

Zion Lutheran Church
411 3rd Ave. NE
Little Falls, MN 56345
320-632-5792

ZION STEWARD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019



Office Administrator: Barb Johnson
Zion Email: zionlf@yahoo.com
Church Office: 320.632.5792
Website: zionlf.com

Saturday Worship: 6:30pm
Sunday Worship: 9:00am
Creative Worship 11:15am

Communion 1st & 3rd weekend
Sunday School @ 10:15am
Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 10:30am

Knowing the Real Jesus

John 6:26-27(ESV) ²⁶Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”

A story is told about an elderly widow named Millie. One morning, Millie showed up at the offices of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) in her town. She reported that she had been swindled out of most of her life savings by someone pretending to represent a “surefire” investment company. Millie recounted all the spectacular things that she had been told about that company to the person at the BBB who was listening to her story. She reported that she had invested substantially in this company only to discover later that it didn’t even exist. Millie wanted to know if the BBB could do anything about her plight. The person listening to her story asked, “Millie, why didn’t you come to us before you made that investment?” Millie responded, “I was afraid that you might tell me not to invest in that company.”

We’ve all heard the saying, “If it sounds too good to be true—it probably is!” Con-folks, swindlers, sweet talking liars, and the like can easily make an opportunity for investment sound lucrative, desirable, foolproof, and a “once in a lifetime” opportunity. We know those type of people are out there in the world; yet even with that awareness, people continued to be duped by these robbers. Why is that? Perhaps it’s as simple as these crooks telling us what we want to hear. And then because it’s what we want to hear—we, more or less, convince ourselves to ignore any of our normal safeguards and believe it. Whatever they’re saying has to be true, because we want it to be true.

Myriads of people heard Jesus preach and saw the miracles He performed. For some, following after Jesus was little more than attempting to be around for the next “magic” show. They missed the real point of the signs (miracles) that Jesus performed. Rather than being convinced by the signs that Jesus was sent by God, they seemingly deduced that Jesus was some kind of common entertainer sent to amuse the crowds. For others, according to John’s text, they followed after Jesus to receive some more loaves. These folks apparently believed following after Jesus was an easy way to obtain their next meal without having to work for it.

People haven’t changed since the days of Jesus. Just as there were some true followers back then, we have our true followers today. And sad to say, we have plenty of present-day doubters who have missed primary message of why Jesus came to live among us in the first place. Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, became one of us as He took on human flesh to mingle with us, teach us, provide us with the opportunity to know our Creator, be an example for us to follow, and deliver us from sin, death, and the devil. Our redemption was accomplished through His sacrificial death on that wooden cross and His rising from the dead on that first Easter morning. Because of Him, and only because of Him, we have the hope, the promise, and the expectation of eternal life in the hereafter.

Rather than a personal, loving, and trusting relationship with Jesus, some folks simply see Him as an easy way to get what they want out of life. Years ago, I knew a guy, who after being introduced to Jesus, went out and bought a new expensive van. I knew they guy couldn’t afford that van, but he insisted that he had prayed about it and Jesus wanted him to have it. A few months later, the van was repossessed. The guy couldn’t afford the payments. He was seeing Jesus his personal magician rather than through the eyes of faith.

You and I have been given the real thing—the faith that endures to eternal life. The Lord may well work impressive miracles in your life as He provides the daily bread necessary to sustain you and yours. All that He has given and continues to give is prompted by His never-ending love for you. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

July 8, 2019

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Vice President Barb Jelinski called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting opened with a reading by Nancy Peterson. In attendance were Pastor Gary Hendrickson, Mike Beseman, Don Stover, Nancy Peterson, Amanda Dawson, Barb Jelinski, Marlyn Poppen, Carol Prozinski, Sheldon Prozinski, and Bev Messinger.

Motion made by Nancy Peterson and seconded by Don Stover to approve the agenda as written; motion carried.

Motion made by Carol Prozinski and seconded by Don Stover to approve the minutes of the last meeting (June 10, 2019) as written; motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Hendrickson reported:

1. During the previous month (Jun), there were **no** baptisms, confirmations, funerals, marriages, releases, nor professions of faith.
2. **Calls:** Sixteen (16) calls to homebound members and two (2) others (visitors/referrals, etc). There were no hospital nor member visitations.
3. **Transfers:** **In** - Jim & Judy Larson from St. John's Lutheran, Aitkin, on June 6
Out - Barb Miller to St. Peter's, Swanville, on June 26
4. **Polka Praise Service:** The next one will be September 22.
5. **Pastors' Circuit Meeting:** None scheduled for the summer. We'll likely be meeting at Zion early this fall.
6. **Adult Confirmation Class:** We've completed ten (10) of twelve (12) scheduled sessions. Seven (7) are attending weekly – two (2) members (Diane Colombe and Derik Lipke) and five (5) others (Brittney Carwell, Randi Graves, Courteney Patraw, Alyssa Cogswell Lipke, and George Booth) have indicated interest in becoming members. I continue to anticipate this class will end on July 16. My plan is to receive those desiring into communicant membership on Sunday, July 21.
7. **Jury Duty:** I've been notified that I will/may be on Jury Duty on July 18 & 19.
8. **Vacation:** I will not be here for the following Sunday's – August 4, 11, 18, & 25. DCO Peter Keyes will be conducting Sunday worship on August 11 & 25. Visiting Pastor Carnicom will conduct Communion worship on August 4 & 18. There will also be a baptism for the newest Prozinski baby on August 4. ***NO SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES IN AUGUST.***
9. **Greeters:** Beginning in August, there will be two (2) greeters assigned for every Sunday morning service – one greeter for each main entrance to our church. Note: Visitor Hosts have been renamed "Greeters". New pin-on name tags have been made for all our Greeters. Updated Greeter Job Descriptions have been placed in all greeters' mail slots.

DCO REPORT: Director of Christian Outreach, Peter Keyes, is currently on vacation.

TREASURER'S REPORT Don Stover reported:

Operating Account

1. Income vs. Expenses for June = positive \$3,436. 2019 was a five (5) Sunday month while 2018 was a four (4) Sunday month.
2. Income vs. Expenses year-to-date = positive \$11,422. Expenses in general have been low as certain budgeted projects have yet to be incurred. 2019 year to date has had twenty-six (26) weeks of offering activity while 2018 had twenty-five (25) weeks of offering activity. The \$11,422 of income is a positive variance of \$15,340 from the loss of \$3,918 that was present last year. Major reasons for the positive variance include Offering Income positive of \$5,644 (in part due to one more week); Property Expenses less in 2019 by \$3,011; no boiler loan in 2019 positive \$4,137; and no bookkeeper salary and related taxes positive by \$3,489.
3. Copier paper was bought for \$600.
4. Evangelism expenses included ads for the Polka Service and Garage Sale (\$202).

Building Fund

1. The June loan payment of \$3,742.18 was comprised of \$1,203.02 of principal reduction and \$2,539.16 of interest. The Building Loan at the end of June was \$785,118.
2. The Building Fund investment balance at the end of June was \$35,670.
3. Building Fund income during Jun was \$4,625.97. This is comprised of:
 - a. Offerings (5 Sundays) = \$2,790.76
 - b. ZLW Garage Sale proceeds = \$1,525
 - c. Thrivent Choice Dollars = No receipts in June
 - d. Lenten can proceeds = \$10.21
 - e. Table/chair sale = \$300

Revolving Funds

1. The June Door Offering for Lutheran Island Camp totaled \$197.
2. The Youth Fund had net transfer expense of \$850 as \$30 of Offering Income was offset by \$880 paid for the Lutheran Island Camp servant event.
3. A memorial of \$1,500 for the pipe organ was received in memory of George and Helen Vogt.
4. Altar Flowers account balance = \$185
5. Lutheran Witness subscription balance = \$99.48

BOARD REPORTS

BOARD OF ELDERS: Sheldon Prozinski reported:

1. A reminder will go to DCO Keyes about the outside cigarette receptacles.
2. Church membership – there is a difference in who we pay for at the District level and those we mail to (active membership vs inactive membership). We will go through the list again. According to Shepherds Staff, for 150 households in the congregation, we are considered a small church.
3. The elders will help with the Chick-for-Bricks dinner planned for August 22.

TRUSTEES: Mike Beseman reported:

1. Frank Gosiak to be here shortly to measure the sidewalk railings.
2. Keith Schumann also talked to CME – they will give us a price to replace all six (6) lights.
3. The latch in the men’s bathroom will need to be fixed.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION: Amanda Dawson reported:

1. The National Youth Gathering is this week in Minneapolis.
2. We are planning a mini golf outing or possibly attending a Rox game in August as a kick-off to Sunday school, which starts in September.

STEWARDSHIP: Marlyn Poppen reported:

1. We received a request from an individual to be a future recipient of a door offering. After much discussion, it was determined that, since the request was not a mission-oriented project, we decline the request. Pastor Hendrickson will be writing a letter to the individual.
2. Future door offerings: **July** – Oasis-MN; **Aug** – Lutheran Heritage; **September** – Gideon’s.

EVANGELISM: See Pastor Hendrickson’s comments under Pastor Report (item 9.).

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Bike Rack** – Keith Schumann is checking into this item. **Outside Cigarette Receptacles** – Mike Beseman will check into this item
2. **Centershot Ministry Program** – Per Amanda Dawson, four (4) people attended the meeting (DCO Peter Keyes, Greg Rausch, Craig Bohnsack, and Amanda Dawson). We are looking into grants so we can get this started in January 2020.
3. **Congregational Survey** – Carol Prozinski handed out a compiled survey result to those in attendance at this council meeting. Board chairs will bring this information to their next meeting for review/discussion.
4. **Steeple Repair** – Mike Beseman will check with Kimmen for a quote on repair costs.
5. **Audio Visual Recommendation** – Awaiting information from Christian Ganz.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **New Eternal Candle for Chancel** – Don Stover will look into getting an electric candle to replace the wax candles. This will be more cost efficient as the candles are changed each week.
2. **Sunday School Superintendent for 2019/2020** – Amanda Dawson stated the Board of Ed would take this on.
3. **Planning Meeting After August Council Meeting?** – The planning meeting for next year’s calendar will indeed be held after the August Council Meeting.
4. **Agenda for July Voter’s Assembly** – Carol Prozinski will prepare the agenda for the July Voter’s Assembly. Currently on the agenda is the results of the Congregational Survey and Committee Reports.

Motion to adjourn was made by Don Stover and seconded by Marlyn Poppen; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m., closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Upcoming meetings and important dates:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Quarterly Voters Assembly | - Sunday, July 28 – 10:30 a.m. |
| Council Meeting | - Monday, August 12, 6:30 p.m. |
| “Chick-for-Bricks” Dinner | - Thursday, August 22, 5-7 p.m. |
| Polka Service | - Sunday, September 22, 9:00 a.m. |

/s/

Beverly Messinger
Recording Secretary



**Sing praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!**

Women's News

LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY BIBLE STUDY

Monday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m.

The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Bible study will meet on Monday, **August 19** at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The study, "We Will Serve the Lord," can be found on page 18 of the Summer 2019 LWQ. Join us as we explore who, why, and how we can *serve the Lord with gladness* (Psalm 100:2).

ZLW MEETING

Monday, August 19 at 10:00 a.m.

The ZLW will meet on Monday, **August 19** at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. We will discuss the leadership needs of the ZLW as well as upcoming events and projects. Please get involved and share your ideas. All women of Zion are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the ZLW which is our local connection to the LWML.

WOMEN'S DAY OUT

Monday, August 19 at 11:00 a.m.

Women's Day Out will be on Monday, **August 19** at the Little Falls Country Club where we will get together for fellowship and lunch. We will carpool from church at 11:00 a.m. Contact Marilyn Boeddeker at 632-3191 if you plan to attend. We will be celebrating August birthdays! Bring a friend!

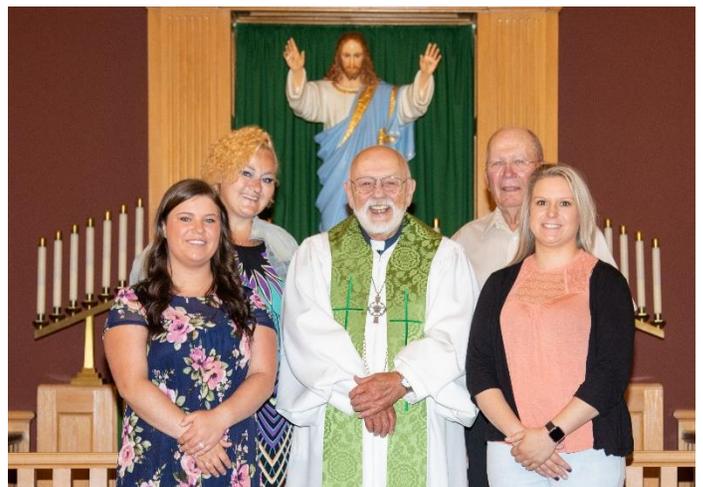
Confirmation

Junior Confirmation classes will begin at Zion on Wednesday, September 4th, at 6:30 p.m. for 1st and 2nd year students (7th and 8th graders).

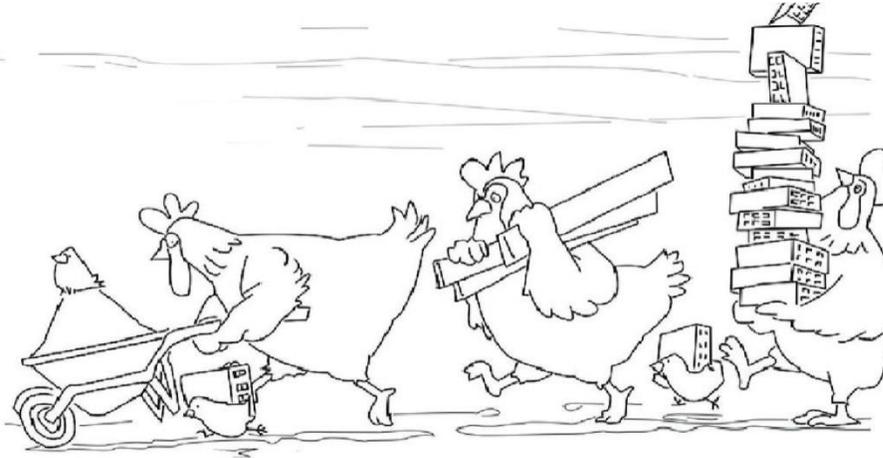
If you desire your child to attend these classes, please call Barb at 632-5792 to register your child. Early registration is necessary so that adequate instructional materials may be ordered.

On July 21st, Zion in Little Falls happily received 4 adults into their communicant membership. These folks had recently completed a 12-week study of Basic Bible Teachings (An Introduction to the Lutheran Faith) and Luther's Small Catechism.

Pictured are Alyssa Lipke, Brittney Carwell, Pastor Hendrickson, George Booth, and Courtney Patraw



CHICKS FOR BRICKS



Thursday, August 22nd

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church

411 Third Ave NE

Little Falls

Chicken – Ham – Potato Salad – Chips

Fresh Fruit – Rolls – Dessert – Beverage

Proceeds go to our new Fellowship Hall – \$8.00 per person suggested

August Servants

August		Elder	Ushers	Reader	Greeters *	Acolyte	Organist	FH Servers
4	COM	Sheldon Prozinski	Eugene Doucette & Dennis Hollermann	Don Stover	Julie Doucette & Marilyn Husby	Elder	Carol Prozinski	Herman & Lois Johannes
11		Chris Roe	Harvey Axel & Marcel Bellefeuille	Katie Schumann	Darlene Axel & Nancy Christensen	Elder	Peggy Dolney	Karen Dickmann & Linda Dickmann
18	COM	Craig Bohnsack	Ben Messinger & Bailey Dawson	Amanda Dawson	Norma Naill & Ginny Fitch	Elder	Carol Prozinski	Bev Messinger & Amanda Dawson
25	Blended	Mike Gohl	Wayne Ganz & David Dickmann	Dan Gilder	Karen Dickmann & Carolyn Ganz	Elder	Peggy Dolney	Carol & Sheldon Prozinski
31		Greg Rausch	Paul Gulsvig	Colleen Duncan	Paul Gulsvig	Elder	Carol Prozinski	

* If you have not received a copy of the job description for Greeters, please see Barb for a copy

NO Saturday Services until August 31st.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

8/01	Marlyn Poppen	8/13	Christian Ganz	8-02	Sheldon & Carol Prozinski
8/01	Tavon Jackson	8/13	Don Fitch	8-06	Herman & Lois Johannes
8/02	Roger Harriman	8/16	George Booth	8-20	Rick & Patti Seward
8/02	Peter Brutscher	8/16	David Dickmann	8-21	Don & Ginny Fitch
8/05	Bailey Dawson	8/17	Connor Peterschick	8-29	Keith & Katie Schumann
8/06	Preston Dahlen	8/19	Nicholas Prozinski	8-31	Don & Lois Stover
8/06	Edwin Holtz	8/20	Marvanna Pederson		
8/07	MAJ Paul Dahlen	8/23	Jennifer Hanson		
8/09	Marlin Parker	8/23	Colleen Seward		
8/09	Peter Keyes	8/26	Gloria Irwin		
8/09	Dee Smith	8/29	Michael Gohl		

