

Rev. Gary Hendrickson 320.360.9617
D.C.O Peter Keyes 320.232.3108

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

Zion Steward



January 2021
Newsletter

Saturday Worship 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Communion at every service
Office hours vary during pandemic

Office Admin: Barb Johnson
Email: Zionlf@yahoo.com
Phone: 320-632-5792
Website: zionlf.com

Condensed Newsletter Draft: Zion Council Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2020

Attendance: Pastor Gary Hendrickson; President Carol Prozinski; Vice-President Barb Jelinski; 2020 Treasurer: Don Stover; 2021 Treasurer: Ellen Kalahar-Grissom; Elders: Sheldon Prozinski, Trustee: Dave Dickmann; Co-financial Secretary: Peggy Dolney; Stewardship: Bonnie Gentry; Acting Recording Secretary: Marilyn Husby

Call to order: by Vice-President Barb Jelinski @ 6:32pm

Devotions: – Carol Prozinski: John 6:1-8

Pastor Hendrickson: 2 homebound calls, 9 phone calls to members, 1 message left on answering machine * **Baptism:** Liam Daniel Lipke November 22 * **Funerals:** Marlin Parker died November 12, Funeral @ Zion November 18; Adeline Weber died November 19, Funeral @ Zion November 30th * **Deaths:** Ellen Domine died Nov 2, Graveside service & burial to be later this spring in North Dakota * **Junior Confirmation:** 13 teaching sessions on Wednesday's @ 6:30pm, currently studying the Apostles' Creed * **Pastor's Circuit meeting:** January 5 @ Messiah in Sartell (Rev Keith Weise, Sauk Rapids hosting as visitors not permitted at Good Shepherd) * **Worship readings and sermon:** sent weekly to those providing e mail addresses * **Office hours:** Barb Johnson Thursdays; pastor most weekdays after 9:30am. Barbs total hours remain 24 hours/month and weekly hours may be adjusted for the rest of 2020 * **Member Mary Kay Harris** volunteers for Zion -she makes phone calls to our homebound members – she sends out inspirational greeting cards, Christmas cards, and tracts

Transfers in and out: none

DCO Report – no report

Financial Reports – Don Stover: presented detailed November 2020 financial summary

4 motions were passed: 1) take \$25,000 from building fund and apply toward the Building loan * 2) \$10,000 memorial gift: apply 7,000 toward building fund, \$3,000 for pipe organ * 3) Purchase another Lutheran Church Extension Fund CD/Term Note for \$50,000 with a 4-year term at 2.25% interest * 4) Resolve that the number of Investment Saving Accounts at LCEF be reduced in number from four to two and any balances existing in the two accounts that are eliminated shall be transferred to one of the two other remaining accounts.

Wish List – Carol/ Barb

Wish funds to consider specific projects: looking for a definite idea what we want for the rooftop: a steeple or cross or something - Trustees will look into this and present specifics to the congregation at a later date

Board Reports

Elders – Sheldon Prozinski: No ‘non-worship’ activities allowed at Zion at this time * Jerry has CD of Christmas songs and singers for the services * Pre and postlude Christmas hymns are being played * Communion will be served on Christmas Eve * Funeral planning guide is available if anybody wants to place one in the church files -- more information to follow in the newsletter * Elders have upcoming meeting with the north district regarding protocol for calling a pastor * New persons are contemplating joining Zion

Trustees – David Dickmann: Getting bids on can lights for the entry * Heat tape applied in the down spouts * Have bids on outside painting of the church

Youth / Education – no report

Stewardship – Bonnie Gentry: Next door offering is for Bible sticks - Feb for Horizon Health * In January sending postcards about serving at Zion

Evangelism – Marilyn Husby: Successful Blood drive Dec 1st organized by Sue Vosen with helper Judy Drewlow - 32 doners (one doner was from Zion) - Next Blood Drive Thursday, April 15, 2021 * Christian Kindness narthex drop box received 12 anonymous acts of kindness - details to be highlighted in next newsletter * Peter has been distributing welcome mugs to new visitors* A Christmas ad will be placed in the newspaper * 29 of 30 Christmas Shoe Box Gifts were filled by members and submitted * 20 of 40 gift tags from the tree in the narthex were filled by members and submitted * Next Polka Praise services: April 11, 2021 & Sept 26, 2021

Old Business:

- 1. Update of Zion’s Incorporation Status: completed**
- 2. New Constitution and Bylaws:** no additional update
- 3. Paycheck Protection Program Update:** waiting to see if the loan will be forgiven
- 4. 2021 Budget:** Preliminary budget submitted, reviewed, and tabled till January meeting - **If any other 2021 budget changes requested: Contact Don ASAP**

New Business:

- 1. 2020 Annual Report:** Boards and organizations need to get annual reports to church office ASAP
- 2. Installation** of Board members and Church Council officers: Sunday Jan 3, 2021
- 3. Credit Card:** Don and Ellen will look into the future credit card use
- 4. LCEF change signers:** Motion passed: Resolved that Carol Prozinski, Ellen Kalahar-Grissom, and Barbara Jelinski shall be the Authorized Signers for investment and loan accounts with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Any of the Authorized Signers shall be allowed to complete any necessary documents or take any necessary actions to carry on normal business activity with LCEF.
- 5. Pine Country Bank Change Signers** – Motion passed: Resolved that Carol Prozinski, Ellen Kalahar-Grissom, and Barbara Jelinski shall be the Authorized Signers for the Checking Account and Safe Deposit Account “accounts” at Pine Country Bank. Any of the authorized Signers shall be allowed to complete any necessary documents or take any necessary actions to carry out normal business activity related to these Accounts.
- 6. Members 360 Software:** motioned passed that the newly elected 2021 Treasurer Ellen Kalahar-Grissom take over the administration of 360 software and all features involved
- 7. LCMS convention change date:** Upcoming 2022 St Louis convention date may be postponed till 2023. North district April 2021 conference may be delayed.
- 8. SAIL program from Office of Aging:** Stands for Stay Active and Independent for Life- free evidence-based exercise program targeting 60+ yrs.– Marilyn researching for future consideration

Council meeting Adjourned at 8:35pm with Lord’s Prayer

Upcoming meetings and important dates:

Christmas Eve Service – Thursday, December 24, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service – Friday, December 25, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

Church Council Meeting – Monday, January 11, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

Voter’s Assembly Meeting – Sunday, January 31, 2021 – 10:15 a.m.

Condensed Newsletter Draft submitted for Zion Church Council approval

Marilyn Husby, Acting Recording Secretary

FINANCIAL RECAP – DON STOVER

On a November 30, 2020 YTD basis the Offering Income at Zion has been at 82% of budget. The budget was to receive \$188,505 of Offering Income. The actual that has been received on a YTD basis is \$154,854. This is a dollar shortfall of \$33,651.

On a November 30, 2020 YTD basis the Net Cash flow (measured as offerings received less expenses paid) is a positive \$34,202. This compares to a budgeted figure of \$35,991. This means that we fell short of budget by (\$1,789). An important point to bring up is that there were several large projects that were budgeted to be done in 2020 that will be deferred into 2021 or beyond. These projects were: (1) Steeple replacement was budgeted for \$40,000. Only \$12,000 was paid for the demolition of the old steeple. The congregation will need to decide if any further work is done here in regard to erecting a steeple or some other design. No amount has been incorporated into the preliminary 2021 budget (2) \$12,000 was budgeted for outside painting. This project is being deferred until 2021 and has been put in the preliminary 2021 budget at \$10,000. (3) Seal coating of the parking lot was budgeted for \$2,500. This project is also being deferred until 2021 where it is budgeted for up to \$3,000. A positive savings, in an unfortunate manner, is due to reduced church activities and expenditures because of Covid-19. Expense reductions from budget have included:

- Pastor Hendrickson working without salary for 3-1/2 months (\$8,258)
- Reductions in office, janitor and worship music payroll and taxes (\$8,000)
- Reductions in grounds and buildings (excluding the steeple and painting) (\$11,000)
- Reductions in worship service, education, VBS, Stewardship and Evangelism type expenses (\$4,000)

On a November 30, 2020 YTD basis the Building Fund had incoming receipts (from member contributions, Chick for Bricks, Elders meal, memorials, Thrivent and other) of \$49,004. Payments on the mortgage were \$41,164.

If you have not been able to make it to church services to make your offering contributions then please mail them to: **Zion Lutheran Church, ATTN: Peggy Dolney, 411 3rd Ave NE, Little Falls, MN 56345**. Please enclose your offering envelopes, or otherwise designate as to how the money should be applied (Current, Building Fund etc.).

Christian Kindness Update

All ages are encouraged to participate in this Christian Kindness project. So far, we have 12 acts of Christian kindness. (some papers had more than 1 kind act) The goal is to reach 200. No names are submitted because we know God leads us to do kind acts.

To give you some ideas - here are some of the acts of Christian Kindness submitted in the drop box/notepad in the narthex: helping a neighbor * reading a devotion over the phone to a shut in *being nice to others * spreading the word of God* doing an act of kindness and having another kind act returned * putting a Bible & prayer in a Zion Christmas Shoe Box gift * snow blowing a neighbor's driveway - When this last neighbor was told it was a Christian Act of Kindness the response was "Love it!"

It is easy to say you are welcome - but by adding God into the picture you are letting the other person know it is a Christian Kindness. Anybody can be kind, but God is our reason for being kind. The kindness acts are heartwarming.

Use this form or a plain piece of paper to submit a Christian Kindness act.

Christian Kindness Record

Christian Kindness offers an opportunity to share God's love in a gentle way. We are God's helpers on earth. Use whatever words work for you to let others know it is specifically a Christian kindness. Any mention of God, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit lets them know who your leader is and that God uses you to care for them.

Write down your acts of Christian Kindness. Place this or any paper in the drop box at Zion or call Zion at 320-632-5792 or send email to Zionlf@yahoo.com. Please no signatures because God gets the credit.

God bless your acts of Christian Kindness!!

Practice Listening

The Boy Jesus in the Temple — Luke 2:⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he [Jesus] was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, **listening** to them and asking them questions.

Do people really listen to what we have to say? Sometimes it may seem that people are just waiting for us to stop talking so that they can begin. I often wondered if my children really listened to me, or not. I would tell them to do something--and, later if it wasn't done, I'd ask why they didn't do it. They would give me that blank stare as if I had never told them to do anything. Some people appear to listen to us when we are speaking, but they do not seem to remember whatever we told them. Possibly they just have poor memories--or they just weren't listening in the first place. Let's face it, listening is a skill which few people have mastered. To be sure, often it makes very little significant difference whether we listen to someone, or not. If we are caught not listening, we can normally excuse ourselves with a simple apology, claiming that we had something else on our mind, or we just misunderstood what they were saying. But today is not one of those times. Today our text emphasizes listening.

Stop! Look! Listen! The wisdom and usefulness of that old, familiar, school-age trilogy can never be overemphasized. Whatever the situation, it is always good advice. Whether we are simply crossing the street or facing some severe temptation, it is an easy formula to recall and one which we would do well to follow.

As we begin a new year, it's a good time to stop, take a look at the past year's record of successes and failures, and cautiously plan for the future. We might make New Year's resolutions once again, if only for tradition's sake. But we rarely expend much effort listening, the final part of the triune exhortation. We are much better at looking, talking, advising, and correcting than we are at listening. Perhaps this is a good time to practice that skill. Listening may be crucial for our salvation.

As we venture into 365 new days ahead, we realize how quickly we pass through life. The beginning of another new year seems to come a little more quickly as we get older. Yet throughout all our years, God remains a steadfast, enduring source of strength for us. He has much to tell us, and we ought to listen because we will hear the most encouraging word ever spoken to sinful man: salvation.

Do not be anxious about the new year we are entering; take refuge in Christ, for He alone has the power of salvation. "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." Jesus tells us in Matthew's Gospel.

If we listen to the Lord's word of salvation and take comfort in our baptism, we can face the coming year without fear or apprehension. The situations and circumstances which we dread today will one day pass away like smoke. But God's righteousness will last forever, and his salvation through all generations.

Rejoice in the past, particularly in your baptism; live for Christ in the present; do not be anxious about the future. This is the way for us Christians to close out an old year and begin a new one in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

One night a couple of weeks ago, Marci and I watched a foreign movie called "Just Another Christmas". It was made in Brazil and had English subtitles. The movie was like a cross between Nat'l Lampoons Christmas and Ground Hog's Day. I was tempted to shut it off but something caught my attention and so we continued to watch it all the way through to the end. The plot of the movie was based on a man who hated Christmas because it was also his birthday which meant he was never treated special, because he had to share the celebration with that of the Christ child. So on this particular Christmas, while he was throwing a fit, he fell off the roof of his house and hit his head. After suffering through the rest of the day he finally went to bed only to wake up the next morning to discover that it was Christmas again, one year later, and he had no memory of the past year. This pattern continued over the next twenty years. He only remembered who he was and what he did on Christmas Day. The rest of his life was lived as another personality. It took a while for his family to realize what was happening to him and they tried their best to accommodate his condition, but his reality was that he had lived twenty years with only twenty days of memories. At one time his mental state was so bad that he just took sleeping pills and went back to sleep for four or five Christmases in a row. When he finally stayed awake for Christmas Day some years later he discovered that his children were fully grown and he had missed out on the memories of watching them grow up. The movie had a happy ending but I won't spoil it for you.

I have heard many people say that they would like to forget about the year 2020 for one reason or another. Yet God has given us this wonder gift called our memory to help us connect to our family and friends and to guide us to make sound decisions in our plans for the future. God continued to remind His people to remember all of the ways He had cared for them in the past, so that they would know for certain, that He would also provide for them in the future. We know God's promises are true because of His track record. Every promise God made concerning the Messiah was fulfilled in the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And for that reason we can be sure that every promise concerning Jesus' second coming will also come true. God has and will continue to walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death and well as on the mountain tops. Through every high and low we can be certain that God is with us, through every joy and in every sorrow God is with us, through sickness and in health, fellowship and isolation, quarantine and vaccination, through Zoom or Facetime, phone call or chat, online worship or in-person worship, our God is watching over us and is with us. He is our ever present help in times of trouble. He is our Rock, our foundation, our Savior, our Lord. In Jesus Christ we have HOPE and the assurance of salvation. Praise be to God!

As we move into 2021 we look forward to a time when we can once again gather in worship with ALL of our congregation and also enjoy the company of friends after worship in fellowship or at a chicken dinner. We pray that we will be able to have "in person" VBS and Sunday School, have Sunday morning children's messages, host the CenterShot archery program, and once again hold several of the other activities that were cancelled in 2020. But whatever happens in the coming year we can be certain that God is still with us and will continue to guide us in ministry. In the midst of these changes our mission remains the same as it was last year... to work together to bring others to Christ.

CHRISTMAS UNDAMPENED! Once again, your Christmas spirit has overwhelmed me and reminded me of the goodness, kindness, and big-heartedness the Lord has placed in your hearts. You've welcomed me into your church family and made me a part of your Christian lives. Your generosity and willingness to share was exemplified again this pandemic Christmas Season with the cards, gifts, well-wishes, and personal greetings you shared with me. As I observe each of you practicing the faith the Lord has given to you, I continue to be encouraged by and reminded of just how good, gracious, and loving our Lord really is. May the personal qualities and attributes of Jesus continue to be evident in your lives for those around you to see and experience. I'm grateful to be part of Jesus' family here at Zion Lutheran Church.
Pastor Hendrickson

WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays, January 4, 11, and 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Monday Morning Bible study will continue meeting on Mondays, January 4, 11, and 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, studying "Psalms: Conversations with God." We wear masks, social distance, and bring our own Bibles. Study materials are provided. Contact Barb Jelinski (632-3435) if you have any questions.

LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY BIBLE STUDY

Monday, January 18 at 9:00 a.m.

The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Bible study will meet on Monday, January 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, wearing masks, and social distancing. The study, "Gold, Frankincense, and ME!" is found on p.16 of the Winter 2020 LWQ. Hope you can join us!

ZLW MEETING

There will be a ZLW meeting on Monday, January 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The ZLW is Zion's connection to the LWML, and we would love to have you join us!

LWML MITE BOXES

The LWML mite box is a great way to show love for our neighbor, since the funds are used for national and district mission grants. Through these grants, others learn about Jesus, our Savior. If you have a filled mite box at home, return it to church and pick up another one to fill. If you would like a mite box, they are available in the narthex to anyone interested in sharing their treasures in this way. Thank you for your continued support. *Many Mites Make Many Missions!*

Stewardship Corner

Looking at the heart

When our oldest son graduated from college, he immediately adopted a dog from a pit bull rescue organization. I admit we feared our son getting a pit bull mix. As we prepared for him to bring Tucker for his first visit, we worried for our two dogs..and for ourselves and our other two kids.

When our son arrived, we did the first introductions through the storm door with Tucker on the porch. The dogs seemed fine and excited to meet one another, so we finally opened the door. Tucker came barreling in, tail wagging, overjoyed to greet us. He loved us immediately. Within minutes, he bounded into my lap on the couch. He was snuggle and sweet and plopped his head on my shoulder – all sixty pounds of him – and adored me with his beautiful brown eyes.

Our hearts were goners to our precious grand-dog.

We'd heard the news stories that made us fearful just because of his breed. We'd looked only at the pedigree and not the individual.. In photos, we'd looked at the external, the shape of his head and mouth, at his muscular body, but hadn't known Tucker. Before we met him, we didn't yet know the loving side of him, the part that loves his people and wants to please them.

We reminded ourselves that God doesn't want us to worry over the superficial. He wants us to look at what's inside like he does. How often have we misjudged someone based on their appearance or their actions the first time we meet them? On several occasions, my snap judgments have been disproved once I've gotten to know the person. The next time we meet someone, dog or human, I hope we can try to look at the heart, the way God does.

Preplanning Funeral Service Worksheet (See next page)

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Zion,

Attached to the January newsletter you will find a pre-funeral service worksheet guide which you can use for planning your funeral service. It will provide Pastor and your family with your choice of scripture readings, song selections and other pertinent information regarding the service. If you do desire, please fill out the form and return it to the church office. The form will be kept in the office for future use. Any questions, please contact one of the Elders or Pastor. Extra forms are available in the office. Jerry Knafla



FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE



Too few of us make decisions about our own funerals. Consequently, most families are left to wonder how the deceased wanted his final service. This is sad because a funeral should be a personal expression of our life and faith and hope.

The following guide is intended to facilitate things for you as well as your family with regard to planning your funeral. If it is your desire, fill this guide out and mail it or bring it to the church. It will be confidentially filed in the church office. Should you desire to change it, or should you desire to have it back, it will be given to you.

OBITUARY

Full Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Name of Father _____

Name of Mother _____ nee' _____

Date of Baptism _____ Place of Baptism _____

Date of Confirmation _____ Place of Confirmation _____

Confirmation verse _____

_____ Pastor _____

Date of Marriage _____ Place of Marriage _____

Pastor _____ Full Name of Spouse _____

Names of Children _____

Names of Brothers and Sisters _____

Other Items for Obituary _____

(over)

THE SERVICE

My Favorite Bible Texts: _____

Congregational Hymns:(sung or played) (music only) _____

Choral Selections: _____

Special Requests: _____

Pallbearers (if available) _____

Memorial Monies to go for: _____

General Memorial Monies to go for: _____

January Birthdays		
2 David Brutscher	15 Peter Shirley	21 Violet Parker
5 Bonnie Gentry	16 Benita Baggenstoss	27 Adam Engelhardt
5 Joni Rone	16 Amanda Hanson	28 Edna Olson
8 Madison Segler	17 Betty Rakow	31 James Rebischke
8 Megan Segler	18 William Davis	
9 Herman Johannes	21 Darlene Axel	

JANUARY 2021					
JAN		ELDER	USHERS	READERS	ORGANIST
2	COM	Greg Rausch	Mike Beseman	Greg Rausch	Carol Prozinski
3	COM	Sheldon Prozinski	Eugene Doucette Dennis Hollermann	Barb Jelinski	Carol Prozinski
9	COM	Chris Roe	Marie Holey Jennifer Hanson	Jennifer Hanson	Peggy Dolney
10	COM	Jerry Knafla	Harvey Axel	Katie Schumann	Peggy Dolney
16	COM	Greg Rausch	Julie Dancer	Greg Rausch	Carol Prozinski
17	COM	Craig Bohnsack	Ben Messinger	Amanda Dawson	Carol Prozinski
23	COM	Chris Roe	Duane & Shirley Schmidt	Duane Schmidt	Peggy Dolney
24	COM	Sheldon Prozinski	Wayne & Bing Ganz	Kayla Bohnsack	Peggy Dolney
30	COM	Craig Bohnsack	Peter Shirley	Duane Schmidt	Carol Prozinski
31	COM	Jerry Knafla	Marcel Bellefeuille	Katie Schumann	Carol Prozinski

JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am - Communion 27	9am - Communion 28	9am - Communion 29	9am - Communion 30	9am - Communion 31	9am - Communion 1	9am - Communion 2
9am - Communion of 5pm - Elders 7pm - Evangelism 3	9am - Wmn's Bible 5pm - Elders 7pm - Evangelism 4	6:30pm - B of Ed 5	6:30pm - Jr Conf 6	6:30pm - Jr Conf 7	6:30pm - Comm 8	6:30pm - Comm 9
9am - Communion 10	9am - Wmn's Bible 1pm - Stewardship 5:30pm - Trustees 6:30pm - Council 11	9am - Wmn's Bible 12	6:30pm - Jr Conf 13	6:30pm - Comm 14	6:30pm - Comm 15	6:30pm - Comm 16
9am - Communion 17	9am - LWQ 10am - ZLW 18	9am - Jr Conf 19	6:30pm - Jr Conf 20	6:30pm - Comm 21	6:30pm - Comm 22	6:30pm - Comm 23
9am - Communion 24	9am - Wmn's Bible 25	6:30pm - Jr Conf 26	6:30pm - Jr Conf 27	6:30pm - Comm 28	6:30pm - Comm 29	6:30pm - Comm 30
9am - Communion 31	5pm - Elders 7pm - Evangelism 9am - Communion 10:15am - Voter 1	6:30pm - B of Ed 2	6:30pm - Jr Conf 3	6:30pm - Comm 4	6:30pm - Comm 5	6:30pm - Comm 6

Zion Lutheran Church

Jan 2021 (Central Time - Chicago)

Zion Lutheran Church
411 3rd Avenue NE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Melissa Schleif
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