 40 volunteers have given of their time and talent to share in the students' journeys.

Day Camp (Vacation Bible School) was again brought to us by the amazing staff of Camp Metigoshe. We held our annual Day Camp the first week in August. The staff shared the theme of "It is finished! So now what?" with the day campers. We celebrated with the over 70 kids in attendance (increase of 25 from the previous year).

Confirmation

It has been a whirlwind of a year! 6th Graders in confirmation continue to explore the Bible through the "Bible Boot Camp." They spend the fall semester on the Old Testament and the spring semester on the New Testament. The 7th and 8th Graders spent this past spring studying the Lord's Prayer—this study continued through the season of Lent. The 7th and 8th Graders began the fall with a deep look into the Apostle's Creed before beginning a look at the sacrament of Holy Communion.



Currently we have 42 confirmation students who are led by 11 Confirmation Guides who share in this 3 year journey with the students. This essential piece of the journey could not be done without the dedication of these adult mentors!

The confirmation students had an evening of bonding at a lock-in this past fall. During the lock-in students had the opportunity to enjoy some food, fellowship and faith talks with their small groups.

This past fall we celebrated with 24 young people and 1 adult who affirmed their baptism and were confirmed in the faith. We celebrate in their journey and pray for continued support as they grow and explore in their ever-changing faith walk.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Project

Zion was once again privileged to serve as a collection/relay site for this wonderful ministry through Samaritan's Purse. As we collected shoeboxes filled with school supplies, toys, and other necessities, families from all around our area gathered together to serve others. A big thank you to Bernice Galusha for loaning her horse trailer for use and hauling the **2,390 boxes** from Minot to the collection site in Bismarck. **This is an increase of 960 boxes from last year!!!** We had the opportunity to have much of this information published throughout the local media and pray for continued growth in the future.

Angel Tree

Our annual Christmas tree of giving was filled with over 75 tags from Ward County Social Services Foster Care System. The tags were removed almost immediately and we were blessed to watch as the families of Zion gave generously to ensure a little happier Christmas for children who were in foster care.

Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO)—High School Youth

Our students in grades 9-12 gather on Wednesday evenings in the youth fellowship room. The group averages between 15-25 students each week. The Wednesday programs usually consists of fun games, food, laughter, videos, and youth led discussions on God's will for each of us and the influences of the world around us. This is an amazing group of young people who have grown together through servant hood projects, lock ins, Synod trips, skiing, and many more activities.

It has been a very busy year for our students. The focus of the summer of 2009 was the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. Seventeen youth and four adults embarked on a spiritual journey to worship together with 35,000 young Lutherans from across the United States.



The pinnacle of the trip was the giving back that the youth did at John James Audubon Elementary School in the Jefferson Parish School District. The youth spent the early part of the day reading and helping in classrooms with youth that were struggling with reading skills. The later part of the afternoon brought the unexpected and Zion youth were ready for the task at hand. They cleaned out classrooms, hauled in new chairs, assembled new desks, and set up classrooms. The custodian said that the task they completed in one afternoon would be equivalent to 3 months of work for him. All was done with a servant's attitude.

Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO)-High School Youth (cont.)

Fall brought transition in the LYO group as Kristi and Dave Burgess volunteered as mentors for the youth. This is the first time in many years that the youth have not had a staffed youth director or counselor. The program continued moving forward and growing in faith.

Activities that took place in September were the Zion boulevard weed clean up, regular coffee service, and FFF. October brought "Trick or Can", in which the youth went out in the community to collect non-perishable goods to be donated to Community Action, this was a very successful endeavor in which approximately 950lbs of food was gathered. November was busy with a New Orleans Stockholders appreciation banquet and a Tuesday night lock-in. The evening of the lock in was capped off with a scavenger hunt that took us to many unique locations around Minot. In December the youth assisted with the kitchen duties for the children's Christmas party and after enjoyed a party of their own in the youth room.

In 2010 we have a ski trip and overnight stay to Metigoshe, a Valentine's Banquet, and a summer trip. The youth are planning and saving for a Zion Twin Cities Trek with Pastor Nathan. This will be a 5 day trip in which the youth will be serving the homeless and impoverished of the Minneapolis area. They will stay at Luther Seminary and work with such programs as: Second Harvest Heartland and Feed My Starving Children. This will be another exciting opportunity to put their faith in action. Please pray for this group as they prepare spiritually and financially for this journey.

I feel very blessed to be able to work with this impressive group of young people. They are our future and God is working through them!

Peace,
Kristi Burgess

Forward in Faith...

We celebrated our continued opportunity to "do ministry" and be the faithful of God here at Zion. Our growth over the past year has caused creative juices to flow as we try to utilize our space and resources to the best of our ability. God continues to bless us with opportunities to be the people of God trusting in the gifts given to all of us. We pray the Holy Spirit will continue to faithfully guide us as we move forward.

Please prayerfully consider your role in our Zion family. "It takes a whole village to raise a child" an African saying that I remember as we are the entire Body of Christ. The body can not function with only eyes, but rather we need each individual part to play a role in the functioning of the whole body. We are raising children in the faith—we make that promise as we welcome a new member into the family through baptism. We promise to support, guide and teach each other. We are always in the need of **adult leadership** in every area including teachers, helpers, mentors, prayer partners and those who are willing to be in the backstage area preparing things for our children. God provides us each with gifts to use—are you using your gifts to the fullest??

Let's continue to nurture the relationships as we move forward in faith sharing God's amazing gifts of love and grace!

Submitted by Chris Torgeson~Director of Education



Adult Ministries Team 2009 activities

The Adult Ministries Team has had another busy, productive year. Team members in 2009 were Kaaren Stuck, Joel and Sonja Hernes, Melody Sundbakken, Sarah Hicks, Rod Torgeson (Council Liaison), and Kathy Solberg. Christian Education Director Chris Torgeson has continued to provide invaluable creativity, inspiration, and leadership, and brings us updates on our budget. Nathan Anderson joined the Team in January 2010.

Throughout 2009 the Adult Ministries Team planned and coordinated adult education classes for Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Our goal is to offer a variety of inspirational and educational opportunities for adults, and to hold duplicate sessions to reach as many as possible. In January and February we offered a 6-week "Our Neighbor's Faith" series featuring Hinduism, Sikhism, Baha'i, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Islam, and the Jewish faith. In March Zion hosted a one-day "Walk through the Bible" event attended by 100 people. In April and May, Sarah Hicks taught a 5-week series on art history and faith. In September and October, Sarah Hicks and Melody Sundbakken taught a 5-week series on *The Lutheran Course*. In November and December, Pastor John and Pastor Nathan led a 5-week study of *Opening the Book of Faith*.

In September Pastor John met with us to propose a forum at Zion to allow discussion of the vote at the August Churchwide Assembly approving rostering of people in committed same-sex relationships. Sunday afternoon forums were held in September, October, and December, led by Pastor John and Pastor Nathan.

We have continued our progress on Zion's library, and its use has increased in 2009. Using new shelving purchased in 2008 with a Trust Fund grant, the library was installed in the west hallway. Sonja Hernes became the library director in February. Chris Torgeson and Kristi Asendorf, Ardis Markle, Sonja Hernes, and many other volunteers have sorted the collection, put children's books in the classroom, and labeled the shelves. Book Club selections have a designated shelf, videos are now available, and new purchases are continually added. Zion members are invited to browse and take out materials, and donations to the library are always welcome.

During 2009 several Fun and Fellowship events were held for families, including a New Year's Eve party, two game nights, and a film night. In September, team members participated in Zion's Time and Talent Fair. Book Club and Sisterhood continue to meet monthly, and they encourage everyone to take part. Kaaren Stuck continues her excellent work in maintaining Zion's excellent web site.

Plans for 2010 include a "Love and Logic" one-day Saturday class in January; a 6-week "Love and Logic" series in January and February as well as a concurrent Bible study; and a 5-week "Our Neighbor's Faith" series in April and May. A "Soup-er Bowl Saturday" Fun and Fellowship event is planned for February 6. We on the Adult Ministries Team enjoy our work, and we welcome folks who would like to join us!

Women's Retreat

The 4th annual Zion Women's Retreat was held at Lake Metigoshe in early September. Our theme was "God's Grandeur." We had a great time, singing learning and spending time together. The 5th annual retreat will be in September again in 2010- everyone is welcome.

Zion Book Club

The Zion Book Club meets the second Tuesday from 7pm to 8pm to discuss books we choose to read. We are focusing the winter on Lorraine Snellings "Red River Series." It has helped us to reflect on our "roots." We meet September through May except for December. Everyone is welcome.

Prayer Shawl

Zion Lutheran's Prayer Shawl group met for the first time on April 1, 2009 with over 20 people interested in participating in some way. In the first nine months over 60 Prayer Shawls were knitted or crocheted. The group is not made up of only Zion members. In fact, some non-members have been some of our most productive crafters. This has been a wonderful ministry where participants can work at their own pace while praying that the future recipient will find comfort in their work. We were able to donate several Prayer Shawls to the Trinity Cancer Care Unit. Many Prayer Shawls have been distributed, and by the Thank You notes and comments we have received, we know that they have brought comfort. For example, one thank you said, "The shawl has provided me great comfort during my fight with cancer and is with me all the time." Several of the recipients have even made donation to help us buy more yarn. If you would like to join the Prayer Shawl group, you are always welcome. The group meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Join us for some fellowship and crafting or just stop by to pick up some yarn for your next project. If you know of someone who is seriously ill or grieving, contact the church office to find out how they can receive a Prayer Shawl. If you would like to make a donation so we can buy more yarn, contact the church office. Watch for a Dessert Auction fundraiser this spring. We want to make sure that those who are willing to donate their time knitting or crocheting, never run out of yarn!

Thank you for all of your support!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

BRIDGE Team

Zion's Bridge team is in the last year of our latest debt reduction campaign. We work to keep the campaign alive and give you regular updates. This year we included the stewardship campaign as part of our service. We held a "Time and Talent Fair" this fall and provided a Fall Festival stew on Stewardship Sunday.

The latest figures from mid January are:

Debt Reduction campaign: \$530,513.64 total commitments

\$457,234.60 paid portion of those commitments

This means that at 25 months into the 36 month campaign over 86% of the pledged money is collected.

The remaining mortgage is \$685,781.45. We aren't done yet:)

As of January 13th 230 pledges had been made for the 2010 regular offering for a total of \$262,336.00.

Thanks to all who support Zion both through your financial donations and your time and talent offerings. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Zion Lutheran Church Worship Committee

The Worship Committee completed a new document that included the following **Statement of Purpose**:

The purpose of the Worship Committee is to ensure welcoming, meaningful, and inspiring worship life in the congregation.

Additionally, the document includes the following goals:

Goal 1: Ensure that worship holds true to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's beliefs and understandings of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

Goal 2: Help the congregation recognize worship as our response to what God has done and given us.

Goal 3: Be welcoming and mindful of the visitors among us at worship.

Using the above as our guide, the committee worked to incorporate the recently purchased *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)* hymnal through the use of a variety of liturgies and hymns. A subcommittee was also formed to work with the pastors on choosing hymns.

Mindful of the changing schedules of our members during the summer months, the committee has recommended to the Council a switch in worship schedules from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There will be no Saturday worship during this period rather a Wednesday service will be held with its success being evaluated in the fall. Sunday service times will remain at 8:30am and 11:00 AM. Labor Day the schedule will return to Saturday 5:00pm and Sunday at 8:30am and 11:00am.

The Worship Committee is thankful for the all those who volunteer and assist in the planning of, preparation for, and participation in worship at Zion.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherie Heine (Chair)

ZION WOMEN OF THE ELCA – 2009

The ZLCW Board met five times to plan the programs and activities. Two extra meetings were for planning the Western Prairie Cluster held at Zion in April. As ZLCW has no designated chairman, Hannah and Dorcas/Faith presidents chair the meetings.

February: The story about “ELCA Women” was shown on our screen for church services along with talks from participants of the Triennial Convention at Salt Lake City in July, 2008.

A Thank/Love offering was taken with \$605.50 given. Thanks!

March & April: Six Lenten Lunches were served at noon beginning on Ash Wednesday. Average of 45 attendees. The Western Prairie Cluster was held at Zion on April 4, 2009. The theme was “Flying High with Prayer”. Zion women were busy, busy, before and during this service! Thanks to Sonja Hernes for leading singing and Velda Glick for playing, Josh Moen, Erin Neumann and Sherie Heine for song selections and Pastor John for communion services. There were a total of 146 registered from Minot and other Western Prairie Cluster churches.

May: 105 women attended the Mothers & Others Potluck Salad Luncheon. The Zion Drama Team led us to “Fly into Spring with Zion” by “bird watching”. Offering was given to Kay’s Place of Minot sponsored by North Central Human Services.

June: Hannah and Dorcas/Faith circles were at Trinity Nursing Home for a program and singing. Lunch served by Trinity. 18 Zion women attended the WND Synodical Convention, “Angels among Us”, June 19th and 20th at the Grand International Inn. Zion conducted the communion service on the 20th.

July: Strawberry shortcake was served at Manor Care Nursing Home.

August: Strawberry shortcake was served at Edgewood Vista with Pastor John leading singing for the Birthday Party. Scholarships were given to Metigoshe Bible Camp for 29 church school students.

September: A Friendship Gathering of Lutheran Churches of Minot was held at Bethany Lutheran Church.

October: Nine Zion Women attended the Fall Cluster at Ryder Gym. The annual bazaar brought a net income of \$4,805.29 with matching funds of \$450.00 from Thrivent Financial. Thanks to all who helped with this annual fundraiser. Volunteers from Zion earned \$3,250.00 at the Import Shop at Hostfest for the ZLCW.

December: The Advent Breakfast has 78 attending on a cold day. Offering was given to the Florence Anderson Center of Hope (YWCA) of Minot of \$342.00. Thanks to three Zion men who served and cleaned up for this.

The “Seasons of the Church” hall display done by Sonja Hernes should be checked out by all. Benevolences of \$11,143.53 were given this year through the ZLCW. Thanks to all who made this possible. In Christ, Mary Ann Stoa, Treasurer

FUNERAL REPORT

We served 26 funerals in 2009. For every funeral lunch served, I called seven women to help set-up, serve and clean up and seven women to bring baked goods. I purchased all the food. We are looking for a Co-Chairman. The money we are paid from the family goes into the ZLCW account. This amounted to \$7,670 for 2009. Anyone is welcome to volunteer and help with the lunches. It is very rewarding. I can be called at 838-1428 or you can call the church office. A big thank you to everyone who helped me this past year. Darlene Rust - Chairman

Zion Lutheran Church Women - Stewardship 2009

Donations included the following:

227 Quilts donated in "2009"

There were crib quilts and regular size quilts. It's amazing what our sewers can do and we're amazed at the home sewers - the quilt material provided by many of our church members & other friends.

Thank you all very much.

Come and join us on the 4th Thursday of each month - we guarantee you a job and a cup of coffee.

In May we shipped 15 school kits, 19 health kits & 19 layettes.

Thank you to Darlene Dahl & Issie Thompson for knitting all the sweaters for the layettes.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the layettes, school kits and health kits. We are so happy that we were given so many contributions this past year.

Love and thanks from your Stewardship Committee Co-Chairmen Anna Mae Fuller 838-0583, Donna Kalmbach 839-2433, Beulah Koppelsloen 838-4628 and Sherlene Nelson 839-7365.

Zion Quilting
4th Thursday of each month
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Potluck lunch at noon
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!

Sisterhood

Sisterhood has enjoyed doing a wide variety of projects this past year. A few of them were serving for the ZLCW Bazaar, sending out Goodie packages to our college students and also a fun afternoon with Sonya Hernes talking about "Left over Lutfisk". Sisterhood remembers our shut-ins during the winter months by sending those Christmas cards and also baking and taking goodies to them, it's a nice way to say hi in the long winter months. Sisterhood is open to women of all ages. We meet the third Sunday of each month. Sisterhood is an opportunity for women to grow, share ideas and make new friends within our church. Please check our calendar in the Zion newsletter and come join us for a fun afternoon of friendship and laughter.

Glenda Streccius

Financial Report Zion Lutheran Church Women		December 31, 2009	Mary Ann Stoa, Treasurer
Expenses:			
	Monthly	YTD	
Benevolence	9000.00	11,143.53	
Bring and Buy Supplies		51.25	
Camp tuition (Metigoshe)		3446.50	
ELCA		2966.50	
ELCA convention expenses		920.00	
Advent offering	342.00	342.00	
Kitchen Supplies	152.92	3687.38	
Miscellaneous		201.72	
Office Supplies		6.95	
Postage		86.00	
Program Expense	(Advent) 100.88	614.07	
Raffle Permit		25.00	
Stewardship			
Supplies – annual Bazaar		458.46	
Transfer to savings			
Total Expenses	9595.80	23,949.36	
Income: Transfer from savings	2000.00	2000.00	
Advent Breakfast offering	342.00	342.00	
Bring and Buy		146.50	
Circles	27.00	338.25	
Donation/Memorials		3195.93	
Funerals	50.00	7670.00	
Import Shop (Hostfest)	3250.00	3250.00	
Interest Income bank	.50	3.83	
Lenten Lunch		530.80	
Mother & Other Offerings		317.00	
Quilts	80.00	855.00	
ZLCW Bazaar – Lunch		666.75	
Baking, Crafts, Lefse, Pies, Rullaporse, Quilts		1806.75	
Clothes, White Elephant, Misc.		921.75	
ZLCW Raffle tickets		813.00	
Thank Offering		605.00	
Returned Benevolence/Grace Matters		300.00	
Thrivent matching funds – Bazaar	450.00	450.00	
Refund Camp Tuition - Metigoshe		238.00	
Total Income	6199.50	24,450.56	
Bazaar Net Income – 4305.29			
		Check Balance – 1/1/09 - 4,348.86	
Checking Balance 4860.06		Savings Balance - 1/1/09 - 7,975.05	
Savings Balance 5990.81		Income 2009 - 24,450.56	
Total Balance 10,850.87		Expense 2009 - (23,949.36)	

Campus Ministry Annual Report:

Dear Friends of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minot State University,

My name is Pastor Kari Williamson and I am the new Campus Pastor at Minot State University! I started my ministry here at the end of August. I moved to Minot after serving a large congregation as the Associate Pastor in Arizona. I grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota and began my ministry in Southeastern, Minnesota. I became interested in Lutheran Campus Ministry when I was a student at Luther Seminary. I was the Intern Pastor at Lutheran Student Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. I am thrilled to be the Campus Pastor here at Minot State.

It has been a busy four months of learning my way around Minot State University. It has been great fun to have lunch, coffee and conversation with students, faculty and staff at Minot State. I also have enjoyed the opportunity to attend concerts, plays, and sporting events on campus.

Highlights from the past four months:

- 1) Chili Feed – Thank you so much for your support and participation to make the Chili Feed a great event. Thank you to all the area Pastors who made chili for the event. It was great to see the community and Minot State University students come together in support of LCM.
- 2) Dorm Ice Cream Socials – in the months of November and December Lutheran Campus Ministry hosted Ice Cream Socials in each of the dorms on campus. It was a great way to meet students and have students begin to put a face to the name of Lutheran Campus Ministry.
- 3) Support from local congregation – thank you so much for the support that you give as a congregation to Lutheran Campus Ministry. This support helps Lutheran Campus Ministry reach and connect with students here on campus. Thank you also to the area Pastors for their support and encouragement of Lutheran Campus Ministry.
- 4) Thank you to the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board for their work, dedication and support of Lutheran Campus Ministry. It is a joy to work with members of the board. Thank you to: Todd Asendorf (Zion Lutheran), Paul Brekke (Augustana Lutheran), Tammy Doerr (Christ Lutheran), Tracey Lawson (Bread of Life), Dennis Markwardt (Bethany Lutheran), and Bonnie Ripplinger (Augustana Lutheran).

New opportunities this year:

- 1) Tuesday Soup Lunch – from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. students are invited to come over to Augustana for lunch. Soup will be brought in each week by a different area congregation. Along with soup there will be a ping-pong table set up, a Wii game system and an opportunity to use wireless internet.
- 2) Weekly Gatherings – Thursdays – 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – in the multicultural center on Campus. We will gather each week to connect with each other, study God's word and grow together as a community.
- 3) Spring Break Trip – Washington, D.C. – The group will have the opportunity to learn about homelessness and poverty. The group will work in a soup kitchen, work in a homeless shelter, work a food bank, mid-night run (hand out food and clothing to homeless people on the street), learn about N Street Village (N Street Village is a caring community that provides a spectrum of services to meet the needs of homeless and extremely low-income women as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency), meet our congress people and learn about advocacy, do repairs at a group home, see Washington, D.C. and worship in D.C.

On behalf of the students at Minot State and Lutheran Campus Ministry thank you for your support and partnership in this important ministry. Lutheran Campus Ministry plays a very important role in the lives of young adults. Lutheran Campus Ministry gives young adults a place to grow in faith, grow in leadership skills and offers opportunities to serve the community and the world. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers. If you would like to talk more about how you can partner with Lutheran Campus Ministry we would love to talk to you. Contact myself or one of the board members about how you can be a part of this exciting ministry. In Christ --- Pastor Kari Williamson

2010 Nominations and Recommendations Committee

1. That each of us as members of Zion Lutheran Church should express our thankfulness to God for all that we have as a church family. We are grateful for the members who have committed their time to serving our Lord and the Zion Lutheran Church family.
2. That we express our thankfulness to Pastor John and Glenda and their family, and Pastor Nathan and Anne, and that as a church we support and nurture their work and leadership in Zion Lutheran Church.
3. That Zion Lutheran Church continue to show encouragement and support in 2010 to missionaries Anne & Willie Ruedisili Langdji through the support of the ELCA Missionaries.
4. That Zion Lutheran Church express thankfulness and give encouragement to the present staff: Cheryl Geller, Chris Torgeson, Hardy Lieberg, Velda Glick, Julie Huettl, Sherie Heine, Danette Krumwiede, Brad Caldwell, Sue Summers, Jerry Jorgenson, and Nancy Harris.
5. That Zion Congregation thanks retiring members of the Church Council: Tyler Asendorf, Kristi Burgess, Sue Cleveland, Beth Stenvold and Rod Torgeson. Retiring members of the Trust committee: John Glick, Tracy Hjelmstad, Pam Johnson, Robert Markle, and Megan Odermann. Retiring members of the Nominations & Recommendations Committee: Linda Gertz, Susan Hager, and Jacky Smith. Special Thanks to Rod Torgeson for his leadership as congregational president.
6. The nominations and recommendation committee recommends that the Zion congregation make the constitutional changes designating a “youth” position on the council. This position should be a 2 year term and have voting privileges.

NOMINATIONS
2010

Current Church Council Members

Diane Bryantt (2011)
David Goodman (2011)
Patricia Jorgenson (2011)
Gary Leslie (2011)
Brian Troxel (2011)
Linnzi Aberle (2012)
Julie Huettl (2012)
Tyler Hunskor (2012)
Wanda Maixner (2012)
Jenice Schall (2012)

2010 Candidates for Church Council

Additional nominations with the consent
of the nominee may be made from the floor.
Vote for 4 to serve a three-year term.

Mike Arlien _____
DeNee' Hansen _____
Kelsey Humphreys _____
Matt Sundahl _____
Sandy Swenson _____
Melody Sundbakken _____
Carmen Wheeling _____

Current Nominations &
Recommendations Members

Linda Christianson (2011)
Judy Teets (2011)
Pat White (2011)
Arden Butts (2012)
Penny Lunstad(2012)
Vickie Rovenko (2012)

2010 Candidates for Nominations and
Recommendations Committee

Additional nominations with the consent of the
nominee may be made from the floor
Vote for three to serve a three year term.

Craig Marshall _____
Kay Mattern _____
Tina Olson _____

Current Trust Committee Members

John Huettl (2011)
Merlyn Koppelsloen (2011)
Mary Ann Stoa (2011)
Larry Wahlund (2011)
Keith White (2011)
Arden Butts (2012)
Joel Hernes (2012)
Erwin Johnson(2012)
Randy Korslien (2012)
Curtis Schall (2012)

2010 Candidates for Trust Committee

Additional nominations with the consent of the nominee may be made from the floor
Vote for 5 to serve three-year term.

Carrie Francis _____
John Glick _____
Tracy Hjelmstad _____
Pam Johnson _____
Robert Markle _____
Kelly Nehring _____
Megan Odermann _____
Mark Roth _____
Ray Skorheim _____
Harold Zimmer _____

Representatives of Zion to Synod Assembly

Continuing to serve:

Representatives of Zion to Metigoshe Ministries Annual Meeting

Craig & Jane Nelson
Jason & Melody Sundbakken

Lutheran Campus Ministries Representative

Carmen Wheeling
Todd & Kristi Asendorf