

“.....love one another as He has loved us.” John 15:17

If there is one word that describes God, what is it? There are a number of words that could be cited, but for me there is just one word – Love. St. Paul mentions three words that are important for the Christian – faith, hope and love. But for St. Paul also, he singles out love as the most important. It is love that sums up all the other attributes of God. Without love, there is nothing.

God’s greatest display of love was and is seen in his son, Jesus Christ. He showed love by his miracles, his teachings and his death upon the cross. In our culture much is made of sensuous love in advertisements and in human relationships. Sensuous love is not wrong, but we must realize that divine love is more.

God’s love is not a reciprocal love, which depends on us to love Him in return. God loves all – the likable and the unlikable. His is an ongoing love, whether we accept Him or reject Him. God’s love is between the heavenly Father and all humankind. Those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and who do His will in their daily lives, they are called the children of God. It is true that we are not saved by our good deeds. Salvation is a gift from God given to all who put their faith in Jesus.

So, when we are a child of the Heavenly Father, we will want to be obedient and do His will. Out of gratitude we do what pleases Him. So it is that Jesus calls us to “love one another as He has loved us.” John 15:17.

This is a hard saying. For us to love those who do not like us is very difficult, but I believe we must try.

Pastor Henry Moyer

Stewardship Message

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The judge is standing at the door. Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed d those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Above all, my brothers, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “yes,” by yes, and your “no,” be no, or you will be condemned. *James 5: 7-12*



**Zion Lutheran Church
Parish Planning Council Minutes
January 20, 2009**

President Lawrence Grant called the meeting to order. Attending: Pastor Ale' Tulu, Deb Holtan, Duane Morey, Chris Ueland, Connie Peoples, Ginny Armstrong, Winton Forsberg, Judy Melby, Lyle Paulson, Bonnie Yost, Amber Holtan, Acting Youth Director Roberta Kalsnes, Darlene Hulteen, Kristin Hanson, Sally Mumm, and Jane Schaumburg.

Duane moved to move Old Business item "Youth Director" to the top of the agenda to be discussed after devotions and without Chris Ueland being in the room. Connie seconded the motion, which carried.

Pastor Ale led devotions.

Sally Mumm representing the Youth Director Search Committee reported they had recently received two resumes by mail; however they would not be offering interviews at this time. Sally reported that Chris and Teri Ueland approached the committee with an interest to provide leadership as Interim Youth Directors. Chris and Teri are interested in providing leadership to all youth age groups at Zion with spiritual group activities each month until a Youth Director is hired. Roberta Kalsnes will continue to provide the administrative duties in the interim until a Youth Director is hired. The Search Committee met with Chris and Teri and the Committee was very impressed with the Ueland's enthusiasm and new ideas for Zion's youth. Following discussion, Bonnie motioned to hire the Uelands to do the interaction part of the Youth Director position with the youth. Salary will be worked out with Winton and Lawrence. Judy seconded the motion, which carried.

Secretary's Report: Judy moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2008 meeting. Bonnie seconded the motion, which carried.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was presented by Winton. He reported that we ended 2008 in the black due to large donations in November and December. Ginny moved to accept the report as printed. Kristin seconded the motion, which carried.

Board Reports: Darlene reported that changes made to the last newsletter have met the US Post Office rules for bulk mailing. It was decided that the newsletter would be mailed monthly.

Bonnie informed us that the February Fling will be catered by Dennis Yost. The Woodpicks will provide the entertainment. Tickets are on sale in the Church Office and also between services on Sunday Mornings.

Ginny said that the nursery needs to be cleaned regularly. Lawrence said he would pursue the matter. Concerns were also addressed about the carpet stains in the Fellowship Hall and in the front of Sanctuary.

Old Business: The Annual Meeting will be held on January 25, 2009 after the second service with a potluck dinner to follow. The primary item of business is approval of the 2009 budget.

Connie asked about the progress in installing Handicapped Accessible Bathrooms. Lyle reported that Walseth Construction had assessed the current facilities and feels that by switching the men's and women's bathrooms around would allow two larger stalls in the new women's and a large stall and a urinal in the new men's. Lyle will obtain an estimate which will be reviewed at the February Parish Planning meeting.

New Business: Pastor Ale reported that the Lenten Service schedule will be decided next week. Ash Wednesday is February 25, 2008.

Lyle reported that Zion needs a new snow blower. Ginny moved to purchase a snow blower. Judy seconded the motion, which carried.

Roberta informed us that Zion's Youth rummage sale will be held on April 25, 2009 with all proceeds going towards the expense of the National Youth Gathering. Camp dates are being discussed. Pathways Sunday will be March 8, 2009. A proposed date for the Ski Trip is also being discussed. Flapjacks for Faith is going well. **NOTE:** On February 14, 2009 Schwan's will be at the Tesoro Gas Station selling products off the truck. Zion Youth will receive 15% or more from the sales that day!

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ale' reported that Pastor Gary is recuperating and will not be at work for at least two weeks. "No Experience Necessary" Bible Study is going well with good attendance.

The next Parish Planning will be held on February 17, 2009.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Schaumburg, Secretary

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

Newsletter
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In the last issue of the Herald the Public Relations Board announced that due to new postal requirements for bulk mailings, the January issue of Herald would be the last newsletter mailed to all congregational members.

Alleluia!! The January mailing met all postal qualifications! The Herald will be mailed as usual!

Falls Delivered Meals

February 9 – 13 & February 16 – 20

Zion needs drivers for February. If you can help, please call the church office: 681-3296

Financial Report **January - December 2008**

Income for 2008 of about \$400,000 exceeded expenses of \$392,500 for a surplus of \$7,500. Increased giving the last two months more than erased the \$16,000 deficit we faced the end of October. Thanks to our members for remembering Zion during the Christmas season enabling us to fulfill our obligations. Expenses were down for the year by about \$17,000 due largely to the Youth Director's position being vacant for about six months for a savings of \$14,500.

February Fling

February 15 – 5:30

Tickets - \$10.00

Entertainment – Wood Ticks

Pork Loin on Wild Rice
Baked Potato
Tossed Salad
Green Beans Almandine
Dinner Rolls
Cookie Dessert

Catered by Dennis Yost

Tickets are on sale between church services and in church office.

**Wednesday, February 4
2:00**

Lincoln High School Superintendent Irving Peterson will speak at the February Leisure Fellowship meeting. The topic for the presentation is: Age Appropriate Reading Material. It will also include a discussion on the novel, *Kaffir Boy* by Mark Mathabane.

Lay Ministry Class

The Thief River Falls Lay Ministry Class is a group of about 10 to 12 people (there's room for many more) who gather together once a month on a Sunday afternoon for an in-depth, seminary level study of the Scriptures, our Lutheran heritage and theology and some of the practical aspects of serving the church such as preaching and pastoral care. Prayerfully consider becoming a part of this group which will be starting on **February 22** as it begins the study of the Old Testament with Terrence Fretheim. Classes meet at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1300 South Nora St, TRF from 2:00 to 5:00 pm *usually* on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

First Year:	Interpreting the Old Testament – Terrence Fretheim	Text: <i>Reading the Old Testament</i> – Lawrence Broadt	
Second Year:	Interpreting the New Testament – David Rhoads Text: <i>New Testament Story</i> – David Barr	<i>Intro to the New Testament</i> – David Rhoads	
Third Year:	Systematic Theology – Walter Bouman	Text: <i>Where God Meets Man</i> – Gerhard Forde	
Fourth Year:	Lutheran Heritage – James Nestigen Text: <i>Introduction to Lutheranism</i> – Eric Gritsch		
Fifth Year:	Sent to Preach – Richard A. Jensen Text: <i>Christian Caregiving</i> – Kenneth Haugk	Text: <i>Thinking in Story</i> – Richard A. Jensen <i>Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am?</i> – J Powell	Pastoral Care

- Some of these video courses from the Division for Ministry, ELCA can apply for certification in the Gifts program. The only cost is for books.
- This is a five year course; participants may join in any year and complete the course after they have taken all five sessions.
- For more information, call Pastor Mark Hegland at 681-3390 or 689-0727.

