

A stylized, light gray graphic of a church building with multiple steeples and crosses, serving as a background for the text.

# *Annual Report* 2023

Zion Lutheran Church  
January 28, 2024

## CONTENTS:

<b><i>Report</i></b>	<b><i>Page</i></b>
2023 Officers & Staff	3
Annual Meeting Agenda	4
2022 Annual Meeting Minutes	5
2023 Financial Reports	6-7
Special Projects Trust Fund Worksheet	8
Bernhard & Laura Wold Mission Support	9
Proposed 2024 Budget	10
Pastor's Annual Report	11
Parish at a Glance	12-13
Sunday School/Board of Education Report	13
ZLCW Annual Report	14
ZLCW Financial Reports	15-16
Mission Report	16
Mary/Martha & Abigail Circles & Ecumenical Quilters Reports	17
Berthold Zion Food Pantry Stats & Food Pantry Financials	17-19
Ecumenical Council & Luther League Reports	20
Mountrail Bethel Home Report	21
Mountrail Bethel Home Auxiliary Report (MBH Pink Christmas Tree)	21-22
Mission Trust & Endowment Fund Report	22
Parish Survey	23
Lutheran Campus Ministry Annual Report - MSU	24
Metigoshe Ministries Annual Report	25
Bishop's Annual Report	26
Zion Official Ballot	27

**2023 Officers and Staff:**

Pastor George Schuessler, 453-3121  
Council President - Seth Gravesen, 509-3549  
Council Vice President – Chad Schweitzer, 609-9144  
Council Secretary - Kyle Schepp, 721-1193  
Treasurer - Kylene Hornberger, 240-8288  
Custodian - Curt Schumaier, 453-3296  
Office Secretary - Kershawn Michel, 453-3118

**Church Council:**

Seth Gravesen, 509-3549  
Chad Schweitzer, 609-9144  
Kyle Schepp, 721-1193  
Janet Gregory, 721-7615  
Rachel Schieve, 821-0292  
Drew Bryantt, 833-0538  
Nicki Shelkey, 721-3844  
Gary Gathman, 721-1218  
Klinton Hanson, 720-3456

**Board of Education:**

Kelly Finke, 453-3105  
Carissa Sorenson, 453-3504  
Kershawn Michel, 453-3118  
Marissa Shelkey, 721-6048  
Lisa Bryantt, 833-1233  
Megan Buee, 331-2355

**Sunday School Co-Superintendents:**

Kershawn Michel, 453-3118  
Lisa Bryantt, 833-1233

**Organists:**

Julie Deaver, 453-3686  
Kristin Berg, 453-3167  
Dawna Helfrich, 453-3105

**Head Usher:**

Curt Schumaier, 453-3296

**Altar Guild Directors:**

Nancy Hanson, 453-3193  
Sandy Heller, 453-3173

**Luther League Advisors:**

Keith & Amy Neshem, 720-1442  
Kyle & Bonnie Schepp, 833-3486

**Metigoshe Ministries Representatives:**

Nancy & Harley Neshem, 453-3245

**Bethel Nursing Home Representatives:**

Wes Hagen & Connie Hagen, 453-3566  
Lyle & Gayle Gorseth, 453-3271

**Ecumenical Council Representatives:**

Gayle Gorseth, 453-3271  
Lorna Hansen, 240-7000

**WND Convention Delegates:**

Barb Cooper, 629-5075  
Helen Grant, 453-3218

**Nominating Committee:**

Helen Grant, 453-3218  
+3 Outgoing Council Members

**ZLCW Officers:**

President: Gayle Gorseth, 453-3271  
Vice President: Helen Grant, 453-3218  
Secretary: Lorna Hansen, 240-7000  
Treasurer: Jerrolyn Wirtz, 629-0588  
Mission Coordinators:  
Julie Deaver, 453-3686  
Laurie Gathman, 720-1029

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Insert	THE PRAYER OF THE DAY	
Insert	RESPONSIVE READING	PSALM 111
Insert	GOSPEL READING	MARK 1:21-28
	SERMON	<i>“Authority, So What?”</i>
Insert	PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION	
HYMN #538	<i>“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”</i>	

**CALL ZION CONGREGATION MEETING TO ORDER**  
**JANUARY 29, 2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**2023 FINANCIAL REPORT**

President Seth Gravesen  
Secretary Kyle Schepp  
Laurie Gathman & Lorna Hansen  
Treasurer Kylene Hornberger

**2023 REPORTS:**

Pastor’s Report  
Board of Education Report

Zion Lutheran Church Women’s Report  
ZLCW Financial Report  
ZLCW Missions Report  
ZLCW Circle Reports  
Ecumenical Quilter’s Report  
Berthold Zion Food Pantry Report  
Ecumenical Council Report  
Luther League Report  
Mountrail Bethel Home  
Mountrail Bethel Home Auxiliary Report  
Mission Trust & Endowment Fund Report  
Metigoshe Ministries Report  
WND Synod of the ELCA  
Congregation Survey Results

Pastor George Schuessler  
Co-Superintendents  
    Kershawn Michel & Lisa Bryantt  
President Gayle Gorseth  
Treasurer Jerrolyn Wirtz  
Julie Deaver & Laurie Gathman  
Jill Brown & Kelly Finke  
Gayle Gorseth  
Director Ladora Schuessler  
Gayle Gorseth  
Amy Neshem & Bonnie Schepp  
Connie Hagen  
Helen Grant  
Wes Hagen & Kyle Schepp  
Harley & Nancy Neshem  
Bishop Craig Schweitzer  
President Seth Gravesen

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Any comments or questions on reports?
2. Any comments or questions on Survey Results?
3. Nominating Committee Report & Elections
4. Presentation of the 2024 Proposed Zion Congregation Budget
5. Any Other Business?

(Approval of all Reports)  
  
Helen Grant (Chair)

**THANK YOU OUTGOING CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

President Seth Gravesen,  
Secretary Kyle Schepp  
Janet Gregory

**INSTALLATION OF THE 2024 ZION CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**ADJOURNMENT OF THE ZION ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING**  
**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

# **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by President Gary Neshem. Council members present: Gary Neshem, Marvin Heller, Seth Gravesen, Janet Gregory, Drew Bryantt, Nicki Shelkey, Kyle Schepp. Council members absent: Jackie Deaver and Rachel Schieve.

Marvin Heller moved to approve the January 30<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Zion Annual Meeting Minutes as written. Second by Myron Rovig. Motion Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** was giving by Treasurer Kylee Hornberger:

(A copy of the Financial Report is included in the attached Zion Congregation Annual Report.)

2022 Financial Report ending balance, \$52,752.11. Pastors checking account ending balance, \$1,168.04. Special Projects account ending balance, \$8,370.62. Mission Trust Fund CD ending balance, \$185,077.26. Mission Trust checking account ending balance, \$55,149.80. Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund ending balance, \$123,330.68. Zion Lutheran Church Sunday School ending balance, \$1,665.93. Kyle Schepp moved to approve the Financial Report. Second by Wes Hagen. Motion Carried.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT** was given by Lorna Hansen, Helen Grant and Laurie Gathman. The Audit committee would like to see a spread sheet with the terms of the service contracts included in the financial audit report. Motion to approve the report by Nicki Shelkey, Second by Connie Hagen. Motion Carried.

**PASTORS REPORT** Pastor George had a written report in the annual meeting agenda. He also spoke to the congregation and thanked everyone for another great year.

**CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS** were read and reviewed by the congregation. Nicki Shelkey made the motion to approve all of the reports as written. Second by Curt Schumaier. Motion Carried.

**USHERS REPORT** Curt Schumaier has agreed to be the head usher for 2023. Curt would like to stay with week by week sign up. The Ushers can also be greeters. We would also like to get confirmation students involved with the ushering.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Helen Grant**

We would like to thank Gary Neshem, Jackie Deaver and Marvin Heller for serving on the Church council.

We would like to change the way that we serve on the Berthold/Carpio ecumenical council. The proposal is to leave the 2 year term but have the two members alternate their start dates. This will help to have one member on the council that has experience at all times. Motion to change the way we serve on the ecumenical council by alternating their start dates by Carol Rovig, Second by Connie Hagen. Motion Carried.

Helen Grant nominated Gayle Gorseth for a one year term on the Ecumenical council. Second by Wes Hagen. Motion Carried.

Barb Cooper made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for all elections. Second by Kylene Hornberger. Motion Carried.

## **BUDGET**

The church council proposed the annual budget at \$121,550. Marvin Heller made the motion to approve the 2023 budget at \$121,550. Second by Curt Schumaier. Motion Carried.

Pastor George installed the new church council.

Motion to Adjourn by Nancy Neshem. Second by Jerrolyn Wertz.

*Submitted by Secretary Kyle Schepp*

## 2023 FINANCIAL (INCOME) REPORT

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2023).....	\$ 52,777.11
Plus Income	
Offerings .....	\$65,500.11
Harvest Fest .....	\$20,820.00
Miscellaneous Income .....	\$31,928.55
Subtotal.....	\$ 118,248.66
Less Expenses.....	(\$ 106,152.79)
Ending Balance (December 31, 2023).....	<u>\$ 64,872.98</u>

## PASTOR'S EXPENSES CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2023).....	\$ 1,168.04
Plus Income	
Deposits (Berthold & Carpio).....	\$ 83,500.00
Subtotal .....	\$ 84,668.04
Less Portico Benefits.....	(\$ 21,372.48)
Less Mileage/Reimbursement.....	(\$ 7,590.83)
Less Payroll .....	(\$ 54,900.56)
Less Miscellaneous .....	(\$ 19.52)
Ending Balance (December 31, 2023).....	<u>\$ 784.65</u>

## SPECIAL PROJECTS TRUST FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT

\*Worksheet attached below\*

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2023).....	\$ 8,370.62
Plus Income	
Memorials.....	\$ 505.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars.....	\$1,597.00
Miscellaneous Income .....	\$3,752.19
Amazon Smiles.....	\$ 15.62
Total Income .....	\$ 5,869.81
Subtotal.....	\$ 14,240.43
Less Expenses.....	(\$ 5,115.07)
Ending Balance (December 31, 2023).....	<u>\$ 9,125.36</u>

## MISSION TRUST FUND CD ACCOUNT (2023)

(Established in May 1997)

Amount in Mission TermSelect Account (drawing 1.244% interest) .....	\$ 185,077.26
Fixed 3 year CD with Maturity of 01/21/2025 CD Penalty .....	(\$ 2,776.16)
Interest accrued .....	\$ 2,563.17
Amount in Mission TermSelect Account (drawing 4.523% interest) .....	<u>\$ 184,864.27</u>
Fixed 3 year CD with Maturity of 07/06/2026	

## MISSION PLUS CHECKING ACCOUNT

<b>Balance (November 30, 2022)</b> .....	\$	55,149.80
Quarterly Interest transferred from Mission TermSelect (CD) .....	\$	6,179.62
Interest Income (1.25% APY) .....	\$	579.53
<b>Total Income</b> .....	\$	<u>6,759.15</u>
<b>Subtotal</b> .....	\$	<u>61,908.95</u>
<b>Less Expenses</b> .....	-\$	0.00
Less Endowment Funds Used: .....		
Dufner Const. – Sanctuary Windows .....	(\$	10,000.00)
Metigoshe Ministries-Day Camp .....	(\$	595.00)
<b>Balance (November 30, 2023)</b> .....	\$	<u><u>55,313.95</u></u>
(The December statement was not available before report was due)		

All donations to Mission Trust Fund are invested in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund (MIF) thereby allowing the money to be used in a multi-faceted way: i.e., 1. money in the LECA MIF is used to loan money at a lower than normal rate of interest to new mission churches starting up throughout the US. 2. The interest earned on the Mission TermSelect Account of Zion's investment is reinvested in the Mission Plus Account until such time as the Zion Mission Trust Fund Committee allocated the interest in the Mission Plus Account to do general mission elsewhere.

In January 2003, we received notice that Ken and Daisy Buen had placed \$112,000.00 in a tax deferred annuity for Zion, **with interest to be used** for general mission expenses as deemed necessary by the council.

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

<b>Beginning Balance (November 30, 2022)</b> .....	\$ 123,330.68
Total Deposits .....	\$ 0.00
*Deposits to this fund are any undesignated memorials to Zion Lutheran Church. They can only be deposited when the amount of the deposit is \$2,000.00 or more.*	
Change in Market Value .....	(\$ 2,915.04)
<b>Ending Balance (November 30, 2023)</b> .....	<b><u>\$ 126,245.72</u></b>
*The year-end statement was not available at the time this report was due.	

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2023)	\$	1,665.93
Total Income	\$	329.79
Total Expenses	(\$	376.30)
Ending Balance (December 31, 2023)	\$	1,619.42

*Respectfully submitted, Kylene Hornberger, Treasurer*

## 2023 General Ledger- State Bank and Trust Kenmare

8



## **BERNHARD & LAURA WOLD MISSION 2023**

	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>Check #</u></b>
1. KIDS ACADEMY DAYCARE BERTHOLD	\$225.00	3739
2. BERTHOLD ECUMENICAL COUNCIL	\$225.00	3713
3. BERTHOLD ZION FOOD PANTRY (ICHF – TWICE BLESSED)	\$1,025.00	3706
4. METIGOSHE MINISTRIES (CMPR SCHLASHPS) (ICHF – TWICE BLESSED)	\$220.00	3719
5. ANNE CARLSEN CENTER (JAMESTOWN)	\$420.00	3711
6. FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN	\$220.00	3722
7. “THE WELCOME TABLE” FAITH UNITED METHODIST SOUP KITCHEN	\$220.00	3723
8. CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN	\$220.00	3724
9. SHEPHERD’S CANYON RETREAT CENTER	\$420.00	3728
10. LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY (MSU)	\$420.00	3727
11. BETHEL HOME AUXILIARY (HELEN GRANT)	\$425.00	3725
12. OJIBWA KIDS FOR BIBLE CAMP – METIGOSHE MINISTRIES	\$420.00	3729
13. OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION OF STANLEY	\$420.00	3721
14. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	\$420.00	3730
15. MINOT AREA HOMELESS COALITION (ICHF – TWICE BLESSED)	\$420.00	3717
16. MINOT SPECIAL OLYMPICS	\$420.00	3720
17. MAURICE ASKVIG	\$420.00	3731
18. WND SYNOD MISSION TRUST FUND	\$420.00	3730
19. PROJECT BEE (ICHF – TWICE BLESSED)	\$420.00	3716
20. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER (ICHF – TWICE BLESSED)	\$520.00	3715
21. DAKOTA HOPE CLINIC (ICHF – TWICE BLESSED)	\$520.00	3714
22. MEN’S WINTER REFUGE (ICHF – TWICE BLESSED)	\$520.00	3718
23. ELCA GOOD GIFTS TO PURCHASE A COW	\$520.00	3726
24. GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK	\$520.00	3712
	<b><u>\$10,000.00</u></b>	

\*A MEMBER OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH GENEROUSLY DONATED AN ADDITIONAL \$2,000.00 TO GO ABOVE OUR BERNHARD WOLD DONATION.

BERNARD & LAURA WOLD WERE LIFELONG MEMBER OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH.

THEY HAVE GENEROUSLY, MORE THAN THEY COULD AFFORD TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH & CHURCH MISSIONS.

AT ONE TIME, THERE WAS TALK AT AN ANNUAL MEETING TO REDUCE OR DO AWAY WITH MISSION GIVINGS.

BERNHARD SAID, “NO WAY – WHAT IS THE CHURCH FOR, IF NOT TO DO GOD’S WORK THROUGH MISSION?”

AT EVERY ANNUAL MEETING FROM THEN ON, HE PUSHED MORE MONEY EACH YEAR TO GO TOWARDS MISSIONS.

THE BERNHARD WOLD MISSION FUND WAS ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF BERNHARD AND LAURA FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO MISSIONS AND ENSURING THAT OUR CHURCH WILL COMMIT TO THAT IDEAL.

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

	ACTUAL BUDGET 2023	EXPENSES 2023	ENDING BALANCE 2023	PROPOSED BUDGET 2024
<b><u>BENEVOLENCES</u></b>				
ELCA / WND Synod Mission Support (8% OF OFFERING)	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 5,218.81	\$ 3,181.19	\$ 8,400.00
Anne & Willie Langdji	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Metigoshe Ministries	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Minot Area Homeless Coalition	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Mountrail Bethel Nursing Home	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Bernard Wold Mission Support	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 20,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,718.81</b>	<b>\$ 3,181.19</b>	<b>\$ 20,900.00</b>
<b><u>ADMINISTRATION:</u></b>				
Office Equipment	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 731.29	\$ 268.71	\$ 1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 301.23	\$ 198.77	\$ 500.00
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ 167.70	\$ 32.30	\$ 200.00
Social Security/Workman's Comp Taxes	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 700.00	\$ 949.85	\$ (249.85)	\$ 700.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.07</b>	<b>\$ 449.93</b>	<b>\$ 2,850.00</b>
<b><u>PROPERTY:</u></b>				
Parsonage Utilities	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,094.77	\$ 1,405.23	\$ 3,500.00
Church Utilities	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,254.27	\$ 2,745.73	\$ 10,000.00
Building Repair and Improvement	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 1,327.12	\$ 6,672.88	\$ 8,000.00
Insurance	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,502.00	\$ (2.00)	\$ 5,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 600.00	\$ 417.85	\$ 182.15	\$ 600.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 27,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,596.01</b>	<b>\$ 11,003.99</b>	<b>\$ 27,600.00</b>
<b><u>PASTOR'S SALARY AND BENEFITS:</u></b>				
Pastor's Salary	\$ 25,500.00	\$ 25,500.00	\$ -	\$ 25,500.00
Pension/Medical Plan	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 9,589.08	\$ (1,889.08)	\$ 7,700.00
Pastor's Social Security Allowance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,951.08	\$ 48.92	\$ 2,000.00
Housing Equity	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 940.08	\$ 59.92	\$ 1,000.00
Pastor's Car Allowance	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,773.28	\$ 326.72	\$ 2,100.00
Continuing Education	\$ 750.00	\$ 834.72	\$ (84.72)	\$ 750.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 39,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,588.24</b>	<b>\$ (1,538.24)</b>	<b>\$ 39,050.00</b>
<b><u>OTHER SALARY AND BENEFITS:</u></b>				
Office Secretary	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
Custodian	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ -	\$ 4,200.00
Treasurer	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ -	\$ 7,800.00
Groundskeeping/Snow Removal	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,200.00
Organists	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 4,500.00
Guest Speakers	\$ 900.00	\$ 534.93	\$ 365.07	\$ 900.00
Synod Conventions	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,003.84	\$ 496.16	\$ 1,500.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 26,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 24,218.77</b>	<b>\$ 1,881.23</b>	<b>\$ 26,100.00</b>
<b><u>WORSHIP:</u></b>				
Worship Materials	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 654.25	\$ 1,345.75	\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 700.00	\$ 562.27	\$ 137.73	\$ 700.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 1216.52</b>	<b>\$ 1,483.48</b>	<b>\$ 2,700.00</b>
<b><u>EDUCATION:</u></b>				
Youth Camps & Scholarships	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 712.50	\$ 1,287.50	\$ 2,000.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 712.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,287.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 121,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 103,450.92</b>	<b>\$ 17,749.08</b>	<b>\$ 121,200.00</b>

## **“TIME TO REMODEL SPIRITUAL HOUSES”**

*Rev. George Schuessler*

Last year's Pastoral Report was titled, "A Spiritual House." It noted the importance of working together with our many God given gifts of the Holy Spirit. In reflecting over 2023, I am proud of how all of us together have been instruments and ambassadors of Christ Jesus with voices, hands, and feet to be the love of God. Just look through this Annual Congregation Report and see how many ministries in Christ Jesus we have participated in.

But also in last year's report I was sensing a loss of confidence in how we work together through hints of a crack or crumble that could jeopardize what is Carpio and Zion Lutheran Churches. In reflecting over 2023, I think we have a crack and in fact holes from missing "living stones" who have left empty gaps in pews and blank spaces on volunteer lists.

While concern is warranted, we need not panic. Perhaps the Word of God from the "old preacher" in the Old Testament is fitting for us: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to tear, and a time to sew." (Ecclesiastes 3:1,3b,5a,7a) I think it's time to remodel God's Spiritual Houses of Carpio and Zion Lutheran Churches.

The fact is I have failed to do better in 2023. The Zion Church Council truthfully voiced and took action that pierced the Pastor's heart to make it painfully clear that I have failed as God's Shepherd among you. However, the 2023 Statistical Report and reflections about 2023 volunteer lists make it painfully clear that there are far too many "living stones" absent from worship and volunteer services in both Carpio and Zion Lutheran Churches. As a proper check and balance, the Joint Carpio and Zion Church Councils established a survey of the congregations and the results of the surveys that were received only confirm that there is a need for some "breaking down" and some "building up."

I have committed to both Church Councils that I would like to serve as your Pastor in 2024. While it is obvious to me that I am not the Pastor for your future, I do have significant congregational support and some necessary gifts that I can provide for the time being. This should help you, "living stones," by providing time for you to work on the gaps and blanks and a bonding together in a unified "spiritual house" that will have a great future.

2024 will be an interesting and eventful year as we continue our successful ministering in God's love. Yes, we will also be busy with some extra work. For me, I'll be continuing in fulltime ordained ministry with both Carpio and Zion, but also making plans for a future retirement. For you, it will be assessing your Parish alignment resources and each of your congregation's physical and spiritual gifts and assets in preparation for what your future will look like. We do this in remembering our anchor is Christ Jesus, our safety net is the Holy Spirit, and our sure foundation is in a heavenly Father who loves each of us unconditionally.

I do believe that 2024 is the year for Carpio and Zion Lutheran Churches to begin the work of remodeling God's "Spiritual Houses" that you are. You and I will be successful in this undertaking by following the instructions of the Apostle Paul to the Colossians, "Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:5-6)

May all of us receive God's blessing spoken by the Apostle Paul to the "spiritual house" in Philippi, "God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in the glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) Amen!

**OUR PARISH AT A GLANCE**  
**CHURCH STATISTICS FOR 2023**

<b>Membership of Zion</b>	<b>Baptized</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>Membership 1 January 2023</b>	446	313
Members Received in 2023		
by Baptism	+3	-
by Affirmation of Faith	-	+3
by Transfer	-	-
Members Removed in 2023		
by Death	(-4)	(-3)
by Transfer	(-3)	(-1)
Net Membership Change in 2023	(-5)	(-1)
<b>Membership 31 December 2023</b>	441	312

<b>Ministry of Zion</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Average Worship Attendance	60	60
Average on YouTube	9	11
Worship Services	47	57
Baptisms of Zion Members	3	6
Affirmations of Baptisms	3	8
Marriages of Zion Members	5	0
Funerals of Zion Members	3	1

<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Parents</b>
Kade Joseph Schieve	May 24, 2023	Son of Brandon & Rachel Schieve
Emma Karen van Schoor	July 15, 2023	Daughter of Johannes & Alexis van Schoor
Morgan Anna van Schoor	July 15, 2023	Daughter of Johannes & Alexis van Schoor

<b>Affirmations of Baptism</b>	<b>May 7, 2023</b>
Brennan Asmundson	Son of Kevin & Candice Asmundson
Kashtyn Bredahl	Daughter of Scott & Karla Bredahl
Elyssa Lindahl	Daughter of Dan & Tammy Lindahl

<b>Transfers In</b>	<b>From</b>
None	

<b>Transfers Out</b>	<b>To</b>
Jacalyn Deaver	Our Savior Lutheran Church of Minot, ND
Mike & Julene Lahti	Our Savior Lutheran Church of Minot, ND
Randy Vaagen	Zion Lutheran Church of Amor of Battle Lakes, MN

<b>Weddings &amp; Anniversaries</b>	<b>Date</b>
Emily Neshem & Keaton Borud	January 14, 2023
Lisa Leigh Broooks & Alfredo DeLeon (Ward Cty Jail)	April 17, 2023
Taylor Christianson & Ryan Schweitzer	June 10, 2023
Ronni Gregory & William Emerson	June 17, 2023
Mychal Fjeldahl & Luka LaMotte	September 23, 2023

<b>Funerals &amp; Memorials</b>	<b>Date</b>
Laine Allen Deaver (Rev. Chris Lenning)	March 3, 2023
Kenneth Wayne Roark (non member)	May 1, 2023
Marlys JoAnn (Rogneby) Kline Memorial & Burial	July 3, 2023
Marilyn J. Deaver (Rev. Chris Lenning)	October 30 ,2023

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL/BOARD OF EDUCATION 2023**

This past summer, we had Metigoshe Ministries here for a week of Day Camp. We had 15 kids from the community attend. There was an ice cream social along with a program on Thursday evening with the kids finishing up Camp on Friday morning.

Rally Sunday took place on September 10<sup>th</sup> with a few different activities to start off the new year. The kids painted rocks with the intent of starting a “Kindness Rocks” garden with the hopes of adding onto it every year. We also tie dyed t-shirts with a cross on the front and Zion Lutheran Youth on the back. Finally, the kids colored a picture and wrote down what a few of their favorite things about church were and mailed to local churches with the hopes of a letter back. The response was HUGE! We received back a total of 20 letters!!

We have approximately 16 students in Sunday School this fall. We are using the “Holy Moly” curriculum again this year. There is a short video we watch, a quick poem or story is read and then we separate into our classes and do an activity. We start every class session with singing and learning The Lord’s Prayer. This fall we started with a couple New Testament stories before starting our Christmas lessons before we started rehearsing for our Christmas Program. The Christmas Program took place December 17<sup>th</sup>. The kids did a couple of songs and poems, along with the CrossRoads kids doing the Nativity – the kids all did a fabulous job! After the program, the Sunday School and Luther League had a little Christmas party where we played Christmas Themed “Minute to Win It” games for prizes. In January, we started back up with New Testament lessons and this spring we’ll have a 4 story lesson about the Easter Story. Our last day of Sunday School will be May 12<sup>th</sup>. The CrossRoads class (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades) is studying characters from the Bible using the “Ancestors” curriculum. They have also done lessons using the ELCA website Faith Lens, which applies that Sunday’s readings to current events.

Metigoshe in Motion was here in November doing an activity with the kids where they did a Bible lesson and made Christmas ornaments. We have three more activities coming up this spring with MIM as well – look for more information on this in the bulletins and newsletters.

Thank you to the kids for coming on Sundays and learning about God and Jesus! Thank you to everyone that helps out by reading stories and helping teach/supervise during class. We are always looking for more help and encourage anyone to help teach a class during the year. A HUGE Thank You to the Luther League who has come back and helped with Rally Sunday and the Christmas Party – it’s so fun for the younger kids to get to spend time with you!!

*Respectfully submitted by Kershawn Michel & Lisa Bryantt, Co-Superintendents*

## ZLCW ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

The purpose statement of the Zion Lutheran Church Women (ZLCW) is: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, in society and in the world.

The meetings this year were held the months of January, March, May, July, August, September and November. There was a Christmas Brunch held in December. There were no meetings in February, April, June and October this year. **ALL** church women are encouraged to join in these meetings.

January 2023 meeting is usually an Executive Meeting to go thru the ZLCW Booklet and make any needed changes to meeting dates and any upcoming events for the church year. Health Care Kits will start being collected during Lent or starting February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The quilters are working on quilts for World Relief, Metigoshe Auction and graduating senior quilts. We are thankful that both Joyce Tudahl and Gayle Gorseth donated their talents to this auction. They brought in \$825 for Metigoshe Ministries. Batting and supplies are ordered thru the First Sunday Gifts Offerings. World Day of Prayer was held at the Berthold Baptist Church on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Western Prairie Spring Cluster Gathering was held April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bethel Lutheran in Newtown. Easter Lilies were again purchased for our Easter Service. The cost has gone up so each person was asked to donate \$10 for a Lily. Confirmation was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> with the ZLCW furnishing the cake and flowers for the Confirmands. Baccalaureate was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Catholic Church. The graduation seniors received their quilts from the quilters at that time. The "80's" Recognition Sunday was held on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The ZLCW will send a donation to Metigoshe Ministries and the Berthold Food Pantry in Honor of the "80's" membership. Graduation Cards with a Key Chain were presented on May 21<sup>st</sup> to the graduating seniors of Zion Lutheran. The ZLCW is responsible for a roaster of scalloped potatoes and ham for the Memorial Day Service held on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Program is at 11:00 in the school auditorium. Zion Church Women offer camperships to any student member of Zion Lutheran Church. The ZLCW members were invited in June to Mouse River Park by the Evanger Church Women for Bible Study at the Park Gazebo. The Mission Committee reported that for 2023 they had 99 quilts, 109 school kits and 84 Personal Care Kits ready for shipment to Lutheran World Relief. Four of these quilts were given to Officer Al to distribute where he felt necessary. Erika Neshem went on a mission to Guatemala in August. The ZLCW donated items for Erika to take to the village people. The ZLCW had a Lasagna Dinner fund raiser on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Menu was Lasagna, Mac & Cheese, coleslaw, garlic bread/toast and dessert. About \$1800.00 was raised for the dinner and about \$850 on the raffle. Thank you to all that donated items for this raffle. September is election of new officers for ZLCW. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, three ZLCW members served soup for the Lutheran Campus Ministry Soup Day. Each week the Lutheran Campus Ministry serves soup to about 400-425 people on campus. Thankoffering and Blessing of Quilts and Kits Service was held on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Helen Grant was the speaker at the service. She talked of the Mountrail Lutheran Nursing Home and all the projects they do there. The Western Prairie Fall Cluster Gathering was held October 14<sup>th</sup> at Bread of Life Church in Minot. Harvest Fest was held November 19<sup>th</sup>. No meal was served, but the left over apple cake/caramel sauce from the Lasagna Dinner was served by the Luther League. The ZLCW Christmas Party was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Party was well attended. The Zion Bell Choir entertained, Christmas Carols were sung, door prizes were given out and Gayle Gorseth gave a presentation of Christmas Candles Colored for the Lord's Prayer. Egg Bake, muffins and fruit were served to eat. Goodie Bags at Christmas time was discussed. Discussion was held to not distribute Christmas Goodie Bags but wait until Valentine's Day or May Day to distribute any Goodie Bags. It is very difficult to get names and addresses of new people coming to our community. Helen Grant applied for Thrivent funds to be used for the Sunday School Christmas Program treat bags.

We pray that 2024 brings everyone continued good health and happiness!

*Respectfully submitted by Lorna Hansen, ZLCW Secretary*

## 2023 ZLCW FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Balance as of January 1, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 4,182.94</b>
<b>2023 Income:</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Gifts (first Sunday of month served - donated to quilters)	\$ 586.65
Coffee Hour & Coffee Money (L.L. coffee exp, individual purchase)	\$ 876.60
ZLCW Mtg. Offerings	\$ 491.50
Mary/Martha Circle Offering donation from 2023 offerings	\$ 350.00
Memorials, misc. monies leftover from donation purchases	\$ 27.00
ZLCW Individual Personal Donations	\$ 290.00
ZLCW Raffle, replace \$100 for cashbox	\$ 981.00
Lasagna Dinner, Thrivent Participation	\$ 1,884.00
Easter Lilies	\$ 330.00
Thankoffering	\$ 1,356.00
3 Funerals	\$ 1,300.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 8,472.75</b>
<b>***Additional income rec'd December 23, but not yet deposited:</b>	
December coffee money from men serving and slated for Minot Area Men's Winter Refuge	\$ 316.00
Individual Donation	\$ 500.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Groceries (funerals, Memorial Day, etc.)	\$ 1,094.82
Fair Trade Coffee/ZLCW Christmas Luncheon, Program Supplies	\$ 276.90
Raffle Expense (permit, booth charge, cashbox)	\$ 140.00
Gifts/Gift Cards	\$ 25.00
Baptism Expense (gifts/flowers)	\$ 54.53
Confirmation Expense (cards, cake, flowers)	\$ 121.48
Graduation Expense (gifts)	\$ 35.00
Camperships (3 youth)	\$ 300.00
Miscellaneous (supplies kitchen, hand soap bathrooms, coffee filters, plates, silverware, cups, plates, napkins, stamps, new check blanks, subscriptions, etc.)	\$ 257.48
Ecumenical Quilters Donation from 2023 First Sunday Gifts	\$ 369.85
Easter Lily Expense	\$ 336.00
80+ Recognition Expense (\$100 donation to Zion Berthold Food Pantry and to Metigoshe Ministries in honor of, misc. exp)	\$ 200.00
Donation – Laurie G. to purchase children's items for Ericka's Guatemala Mission Trip	\$ 150.00
Donation – Lutheran Campus Ministries – Soup Project	\$ 175.00
Donation – Faith Lutheran Church, Palermo for basement repair	\$ 200.00
Donation – Minot Area Men's Winter Refuge (from Dec. 2023 coffee money, men served)	\$ 316.00
Women of the ELCA (Thankoffering collected)	\$ 1,356.00
Western Prairie Cluster (Spring/Fall Offerings/dues)	\$ 115.00
Western Prairie Cluster Spring Gathering registration/roll call donation	\$ 130.00
Western Prairie Cluster Fall Gathering registration/items for roll call to go to	\$ 148.32
Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center	
Triennial Convention Offering	\$ 100.00
Women of the ELCA (SWO Conv. Exp, SWO offering, Synod Qtrly Offerings)	\$ 575.00
Year-end Donations (attached)	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,976.38</b>
<b>*** Balance as of 12/31/23</b>	<b>\$ 3,660.31</b>

## **ZLCW YEAR-END DONATIONS 2023**

**(\*\* = “Twice Blessed”)**

1. Horn of Plenty	\$100.00
2. Trinity Hospice	\$50.00
3. Lutheran Campus Ministry-MSU Spiritual Wellness at MSU: Dinner Church 2024 (**)	\$50.00
4. Minot Social Club for Exceptional Persons: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Story (**)	\$50.00
5. First Lutheran Soup Kitchen	\$50.00
6. Christ Lutheran Soup Kitchen	\$50.00
7. Faith United Soup Kitchen	\$50.00
8. Salvation Army—Food Pantry Initiative (**)	\$50.00
9. Domestic Violence Crisis Center (**)	\$50.00
10. Anne Carlson Center	\$50.00
11. Metigoshe Ministries (**)	\$200.00
12. Minot Area Homeless Coalition (**)	\$100.00
13. Heart River Bridges of Hope	\$50.00
14. Minot Area Men’s Winter Refuge (**)	\$100.00
15. Anne and Willie Langdji (Cameroon Missionaries-personal gift)	\$100.00
16. Katie’s Fund	\$50.00
17. W.I.S.E. (Women in Seminary Education)	\$200.00
18. Zion Berthold Food Pantry (**)	\$300.00
19. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (**)	\$100.00
20. Trinity Health Foundation (Chapel)	\$100.00
21. Minot Matthew 25 Project	\$100.00
22. L.W.R. Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund	\$200.00
23. Bethel Home Auxiliary	\$100.00
24. Pastor George and Ladora (Christmas Gift)	\$50.00
25. Northern Plains Children’s Advocacy Center (**)	\$100.00
26. North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force	\$100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2500.00</b>

*Respectfully submitted by Jerrolyn Wirtz, Treasurer*

## **MISSION REPORT 2023**

Our mission drives in 2023 were very successful! Our spring drive had put together 84 personal care kids and 78 quilts! Our fall drive had 109 school kits and another 21 quilts. All were donated to Lutheran World Relief.

A big thank you to everyone who donated items for all the kits and quilts – we can’t continue these projects without you!!

*Respectfully submitted by Julie Deaver & Laurie Gathman, Mission Coordinators*



## **MARY/MARTHA CIRCLE 2023**

This circle usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month from September through May. Last spring and fall the Bible studies were The Ten Commandments and Holy Places. We welcome all women to join us in the new Bible study this year of Scripture and Nature: Teachers of faith.

*Jill Brown*

## **ABIGAIL CIRCLE 2023**

Abigail circle met only a few times in 2023. We continue on studying "10 Women of the Bible" and with group and daily study on our own when schedules don't allow meeting times in person.

*Kelly Finke*

## **BERTHOLD ECUMENCIAL QUILTERS ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

The quilters meet at Zion every Monday at 1:00. In 2023 we donated 158 quilts including 91 to Lutheran World Relief, 25 to graduating seniors, two to Metigoshe Ministries and the remainder to local charities including Officer Al, Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Matthew 25 Project, the Minot Men's Winter Refuge and Bethel Home Auxiliary. Twenty-five dog beds/blankets were assembled and donated to For Belle's Sake Rescue.

This year our funding was from memorials, donations and the ZLCW, from their First Sunday Gifts fellowship offerings. We have also received many donations of sheets, fabric, and jeans from many people. All donations, whether monetary or material, are greatly appreciated.

We have lost some participants and have gained some new ones this year. We are always happy to get new help even if they can only come occasionally. The ability to continue making quilts for all the members of the senior class is still in question.

We welcome anyone who is interested in joining us. There are many jobs that do not require sewing including cutting fabric, tying quilts, pinning tops, cutting batting and backings. If you would like to sew at home, we have blocks cut. We break about 3:00 for coffee and fellowship. Some quilters leave after that, and some work a little longer.

*Gayle Gorseth*

## **2023 BERTHOLD ZION FOOD PANTRY REPORT**

Ladora Schuessler, Director

Carol Rovig, Co-Director

Shelly Marum, Back Pack Assistant

The Berthold Zion Food Pantry in 2023 continues to be quite busy and is doing well. The main change for this year is that Barb Cooper retired in October and Carol Rovig became the Co-Director. While we all miss having Barb working with us, we wish her all the best with her new free time. Carol is fitting right in and is doing a great job. Shelly Marum continues to be the Back Pack assistant, driver, shopping assistant, and often assists during our open hours. We have a great and eager set of volunteers that help unload the food truck, stock shelves, put items in the freezer or refrigerator, and help carry out food to people's cars.

We are so grateful to the City of Berthold for providing at no cost a nice location for the Food Pantry. This allows all of our funds we receive to be used to purchase needed items for the Pantry. We were blessed with many other wonderful gifts as well: 100 lbs. of hamburger from the Todd Finke family, 250 lbs. of hamburger from Chad

Pennington of New Town which was processed by MeMa's Meats at no cost to us, fresh farm eggs from Roger & Susan Haaland, and some produce from local gardens by various people. We are so thankful for all of this generosity.

We also had some large collection donations of items. Jennifer Hennessey's First Grade Class had a Food Drive in Berthold. They delivered bags with flyers on Nov. 8<sup>TH</sup> throughout Berthold and then on Nov. 20<sup>TH</sup> they collected and delivered 300 lbs. of items. It was so fun to see the School Bus park in front of City Hall and watch the whole class and their teacher bring bag after bag in with big wonderful smiles on their faces, Thank You! Berthold Baptist collects weekly in a plastic tote. Pastor Mike calls about every couple of weeks letting us know the tote is full. A few hundred lbs. of food and personal care items have been received, Thank You! Zion Lutheran collected a reverse Advent Offering for the Pantry that had 400 lbs. of food and personal care items being delivered to the Food Pantry, Thank You! Carpio Lutheran has an ongoing collection for the Food Pantry that is greatly appreciated and we couldn't do our work without your generous support.

I would like to also thank Berthold Cenex for their donation of food, snacks, sandwiches, and beverages worth some \$2927.79. Thank You, Andy, Jay, and the Cenex Staff for such kindness that enhances and elevates our Food Pantry. And to top it off, we were able to supply items for three special meals, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Myron & Carol Rovig with Tika, Marvin & Sandy Heller, Tony & Faye Asmundson all provided Thrivent Seed Cards to help purchase needed items. Allen & Terrie Lee donated \$250. The Berthold Branch of the State Bank & Trust of Kenmare provided the Thanksgiving Turkeys. All of these generous gifts were greatly appreciated! Together we all made the Berthold Zion Food Pantry more than a place to get food, it was and continues to be a place where love is also served, Thank You!

*Respectfully submitted by Ladora Schuessler*

### **2023 BERTHOLD ZION FOOD PANTRY STATISTICS**

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Adults</u></b>	<b><u>Seniors</u></b>	<b><u>Children</u></b>	<b><u>Households</u></b>	<b><u>Pounds</u></b>	<b><u>Back Pack</u></b>	<b><u>Pounds</u></b>	<b><u>Produce</u></b>
January	7	10	53	11	414	50	400	-
February	11	20	60	17	661	52	416	-
March	10	19	70	16	717	65	520	-
April	6	16	50	17	499	46	368	-
May	10	20	43	17	692	36	288	-
June	6	12	3	11	390	0	0	-
July	1	16	0	13	461	0	0	-
August	6	13	28	11	342	26	208	30 lbs.
September	4	12	68	9	333	67	536	51 lbs.
October	4	16	89	13	508	85	680	-
November	20	21	80	23	1148	68	544	-
December	14	19	57	18	903	47	376	-
<b>2023 Totals</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>7,068</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>4,336</b>	<b>81 lbs.</b>
2019 Totals	238	161	277	252	12,472	303	-	210 lbs.
2020 Totals	159	179	262	223	10,649	276	1,918	500 lbs.
2021 Totals	99	195	409	203	10,579	310	2,487	170 lbs.
2022 Totals	130	171	381	187	9,413	299	2,390	10 lbs.
<b><u>TOTAL POUNDS GIVEN OUT IN 2023: 11,485 lbs.</u></b>								

**BERTHOLD ZION FOOD PANTRY****2023 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**1-1-23 Beginning Checkbook Balance. . . . . \$ 9,042.55**

2023 Income

Gifts	\$ 60.00	(anonymous gifts)		
Dennis Hanna Memorials	\$ 500.00			
Dennis Hanna Memorial	\$ 100.00	(Glen & Kristin Berg)		
Laine Deaver Memorials	\$ 310.00			
Aunt Sue & Other Memorials	\$ 75.00	(Helen Grant)		
State Bank & Trust of Kenmare	\$ 259.31	(Thanksgiving Turkeys)		
Frayed Squared Quilters	\$ 170.00			
Zion Lutheran WELCA	\$ 100.00			
Rose Valley WELCA	\$ 515.00			
Ground-Up	\$ 650.00	(Ron & Christi Pond)		
Inspiritus Community Foundation	\$ 1,089.30	(Twice Blessed – arrives in Jan.)		
Gasmann Coulee Cruisers	\$ 500.00			
Ecumenical Council	\$ 159.50	(Thanksgiving Offerings)		
One Person's Anonymous Gifts	\$ 530.00			
Alan & Terrie Lee	\$ 250.00	(Christmas Dinner Supplies)		
Richard & Kathryn Debertin	\$ 200.00			
Gary & Faye Knudtson	\$ 10.00			
Elaine Dahle	\$ 40.00			
Jeff Moen	\$ 100.00	(Back Pack Program)		
Darrell & Marlis Peterson	\$ 100.00	(Back Pack Program)		
Stan & Maryanne Vangsness	\$ 50.00	(Back Pack Program)		
Curt & Debra Engelhard	\$ 50.00			
		<b><u>TOTAL 2023 INCOME</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,818.11</b>
		<b><u>2023 TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,860.66</b>

2023 Expenses

Lori Harshaw	\$ 506.64	(Food Items for Back Pack Program)		
Shelly Marum	\$ 807.91	(Food Items for Back Pack Program)		
Mema's Meats	\$ 168.75	(Hamburger)		
Great Plains Food Bank	\$ 1,450.90	(Food & Personal Care)		
Walmart	\$ 837.14	(Food & Personal Care)		
Dollar Tree	\$ 2,606.97	(Food & Personal Care)		
Dollar General	\$ 87.52	(Food & Personal Care)		
MarketPlace Foods	\$ 1,692.28	(Food & Personal Care)		
Cash Wise Foods	\$ 22.68	(Food)		
Menards	\$ 231.92	(Food & Hall Rugs)		
		<b><u>TOTAL 2023 EXPENSES</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,412.71</b>

**12-31-23 Ending Checkbook Balance . . . . . \$6,447.95**

*Respectfully submitted by Ladora Schuessler*

## **BERTHOLD /CARPIO ECUMENICAL COUNCIL 2023 REPORT**

The Ecumenical Council is composed of two members from each of the congregations in the two communities and their pastors. The Council meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10am October through May. Each year one of the congregations is a host for these meetings Carpio Lutheran was the host in 2022/2023. St. Ann's Catholic Church is hosting in 2023/2024. The task of the Ecumenical Council is to organize community events that will bring our people together in Christian fellowship.

**January 22** "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" was hosted by Berthold Baptist Church. Each Congregation provided two crock pots of soup. The Baptist Church also provided sandwiches for lunch followed by the Prayer Service. The offering went to the Ecumenical Council Treasury.

**April** The Ecumenical Council supported the Carpio Easter Egg hunt in the Carpio park with a contribution of \$300.

**May** Contribution of \$300 to support the Wednesday after school youth program JAM at the Berthold Baptist since many community youth attend. This is an annual contribution.

**May 7** Baccalaureate Service was hosted by St. Ann's Catholic Church. The Ecumenical Quilters handed out the quilts to the seniors.

**May 29** Memorial Day Service was held at the Berthold School Gym with Austin Kilene being our speaker. A free will offering lunch of scalloped potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, and bars was served at noon in the Berthold American Legion Hall with the offering, after expenses, being given to the Berthold American Legion.

**November 19** Thanksgiving Worship was hosted by St. Ann's with the offering being divided among the Berthold Zion Food Pantry, Ecumenical Council treasury, and gift cards that Officer Al distributed to families for holiday needs.

*Respectfully submitted by Gayle Gorseth*

## **LUTHER LEAGUE REPORT FOR 2023**

We started 2023 off with a Volunteer opportunity at the Matthew 25 project in Minot on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Those that attended helped with checking shoppers in, assisting shoppers on the floor, keeping the shopping area tidy, and sorting donations as they came in. Their help was very much appreciated by the Matthew 25 staff! We served soup suppers at Zion for Lent services during February and March. We served Easter Breakfast and conducted the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday. This fall, we had a Bible study and Pumpkin decorating party in October. November brought our annual Bake sale and charity shopping. This year we purchased toys for the Horn of Plenty, and also personal hygiene products for the Matthew 25 project. We work closely with our Sunday School group and assisted them with an end of the school year party in May, a fall kick-off in September, and a Christmas party in December.

We are very grateful for the generous support we are given by our congregation! We are grateful to be able to pass that generosity on in a meaningful way through the volunteer work we participate in, Thank you very much!

*Respectfully submitted by Bonnie & Kyle Schepp, Keith & Amy Neshem, LL Advisors*

## **MOUNTRAIL BETHEL HOME REPORT FOR 2023**

The annual meeting was held November 16, 2023 at American Lutheran Church – Stanley. Gayle Gorseth & Connie Hagen attended as delegates from Zion Lutheran – Berthold along with Lyle Gorseth, Was Hagen, Pastor George Schuessler, and Bob & Helen Grant, all from Zion.

We were served a wonderful meal by the Bethel Home Auxiliary to start the evening. Before the meal, a prayer was given by Pastor Rebecca Mangelsdorf of Prairie Lutheran Parish (which includes American, Bethlehem, Faith & Knife River). After the meal, a devotion and prayer was given.

Board President Ryan Gjellstad called the meeting to order. Introductions were made and then Steph Everett, CEO/Administrator gave the Administrator's Report. Steph is also Director of the Mountrail County Health Foundation and gave that report. Following that, the Financial Report was given by Eugenia Griffen, Controller. An Activities Department Presentation was given by Chuck Repnow, Activities Coordinator. Chuck stressed that the residents are still important and have something to say and be heard. It is up to us to see and hear them. He thanks the auxiliary and Stanley Community for their commitment to the Bethel Home. After that, Helen Grant, Auxiliary President, gave the Auxiliary Report. She gave thanks to Chuck Repnow for the "special treatment" the auxiliary receives when they have their meetings, plus all the support given to their work and projects by the community this past year. She also mentioned their "Love Luncheon" (a fundraiser) will be February 4, 2024.

A special presentation was given to John Anderson for his 9 years on the board and reaching term limits. He received a plaque in appreciation of his service.

Elections were held. Elda Titus was re-elected to another 3-year term. Jamie Germundson was elected to a 3-year term, replacing John Anderson.

We closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

It was an entertaining and educational meeting.

*Respectfully submitted by Connie Hagen*

## **MOUNTRAIL BETHEL HOME AUXILIARY REPORT 2023**

2023 has been a busy and fun year – Our MBH Auxiliary's mission is to help provide for the residents in any way we can and we meet 4 times a year. Prayer starts and ends our meetings with our CEO Stephanie and any Department managers giving us updates and requests for the residents.

Our funding comes from memorials, donations, our offerings at the meetings, Rada cutlery sales, and fundraisers. We hold our Love Luncheon and Raffle every February – be sure and come to the Stanley Senior's Citizens February 4, 2024. We sell Rada Cutlery all year long – ask any MBH Aux member or see the display in the hospital waiting room. We take our Rada cutlery to the Stanley Home & Garden Show and also come to the Berthold Fall Bazaar & Festival. We hosted a Rummage Sale with the MBH and Hospital having lots of items to sell also. This helped us pay off our big purchase this year for a Wheelchair Scale.

Another change we made this year was to combine the meetings for the Mountrail Bethel Home Auxiliary and the Hospital Auxiliary Board. Our boards will meet together but we will still have our own business and treasuries. Officers were elected to run the meeting: Pres – Helen Grant; Secretary – Lynn Patten; the MBH Treasurer Deloris Oja, and Hospital Treasurer Faye Borud.

The Nursing Home, Rosen Place and Centennial Court have all received items from us to make the Resident's lives better and happier. We help honor holidays, birthdays, Bingo, or any special events in any way we can. This year we have purchased irons, ironing board, a bowling set, hand mixer, model cars, bedspreads, napkins, tablecloths,

towels, tumblers, puzzle table, music, flowers – (both inside and in the outside planters), helping Chuck make a Veteran’s Board, bought an electronic screen/info board for the common’s area, and always donate popcorn and keep up the Aviary. We have made a request to buy locally if at all possible. Our big purchase this year was the Wheelchair Scale.

Thank you to the churches, wonderful administration, staff, volunteers, and families of MBH. Our MBH mission is to help the Residents and helping those who help them. Please let us know if we can do anything else.

God Bless You All!

*MBH Auxiliary President Helen Grant*

**THE MBH PINK 2023 CHRISTMAS TREE**

Zion collected \$501 on the Pink Christmas Tree for the MBH. They were so thankful for this and some of the money was used for Videos, magazine subscriptions, Bingo prizes, Art supplies and a special item was to get fried chicken legs from Cash Wise!

Thank You from MBH!

**MISSION TRUST AND ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2023**

The Zion Lutheran Endowment fund committee met on Tuesday June 20, 2023 at 7:30 pm. Members present were Wes Hagen, Gary Neshem, Pastor George, Marvin Heller, Seth Gravesen, Kylene Hornberger, Jackie Deaver and Kyle Schepp.

The committee had a request of funds from the Zion Sunday school to help pay for Metigoshe day camp. The cost for day camp is \$45 per person. The Sunday school is planning on 25 students attending day camp. Seth Gravesen made the motion to give the Sunday school \$1100-\$1200. Second by Marvin. Motion carried.

The committee has some discussion about reinvesting the Mission Trust Fund CD. Right now the CD is drawing an interest rate of 1.244% with a maturity date of 1/21/2025. We would have to pay a penalty of 1.5% of the balance of the CD in order to reinvest it. We can earn 4.6% for 3 years if we reinvest the CD. Gary Neshem made the motion to pay the penalty and reinvest the CD at 4.6% for 3 years. Second by Marvin. Motion carried.

The maintenance and property committee let us know that we need to replace the windows above the sanctuary. We don’t have a firm number on how much it is going to cost but they are estimating around \$10,000. Marvin made the motion that we give \$10,000 toward the cost to replace the windows above the sanctuary. Second by Seth. Motion carried.

Gary made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mission Trust Fund CD Balance (drawing 4.523% interest)	\$184,864.27
Mission Plus Checking Account	\$ 51,313.95
Mission Investment Fund Balance (total of CD + checking)	\$236,178.22
ELCA Endowment Fund Balance	\$126,245.72

*Submitted by Kyle Schepp*