

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

ZION STEWARD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 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

Please, Trouble Me!

Mark 5:35(ESV) ³⁵While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

Some years ago, an elementary age boy, Joe, suffered severe burns to a large portion of his body from an accidental fire in his home. He ended up in the children's burn unit in the local hospital. His burns were slowly healing, but the boy's attitude was quite depressed. Like most people, the young boy quickly became disenchanted with the slow progression of his healing. He began to wonder if he would ever get better. And the more he pondered that possibility, the more despondent he became. And his despondency was negatively affecting his healing and recovery.

This particular hospital had a teacher who helped children keep up with their school work while they were hospitalized. Joe's teacher at school contacted the hospital teacher and asked if she would work with Joe on his nouns and verbs so that he wouldn't get behind the class. The hospital teacher was quite accustomed to working with hospitalized children, but she wasn't prepared for Joe. She went to his room and there was Joe who appeared to be one gigantic bandage hiding a person inside.

The hospital teacher explained that his regular school teacher had asked her to work with Joe on his nouns and verbs so that he wouldn't get behind in his class work. She spoke as softly and encouragingly as she was able when she attempted to communicate with Joe. Finally, she told Joe that she'd be back the next day to begin working with him.

As promised, the next day the hospital teacher returned. As she neared Joe's room, one of the nurses stopped her and asked, "What in the world did you say to Joe yesterday?" The teacher became immediately defensive and began to apologize for not being more proficient in her dealings with Joe. But the nurse immediately interrupted her and began heaping accolades of praise upon her stating what a change she had made on Joe. He was no long despondent; instead, he was quite cheery and appeared to have the will and desire to get better.

What happened? From Joe's perspective when a teacher came to his hospital room and offered to teach him about nouns and verbs, he began to think that he wasn't going to die—that he wasn't going to be tied to that hospital bed forever—that he was going to get better. After all, they wouldn't send a teacher to help him if he wasn't going to recover. And that changed his entire attitude. It was like he had a brand-new desire to recover.

Have you ever "Given Up" on life—somewhat like what Joe did in the preceding story? It's easy to do, because it seems so natural. When friends have deserted you; when others are spreading lies about you; when you are overlooked at work; when you are the only one not invited; when the doctor gives you a formidable diagnosis; when you can't see any way out of a predicament, you're in. Yeah, these situations can quite easily push us over the edge and move us towards what appears to be the most expedient way out: giving up.

If you, a believer in Jesus Christ, have ever felt that way and given up—there are only two possible explanations: either you have come to believe that whatever is troubling you is beyond God's help or you think that this is just too small of a problem with which to bother God. Both of these conclusions are absolutely wrong! Nothing in all of creation is beyond God's help and control. No problem, difficulty, or concern is too small to bring before the Lord's throne of grace and mercy.

Whatever is causing you concern, the Lord says, "Trouble Me with it." It may seem that your situation is irresolvable. But just as it was in our text above, people from the ruler's house believed that dead was dead and no one, including Jesus, could help the little girl now. Little did they know that Jesus had the power over death and was willing to use that power to help. Because of the great love that Jesus has for you, He is willing to be troubled by every one of your cares and concerns. Trouble Him; He's wants to hear from you.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. For by Me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.” Proverbs 9: 10-11

We are knocking on the door of another year, 2019... the year 2018 will have been put to rest. It was a year of joy and sadness, endings and new beginnings, challenges and victories, emotional highs and lows, and most of all, a year of comfort. In the midst of our daily lives, we can take comfort from the promises of God to always be with us, to give us strength, to fill us with peace, and carry us through the rough spots, and set our feet on solid ground. God’s promises of a Savior have been fulfilled. Jesus has defeated death. The victory has already been won for us. Whatever suffering we may experience on this side of eternity will be nothing when we compare it to the glory of spending the rest of forever with the Lord in His heavenly home.

In 2018 we had the privilege to have our son Nathan, his wife Mai, and daughter Sammy stay with us for several months. We watched Sammy learn to walk and talk, play with our dogs, and enjoy the slides on the playground. We also had the rare opportunity to take Nathan’s family down to my parent’s home so we could spend Christmas with my mother and father. We knew it might be the last time we would be able to be all together at their home for Christmas. In February, dad had to move into a nursing home and mom moved into an assisted living apartment at the end of the same building in May, so they could be together. (Dad went home to be with Jesus in June.) Mom is doing well and has made new friends with the people in her building.

Nathan, Mai, and Sammy returned to Thailand in September. He is teaching English on-line through VIP-Kid. He started the process by applying for the position in January and was officially hired to start in March. It took a while to build up a client base, but by the end of August, he was teaching 8-10 classes per day. Their family is growing with a child expected to be born in May.

2018 brought a few changes in our employment as well. Marci has continued to work in food service at the Lindberg Elementary School and was hired as the janitor at Zion in September. I (Peter) have been assisting her by mopping and vacuuming floors and doing the heavy lifting. My contract at Shepherd of the Pines in Rice came to an end with Confirmation Sunday on April 24. (I will miss teaching these students. We had a very good experience together with students and their parents.) I started doing the outside grounds-keeping at Zion in March. And Nathan and I also worked briefly for the Little Falls Greenhouse Nursery from March – June, watering started plants.

2018 also brought sorrow, as we have said ‘good byes’ to several friends and relatives who have gone to their eternal home. My good friends Brian and Dennis, my father (Donald, my best friend’s father (Evert), my cousin Debbie, and her father, my uncle Clair (just to mention a few) all went home to be with their Lord Jesus. I will miss them, but I also know that I will see them again.

We are closing the book on 2018 in joy as we expect to spend a few days with our grand-daughters, Elise and Ginny, our daughter-in-law, Carin, and daughter and son-in-law, Naomi and Michael for a year end celebration.

GOD IS GOOD! May He grant you all a blessed and peace filled new year. DCO Peter & Marci Keyes

December 10, 2018

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

President Carol Prozinski called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. The meeting opened with a reading by Carol Prozinski. In attendance were Pastor Gary Hendrickson, Mike Beseman, Sheldon Prozinski, Don Stover, Nancy Peterson, DCO Peter Keyes, Barb Jelinski, Carol Prozinski, and Bev Messinger.

Motion made by Sheldon Prozinski and seconded by Nancy Peterson to approve the minutes of the last meeting (November 12, 2018) as written. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Hendrickson reported:

1. During the previous month (November), there were **no** baptisms, confirmations, marriages, transfers, nor professions of faith.
2. **Calls:** Nineteen (19) calls to homebound members, one (1) member visit, and one (1) other (visitors/referrals). There were no hospital visits this month.
3. **Released:** Carlyle and Kristin Olsen became members at St. John's Lutheran (WELS) in Hastings, MN on November 12, 2018.
4. **Funerals:** Lloyd Fritz November 21, 2018; funeral at Zion on November 28, 2018
5. **Junior Confirmation:** Classes have been going well. We've completed twelve (12) lessons and are finishing our study of the Apostles' Creed. Confirmation Day will be on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019.
6. **Adult Confirmation:** No interest at this time.
7. **Polka Praise Service:** The next one will be on May 26, 2019. We also have the musicians reserved for September 22, 2019.
8. **Creative Worship Service on Sundays at 11:15:** Attendance has been minimal – four (4) a week ago, and zero (0) yesterday. There will be **NO** Creative Worship on December 23 (Sunday school Christmas Program celebration) and December 30 (DCO Keyes is gone). We will re-evaluate this worship opportunity in January.
9. **Pastors' Circuit Meeting:** The next one will be at Good Shepherd in Sauk Rapids on January 8, 2019.
10. **Keith Fellbaum:** I talked with Nancy Larson, Keith's daughter in Billings, this morning. Keith is now residing in an assisted living facility in Billings. He is having some problems with dementia. She and her family brought him to worship yesterday. She will send me his address to be published in our bulletin.
11. **Christmas Eve** Candlelight Worship at 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Communion Worship at 9:00 a.m.

DCO REPORT: Director of Christian Outreach, Peter Keyes, reported:

1. Evangelism is hosting Friendship Club on Friday, December 14 – guest speakers will be from CHI St Gabriel’s on the Opioid crisis.
2. The DCE from Cohasset will be coming January 12, 2019 to provide information on the Center Shot Archery Skills with Bible Program.
3. Youth will be selling cookies this weekend and also going Christmas caroling.

TREASURER’S REPORT Don Stover reported:

Operating Account

1. Income vs. Expenses for November = +1,141.23
2. Income vs. Expenses year-to-date = +\$5,740.31. Without consideration of the “Carry-over of Previous Year” income amount of \$4,217.48, the income vs Expenses on a YTD basis = +\$1,522.83
3. Pastor Mileage Reimbursement of \$265 included two (2) months of charges (Oct/Nov).
4. Bookkeeper Payroll has now been reduced to \$0 as duties are being assimilated by existing personnel.

Building Fund

1. A principal reduction payment of \$25,000 was made during the month. This resulted in a re-amortization of the monthly payment, reducing it by \$118.44 per month from \$3,860.62 per month to \$3,742.18 per month. The payment of \$3,742.18 that was made in November was comprised of \$1,176.17 of principal reduction and \$2,566.01 of interest.
2. The aforementioned payments reduced the outstanding Building Loan from \$819,634 at the end of October to \$793,458 at the end of November.
3. The Building Fund investment deposit with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) at the end of November was \$34,823.
4. Building Fund offerings in November (4 Sundays) were \$2,274. In addition:
 - a. Memorials for the building fund in the amount of \$870 were received on behalf of Millie Rebeschke, Jeff Peterson, and the mother of Bing Ganz.
 - b. Thrivent Choice Dollars = \$50 *Thank you for your designations!!!*

Revolving Funds

1. The November Door Offering for Little Falls Health Services totaled \$413.
2. The Office Upgrade/Efficiency fund recorded \$130 of expense for the Nov/Dec Church Windows accounting/payroll software.
3. The Youth Fund had expenses that included the July 2019 National Youth Gathering (\$1,460). Income amounts included the Bazaar book sale (\$179), can man recycling (\$35), offerings (\$66), and a transfer from Evangelism for serving at the Polka Service Lunch (\$100).
4. Miscellaneous “in memory of” donations for Millie Rebeschke (\$20), Laurine Zimmerman (\$10), and Lloyd Fritz (\$10) were received.
5. Sunday School had an “in memory of” donation of \$100 (Millie Rebeschke), and an “in memory of” donation for Abigail Molitor earmarked for the Childrens’ Christmas program (\$100) and offset by an expense of \$225 to provide for shipping expenses of the Samaritan’s Purse shoeboxes.

6. Altar Flowers account balance = \$155
7. Lutheran Witness subscription balance = \$58.12

BOARD REPORTS

BOARD OF ELDERS: Sheldon Prozinski reported the Elders reviewed the employees and salaries and recommend 2.8% cost of living adjustment (COLA), except for Barb Johnson, for whom the Elders recommended the COLA adjustment AND an additional salary increase of \$1 per hour as she will also be doing bookkeeping duties. All salary adjustments must be approved in conjunction with the 2019 budget at the January 2019 Voters' Assembly.

TRUSTEES: Mike Beseman reported:

1. Keith Schumann will contact CGI about the cracked cement in the new Fellowship Hall.
2. The Trustees also terminated the contract with the company to clean rugs effective January 1, 2019. New rugs have been purchased for the front entrance.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION: Barb Jelinski reported:

1. The Sunday school will be singing with the choir for Christmas on Sunday, December 23, at 9:00 a.m. Four (4) children will be playing their instruments before the start of the service – Addison Bohnsack, McKenzie Bates, Abby Dawson, and Jazmine Dickmann. There will be a “Birthday for Jesus” celebration in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the service.
2. **No** Sunday school December 23 and December 30.
3. The youth will be having a Bake Sale on December 15 and December 16.
4. Christmas caroling is being planned on Saturday, December 15.
5. This is my last meeting for Youth and Education. Amanda Dawson is the new Chair for the Board of Education as of January 1, 2019.

STEWARDSHIP: Pastor Hendrickson reported (Marlyn Poppen provided the information):

Upcoming Door Offerings - December - **St Otto's**

- January - **Military Bible Sticks**
- February - **The Lutheran Hour**
- March - **Food Shelf (speaker Barb Jelinski)**
- April - **Flyer Pride Pack – Little Falls**
- April 21 - **Lenten Cans**

EVANGELISM: Pastor Hendrickson reported:

1. DCO Keyes received a book on “How to be Welcoming in the Church”. Copies were made for each of the six (6) Evangelism members.
2. We currently have a “shared” leadership for Evangelism but need one of them to report at the Church Council Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2019 Budget** (Don Stover) – Preliminary report was provided to the Council members. He will work-up information for a bulletin item regarding monies needed for the monthly Fellowship Hall building loan. After discussion, the 2019 budget document will be revised for the January Council Meeting and will be presented at the January 2019 Quarterly Voters’ Assembly.

A motion was made by Barb Jelinski for Annual Mission Funds at 8% and \$3000 for the Puerto Rico Mission Trip (6 individuals). If the \$3000 is not needed, these monies will go back to the original mission request; motion was seconded by Don Stover; motion carried.

2. **Credit Cards** (Don Stover) – A draft credit card policy was presented to the council. After discussion, the draft policy will be finalized for implementation in January 2019.

3. **Wish List** (Carol Prozinski) – possible items for a “wish list” – big screen TV for youth, additional pool cues and storage rack, new carpet in the nursery, new carpet in the narthex, and a bike rack. Carol will put an item in upcoming bulletins.

NEW BUSINESS: None at this time.

Motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Peterson and seconded by Barb Jelinski; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m., closing with the Lord’s Prayer.

Upcoming meetings and important dates:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Next Council Meeting | - Monday, January 14, 2019 - 6:30 p.m. |
| Next Quarterly Voters’ Assembly | - January 27, 2019 - 10:30 a.m. |

/s/

Beverly Messinger
Recording Secretary

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

I remember being told by a friend, "I can't walk into a shelter because I would just want to take them all home."

So she did nothing.

"It's just so negative to think about, and no one can figure out how to solve it," said a man to the organization working hard to help victims of human trafficking.

So he did nothing.

God said to go into all the world, which means that we have a responsibility to do impossible things every day. In the face of the impossible, we serve a God who makes all things possible! When we make one step, God makes two, or 10, or 100 to multiply his plan through us. Every great accomplishment for good began as an impossible task. One person, with God's help, can create a wave of change so positive and so powerful that evil quakes in the undercurrent.

"Take heart" appears five times in the New International Version of the Bible. "Take courage" appears four times. The repetition shows that we need encouragement, and we need to be reminded that our good works are pleasing to God. No good deed escapes the heart of Christ. He sees all of the efforts we make because he's making them right along with us!

The outcome of our work is not our goal. Our goal is Christ, and he will complete the good work begun in you until he returns. Humorist Erma Bombeck said, "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, "I used everything you gave me." I want to be able to say that too. How about you?

So, take heart, take courage, and be of the knowledge that you are pleasing in God's sight in dreaming and doing the impossible every day!

COMING
SOON!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY EVENINGS
@ 6:00PM

BEGINNING JANUARY 10TH

LED BY: DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
PETER KEYES

MORE THAN 800,000 COPIES SOLD!

How to
MANAGE
Your
MONEY

An In-Depth
Bible Study
On Personal
Finances

LARRY BURKETT

Women's News

WOMEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Mondays, January 7, 14, and 28 at 9:00 a.m.

This month we will complete our Bible study, "1 Corinthians: One in Christ," as we meet in the Fireside Room on Monday mornings, **January 7** (#12), 14 (#13), and 28 (#14) at 9:00 a.m.

LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY BIBLE STUDY

Monday, January 21 at 9:00 a.m.

The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Bible study will meet on Monday, **January 21** at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The study can be found on page 18 of the LWQ Winter 2018 issue and is titled, "Shh! Peace. Be Still." We will focus on keeping calm during life's storms and trials, with God's help. Join us! If you don't have a copy of the LWQ, we will get you one.

ZLW MEETING

Monday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m.

The ZLW will meet on Monday, **January 21** at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. We will discuss upcoming ZLW activities and finalize a budget for 2019. All women of Zion are invited to attend and share your ideas. Remember, the ZLW is Zion's connection to the LWML.

WOMEN'S DAY OUT

Monday, January 21 at 11:15 a.m.

On Monday, **January 21**, we will get together for fellowship and lunch at the Black and White in Little Falls. We will meet there at 11:15 a.m. Contact Bev Messinger at 360-0518 if you plan to attend. We will be celebrating January birthdays! Bring a friend!

MITE BOX REMINDER

Please remember that the LWML mite boxes serve as the financial backing for all of the selected mission projects of the LWML. As you fill your box throughout the upcoming weeks and months, please return it to church and then pick up a new box.

Thank you for your help with these projects. Many Mites Make Many Missions!!

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION!

Annual Report time is around the corner. Barb is getting a head start on the Church Directory. Please update your address if you have moved, your phone numbers if you have new phones or have eliminated your home phone. Many of the phone numbers we have are no longer working numbers.

Sunday School & Families

- † SUNDAY SCHOOL: We will resume our regular schedule for Sunday School in January. Children will be excused to go to their classes at the end of the 9:00am worship. Classes will begin at 10:15am.
- † SUNDAY MORNING – KID’S PRAISE / WORSHIP will be held in the fellowship hall at 11:15 am. The worship has upbeat children’s songs, informal conversations and teaching focused on God’s Word.

Youth Activities

- † Cook Book - We still have several books available for sale. (\$10.00)
- † We have “Lutheran” t-shirts available for sale. (\$10.00) Limited number of children and youth sizes.
- † CENTERSHOT: We are holding an informational meeting on the CenterShot archery program on Saturday, January 12 at 10:30am. DCE Tim Stroming from Cohasset will be our guest presenter. He is bringing samples of the equipment and Bible lessons. We will meet in the Zion Fellowship Hall – 10:30-Noon – Pizza & Pop for lunch.

Adult Ministry

- † SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS – We are looking for a new Sunday morning adult Bible class leader.
- † THURSDAY EVENING – “How To Manage Your Money” (Larry Burkett) led by DCO Peter Keyes. Starting on January 10 at 6pm. Sign-up for class is located on the ministry desk.

Outreach Ministry

- † FRIENDSHIP – COMMUNITY FOCUS: Friday, January 25 at 1:00pm. Topic: Grief Support - Mary Kokula from CHI Home & Hospice will be our guest speaker.
- † TRACT OF THE MONTH: “Reasons to Believe”
 - *Consider the documentation of the Bible. Much of what was written years ago has been proven to have taken place. “If the history, the archaeology, the prophecies, and claims of Scripture prove true, perhaps the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus should also be considered valid.”* Look for this booklet in the Project Connect display.
- † FACEBOOK: Continue to follow us on Facebook. www.facebook.com/zionlf. Like and share our posts.
- † ZION’S WEBSITE: www.zionlf.com. Share our link with your friends.

KID’S PRAISE WORSHIP

- † Tell others about this special worship service. The focus is on families with children. (Simple Outreach Idea: Have your needs met at the 9:00 am worship service – then invite a family with children to join you for worship at the 11:15 am service... act as their host by assisting them with their children so they can focus on worship. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!)

Contact: DCO Peter Keyes (text/call) 320-232-3108 or email mrpjkeyes@yahoo.com.

LISTEN, LEARN, LIVE with LOVE; PRAY ALWAYS.

January Servants

Jan		Elders	Ushers	Readers	Visitor Host	Acolyte	Organist
5	COM	Greg Rausch	Marie Holey & Jennifer Hanson	Jennifer Hanson	Marie Holey		Carol Prozinski
6	COM	Sheldon Prozinski	Eugene Doucette & Dennis Hollermann	Don Stover	Julie Doucette	Patrick Holtz	Carol Prozinski
12		Chris Roe	Mark Hengemuhle	Colleen Duncan	Paul Gulsvig		Peggy Dolney
13		Jerry Knafla	Harvey Axel & Marcel Bellefeuille	Katie Schumann	Darlene Axel	Jordan Stumpf	Peggy Dolney
19	COM	Craig Bohnsack	Mike Beseman & Julie Dancer	James Rebischke	Mike Beseman		Carol Prozinski
20	COM	Mike Gohl	Ben Messinger & Baily Dawson	Amanda Dawson	Nancy Christensen	Addison Bohnsack	Carol Prozinski
26		Herman Johannes	Duane Schmidt	Duane Schmidt	Judy Drewlow		Peggy Dolney
27	Blended	Jerry Knafla	Dennis Dickmann & Wayne Ganz	Dan Gilder	Carolyn Ganz	McKenzie Bates	Peggy Dolney

January Birthdays				January Anniversaries	
01/05	Bonnie Gentry	01/18	William Davis		NO ANNIVERSARIES
01/08	Madison Segler	01/21	Darlene Axel		
01/08	Megan Segler	01/21	Violet Parker		
01/09	Herman Johannes	01/26	Ellie Hughes		
01/16	Amanda Hanson	01/28	Edna Olson		
01/16	Benita Baggenstoss	01/31	James Rebischke		
01/17	Betty Rakow				

JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 6:30p Worship
6 9:00a Worship with Communion 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Creative Worship	7 9:00a Weekly Women's Bible Study 5:30p Elders Meeting	8 9:00a Circuit Meeting @ Good Shepherd in Sauk Rapids 5:00p Adult Bible Study led by Dan Hughes 6:30p Board of Education Mtg	9 9:00a Quilting Group - anyone is welcome! 6:30p Jr. Confirmation 6:30p Choir Practice	10 6:00p How To Manage Your Money	11	12 10:30a Centershot Archery Program
13 9:00a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Creative Worship	14 9:00a Weekly Women's Bible Study 5:00p Board of Stewardship 5:30p Trustee Meeting 6:30p Council Meeting	15 5:00p Adult Bible Study led by Dan Hughes	16 9:00a Quilting Group - anyone is welcome! 6:30p Jr. Confirmation 6:30p Choir Practice	17 6:00p How To Manage Your Money	18	19
20 9:00a Worship with Communion 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Creative Worship	21 9:00a LWQ Bible Study 10:00a ZLW Meeting 11:15a Women's Day Out @ Black & White	22 5:00p Adult Bible Study led by Dan Hughes	23 9:00a Quilting Group - anyone is welcome! 6:30p Jr. Confirmation 6:30p Choir Practice	24 6:00p How To Manage Your Money	25 1:00p Friendship Club Grief Support	26
27 9:00a Blended Worship 10:15a Sunday School 10:30a Annual Voters Meeting 11:15a Creative Worship	28 9:00a Weekly Women's Bible Study	29 5:00p Adult Bible Study led by Dan Hughes	30 9:00a Quilting Group - anyone is welcome! 6:30p Jr. Confirmation 6:30p Choir Practice	31 6:00p How To Manage Your Money		