



"Look around you and see, how the fields are ripe for the harvesting!" - John 4:35.

Here in Northwest Minnesota, by the time we reach November most of the harvesting is done. Fall Suppers and Harvest Fests are celebrated as the crops are coming in. The harvest, more than any other time of the year brings people together to help one another and to celebrate. It must have been the fall of the year when Jesus spoke those words from the Gospel of John.

Jesus emphasized that we have all been called, gifted and sent into the world so all people might be saved. And Jesus chose such a diverse group of disciples so that His message of salvation would be sent to every corner of the world.

Diversity is intended to be a blessing, but it also can be a challenge when we find ourselves partnered with people who see the world differently than we do. This can be especially true in stressful times. Teams do not argue and fight on the sidelines when they are winning. The level of maturity becomes more visible in hard times.

So what is it that holds a church together through good times and hard times? The bible calls it "koinonia", which means fellowship or partnership flowing from Christ, and binding us all together.

**We are partners in the Lord**, for we are forgiven sinners sent into the world as partners in ministry.

**We are partners in stewardship**, as our fall stewardship drive comes to an end. Partners in Mission as we celebrate Mission Sunday on Sunday, November 2. Our guest Preacher that day will be Pastor Laurie Natwick, Assistant to the Bishop of our synod.

**We are partners in membership** as we welcome new members to Zion on Sunday, November 16 during the 10:30 service, and at a congregational potluck following the service.

**We are partners in all the other events** taking place at Zion throughout the weeks, from Sunday school to bible study to confirmation, from choirs, to scouts to youth group activities. We are partners so many ways, but especially in Christ.

We may differ in personality types, in politics, in upbringing, and personal preferences! But we are partner in Christ and for the harvest he has sent us all. May we continue to pray that the Lord will open our eyes to the harvest around us and the amazing opportunities for partnership with those who have different gifts than our own!

Thank you and thank God for the gifts you bring to the team.

In Christ,  
Pastor Gary

# **Thanksgiving Eve Services**

**- Zion, Redeemer and Trinity –**

**- Shared Thanksgiving Eve service –**

**Combined Choir**

**Redeemer at 7:00**

**Message – Pastor Ale**

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## **MISSION SUNDAY**

November 2, 2008

Laurie Natwick from the Northwest Synod will speak in Zion on November 2. Her message will be the mission outreach from our church.

Zion Lutheran continues to help support three Ethiopian students through the REAL sponsorships. Their names are Alami Lamesa, Ayantu Kayasa, and Wanibine Basha. May you be blessed as you help to financially and prayerfully support these girls.

## **Five Wishes**

Sunday, November 9

Have you shared the answer and thoughts about these five wishes with your family and doctors? Five Wishes lets your family and doctors know:

- Which person you want to make health care decisions for you when you can't make them.
- The kind of medical treatment you want or don't want.
- How comfortable you want to be.
- How you want people to treat you.
- What you want your loved ones to know.

Last year part of the congregation took time to answer these questions during the five wishes seminar. Many took forms home but still haven't filled them out. Please consider helping your family with these difficult things. The Five Wishes seminar is coming again, Sunday, November 9, between services. We encourage you to take part in it or finish what you started

*Sponsored and encouraged by the Parish Nurse, Parish Health Committee, and the Lay Ministry Board*

## **Flapjacks for Faith November 23**



Zion's youth will be flipping pancakes on November 23 instead of November 16 because of the new member potluck. Please mark your calendars to eat pancakes and sausage and support the young people of Zion get to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July. Thank you all for your support.

## **New Member Sunday November 16**

Approximately twenty new members will be joining Zion at the second service on November 16. Two classes featuring Lutheran theology and doctrine will be offered to new members on the two Sundays prior to new member induction. A get-acquainted potluck will follow services. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and make the new member feel like part of the family of Zion.

## **Boards Meet Tuesday, November 11**

Because Zion is used as a polling place, Zion's boards will not meet on November 3. They will meet November 11 instead.

## **Zion's Operating Expenses January 1 – September 30**

Expenses of \$285,647 exceeded income of \$279,514, and when adding unpaid bills of about \$10,000 this results in a deficit of \$16,000. In 2007 our deficit at this time was just over \$17,000 so we are slightly better off than last year, but again we will need to "catch up" in the final quarter of the year.

## **(W)holy, (W)holy, (W)holy Health, Healing and Wholeness Article for November 2008**

As this article is being written, there is a great deal of tension in the air. Our economy has taken a nose-dive, executives of large corporations are being called to accountability for lavish spending, the world is unstable, and we are about to elect the next leader of the United States. For many congregations, it is also the time of year to

discern which congregation members have the necessary qualities needed to become leaders of the church. What characteristics make a leader good or bad? Look around any bookstore, and you will notice shelves lined with books that expound on what it takes to be a great leader. In scripture, in particular the books of 1 Timothy and Titus, Paul goes to great lengths to describe those attributes he feels are necessary in bishops, deacons, and elders.

In his book, Leadership that Works, Rev. Leith Anderson [no, it isn't misspelled] talks about teaching classes in leadership. One group of students was asked to list the traits they felt made up a good leader, these included: loving, kindness, visionary, intelligent, articulate, courageous, Godly, persuasive, wise, experienced, loyal, forgiving, hardworking, disciplined and prayerful. Next they were asked to list some famous historical leaders, this list included Moses, David, Julius Caesar, Genghis Kahn, George Washington, Hitler, Lincoln, Napoleon, Idi Amin, Nelson Mandela, and Attila the Hun. Were these leaders? Yes. Did they have the traits previously listed? Not always. Anderson points out that there really is no definitive list of characteristics that makes for effective leadership. If you recall, Moses had a speech impediment, David was an adulterer, Abe Lincoln received the minority of popular votes, Idi Amin was ruthless.

Since there seems to be no consensus on qualities in leadership, perhaps it would be better to try to distinguish between healthy versus unhealthy leading. For this I relied primarily on an article by Michael Jenkins for Duke Divinity School, titled *Ten Things we Need to Know about Healthy Leadership*. Bearing in mind that each of us is a constant work-in-progress for the Holy Spirit, here are Jenkins' suggestions for what constitutes healthy vs. unhealthy leadership.

- 1. They lead from spiritual and emotional health.** Their grounding is found in their relationship to God, as expressed in Micah 6:8, "*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.*" – open to listen and open to criticism – wanting to help others succeed.
- 2. They are dedicated to the health of others.** Their healthiness in emotions and spiritual life serve as a model for those around them. They have the well-being of others in mind, even if it means making decisions that are not always popular – sometimes pruning is necessary for new growth to occur.
- 3. They represent the character and mission of their organization [congregation, group, etc.], but are still able to be objective.** They value tradition, but can also envision the future. They remain flexible in how to attain the goals needed to move forward.
- 4. They understand the organization as a social system** – listening and responding to concerns, but being clear about direction – prepared for resistance, perhaps even sabotage by those who are less emotionally healthy. They understand that everything is connected to everything – what affects one, will have repercussions for others.
- 5. They provide a calming presence and emotionally well-differentiated leadership.** While some use anxiety to motivate and manipulate others (by shutting down others' abilities to think constructively and creatively), the healthy leader sets up an environment where it is possible for others to take risks and try new ways and ideas.

6. **They plan.** Does the plan fit with the mission, and what steps need to occur for it to succeed? Who is responsible for what? Their planning is on-going as goals are achieved, and new challenges take shape.
7. **They embrace the wisdom of deliberation.** No single leader has all the answers. With enough diversity and independent thought, most groups make better decisions than any one single individual can. On the other hand, unhealthy leaders keep secrets, manipulate, and undercut – often operating in secret.
8. **They are never too old to learn.** We are never too old or too experienced to learn what someone or something has to teach us.
9. **They know what to pay attention to.** Good leaders develop a sense of what to pay attention to, and what to leave behind. Again, they answer the question, “Is this what God is calling us to do – is it part of our mission?” Finally,
10. **They enlist followers in change.** They use their power and influence to allow the group to make necessary and effective changes – in spite of attempts by some to derail the process. They continually educate the group about the change to be made, and empower them to do so.

True health and wholeness can only come in God’s time. In the meantime, there is a certain wisdom to Jenkins’ thinking. May his words be helpful as we search for leaders in uncertain times, and may we all keep our eyes cast upward to God for guidance in all our decisions in the days and months ahead.

<sup>ca</sup>  
*Debbie Best, Program Coordinator*  
*Diakon Family Life Services, Congregational & Community Services*

## Christmas Child

Zion’s youth is promoting *A Christmas Child*, which is part of Samaritan’s Purse, an international relief organization.

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God’s love. Since 1993, more than 61 million shoeboxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.

You can take part in a Christmas Child by filling one of the shoe boxes in the narthex and returning it to the church by Sunday, November 23.

## The Reading Room

**Read!! Your brains get hungry too.**



In an obscure corner of Zion's Apostle's Room is hiding a gem that's been too long wrapped in secrecy. It needs to be uncovered and exposed to the light. BOOKS!!!! BOOKS!!!! And more BOOKS!!!!!!!!!! "Libraries: the medicine chest of the soul," is inscribed over the door of the Library of Thebes. And we, the Public Relations Board, responsible for the wealth of knowledge in Zion's library, are keeping you, the congregation, from that medicine.

Our invitation to you is to READ!!!! Treat your brain to a book! And I have a good place for you to start. You may need to be over 60 to appreciate this one, but give it a try.

*Ah-One, Ah-Two!* No, I don't have a cold. I do not have the sniffles. That is not a sneeze. Remember Saturday night with Lawrence Welk?

"It's never easy to be fired," said Lawrence Welk. "It's even harder when you're sixty-eight years old, and you know that two hundred of your people will lose their jobs if you lose yours. But that's what happened to me one day in March of 1971...." *Ah-one, Ah-Two*, is the heartwarming story of Lawrence Welk's triumphant return to television and his relationship with his "Musical Family."

One last suggestion, the book is best read listening to Lawrence's champagne waltzes such as *Bubbles in the Wine* or *Champagne Time*. So as the weather gets colder and the days get shorter, find your down comforter, a cup of hot chocolate and curl up with some memories of "the good old days."

## **The Zion Messenger**

It seems that the Herald this month is dwelling on things past. Did you know that Zion's newsletter, *The Herald*, was not always called *The Herald*? While renovating a house on north Horace, one of Zion's parishioners discovered a cache of Zion memorabilia. Newsletters dating from 1910 were discovered between studs and behind wallboards. Many of the newsletters were identified with the name, Inga Bjorland. The earliest was dated February 15, 1929, was entitled *The Zion Messenger* and was four pages long.

The *Zion Messenger* in 1929 was published semi-monthly. Its subscription price for a year was 25 cents, for two years 40 cents and for three years 70 cents. The publishing committee was Rev. E. L. Tungseth, editor, Ed. O. Iverson, Treasurer, and Mrs. Palmer Tommerdahl, advertising editor. Yes, *The Messenger* carried ads paid for by local merchants: J. C. Penney Co. - Thief River Falls' Busiest Store, O.K. Tire and Battery Shop - Phone 211, Olaf Neset - Jeweler and Optometrist, Bredeson Company, Corner Grocery, Borry's Garage, Lambert's Drug Store, Thief River Music Co., Oen Mercantile - the Big Store for Busy People, Oakland and Pontiac, E. N. Rude's Store, Harness and Leather Goods - C. Froseth, Salvesson Studio, Northern Woodwork



Co., Chas. Lieberman – Clothier, Jung’s Quality Bakery – featuring Big Ben and Victory Bread and Honey Dipt Doughnuts, Central Hotel and The Myhrum Company advertising, “When you buy Dakota Maid Flour, you get “The Best of the West.”

The *Messenger* publicized Zion’s worship services as Divine Services in both Norwegian and English. The Sewing Circle enjoyed good patronage for its cafeteria supper. The pastor attended a Board of Trustees for Oak Grove, and two articles were written in Norwegian. If anyone would like to translate some of the articles, it would be appreciated.

Several pieces of wisdom were included in the paper. One advertised, “Rouge? Beautiful thoughts make a beautiful life, and a beautiful life makes a beautiful face.”

### **Remembering or Forgetting**

I started down the stairway,  
And when I reached the basement floor  
I knew I’d planned to get something,  
As I opened up the door.

The door opened to the dark room  
Where our vegetables I’d find.  
I walked right in to pick them up;  
By now it’d slipped my mind.

Was I after some potatoes?  
That seemed was on my mind.  
Or was it carrots, beets or onions  
That I’d come to find.

I stood amazed for quite some time;  
My thoughts I tried to gather.  
I tried to choose which one I’d take.  
Or did it really matter?

I took some onions in my hand,  
As up the stair I went.  
My darling wife just looked at me.  
‘Twas after jelly I’d been sent.

It seems I make a million miles.  
I really am distraught.  
When I get to where I’m going,  
Why I went I’ve now forgot.

But now it’s time to stop bemoaning.  
I’m so angry I could shout.

I know I planned to write something,  
But I've forgot what its about.

John Hulteen



**Zion Lutheran Church  
Parish Planning Council Minutes  
October 21, 2008**

President Lawrence Grant called the meeting to order. Attending: Pastor Gary Johnson, Pastor Ale' Tulu, Deb Holtan, Duane Morey, Judy Melby, Chris Ueland, Connie Peoples, Bill Hoglo, Ginny Armstrong, Winton Forsberg, Lyle Paulson, Bonnie Yost, Darlene Hulteen, Kristen Hanson, and Jane Schaumburg.

Pastor Gary led devotions.

**Secretary's Report:** Bonnie Yost's name was omitted from the September minutes. Winton moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2008 meeting with the noted correction. Ginny seconded the motion, which carried.

**Treasurer's report:** The monthly treasurer's report was presented by Winton. Bill moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Judy seconded the motion, which carried.

**Board Reports:** Bill noted that about half of the Stewardship Drive Books have been returned to the Church. The deadline to return the books is November 4, 2008. Darlene requested that all chairpersons e-mail the board reports to her by the 20<sup>th</sup>; which is the deadline for items to be included in the monthly newsletter. Darlene also mentioned that they have been removing outdated books from the library. If anyone is interested in reading and writing a review of a library book please let Darlene know as she would like to include reviews in future newsletters.

**Old Business:** We received over \$900 for the items salvaged and sold from the property located on 524 North Knight. The house will be demolished and debris removed in the very near future.

The new hymnals have been ordered. If interested in purchasing a hymnal in honor or remembrance of a loved one, please let the church office know.

The afternoon and evening Bible Studies have been going well.

The bids for window coverings for the church offices are in and a decision on which kind of blinds – metal or wood - will be made soon.

Several board members reported hearing positive responses in regards to the new location of the church offices.

Board chairpersons are reminded to get their budgets to Winton ASAP!

**New Business:** The youth director position has not been filled. Roberta Kalsnes approached the committee as she is interested in performing administrative duties such as fundraising, finding volunteers, bookkeeping, and planning items in the interim until a Youth Director is hired. Ginny made a motion that Zion hire Roberta in the interim to perform the administrative duties of the Youth Director at a salary to be determined. Bonnie seconded the motion; which carried.

New Member Sunday will be November 16<sup>th</sup> during the seconded service with a potluck dinner to follow.

The choir will perform during the Thanksgiving Eve Services; which will be held at Redeemer on November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We are looking for two lay people to help with the service, one to read and one to assist with communion.

Mission Sunday will be November 21. Pastor Laurie Natwick, Assistant to the Bishop, will deliver the message. The focus of Mission Sunday will be about supporting the education of the Ethiopian girls Zion sponsors.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ale' reported that our third graders will receive their Bibles during the 8:30 a.m. October 26<sup>th</sup> service. All Saints Sunday is November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sixteen confirmation youth helped serve the supper recently held by Silver Creek. Pastor Ale' stated that all Zion church members are invited to participate in the Christmas Child Operation. Boxes with all details can be found in foyer of the church. All boxes must be returned to Zion by November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**NOTE: November Board Meetings will be held on November 11, 2008.**

The next Parish Planning will be held on November 18, 2008.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Schaumburg, Secretary

- Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving. ~*W.T. Purkiser*
- As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. ~ *John Fitzgerald Kennedy*
- Grace isn't a little prayer you chant before receiving a meal. It's a way to live. ~*Jackie Windspear*
- Nothing is more honorable than a grateful heart. ~*Seneca*
- Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving. ~*W.T. Purkiser*